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SANGHUNANG PANGULO NG NAGA

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ORDINANCE NO. 2025-____

AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING OPERATORS, OWNERS, RESTAURANTS, FAST FOOD RESTAURANTS, CANTEENS, FOOD COURTS, BARS AND OTHER SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS OPERATING WITHIN NAGA CITY TO PUT UP/INSTALL A POTABLE DRINKING WATER SYSTEM ACCESSIBLE TO THE CUSTOMERS, OR SERVE THE SAME WITHOUT COST AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR.

Author: Hon. Jessie R. Albeus [Signature]

City Youth Councilor, Hon. Chloe Gail C. Paco [Signature]

Explanatory Note

In the Philippines, free potable water is usually only existing in our local food stalls, usually called "karenderia" and in fine dining restaurants. The importance of serving free and clean service water is often left unnoticed, however, with more people finding joy in eating at fast food chains, restaurants, food courts, and any food establishments, the expense for buying bottled water adds up; to the cost of the delicious meal that a customer purchases.

The United Nations Resolution No. 62/292 known as "The Human Right to Water and Sanitation" stated that the human right to water entitles everyone to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible, and affordable water for personal and domestic use.

Moreover, according to the Republic Act 9275 also known as the Philippine Clean Water Act, thirty-one percent (31%) of all illnesses in the country are attributed to polluted waters. Therefore, this act highlights the importance of offering free and clean drinking water services most especially to food establishments in the Philippines and in the City of Naga to ensure a healthy and reduced number of diseases from unclean water.

Requiring operators, owners or proprietors of restaurants, fast food chains, canteens, food courts, and other similar establishments in Naga City to install a free potable drinking water system accessible to their customers highlights the importance of ensuring every Nagueño's safety, consumer-efficiency, and hygiene.

SECTION 1. TITLE. - This Ordinance shall be known as the "Customer Access to Free Portable Water Ordinance in the City of Naga."

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. - It is the declared policy of the City Government of Naga to uphold and promote the general welfare of everyone, protect and promote everyone's right to health and ensure the delivery of basic services. Recognizing water as a basic necessity, it is hereby declared as a policy of

the City Government of Naga to ensure that potable water is accessible to customers, not only when requested, but also at all times.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS. - As used in this Ordinance, the following words, terms and phrases shall mean, as follows:

- a. **Operators, owners or proprietors** - shall mean those persons who are in charge of managing the restaurant, fast food restaurants, food courts, canteens and other similar establishments;
- b. **Restaurants and other similar establishments** - shall mean business establishments where meals and refreshments are served and operating within the City of Naga;
- c. **Customer** - refers to one who avails of the services in a restaurant or food establishment; and
- d. **Potable water** - refers to water that is safe to drink and that is compliant with Administrative Order No. 2017-0010 issued by the Office of the Secretary, Department of Health (DOH) or the "Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water" or "PNSDW";
- e. **Bars** - refer to establishments that are open late into the night and offer a space for social interaction, dancing, and entertainment such as dancing, live music, DJs, and performances, typically including the sale of alcoholic beverages and food.
- f. **Food Courts** - refer to a large area or room, for example inside a shopping mall, where there are small restaurants selling many different types of food that you can eat at tables in the middle of the area

SECTION 4. SERVICES AND FACILITIES. -

- a. All restaurants and other similar establishments operating business within the City of Naga are mandated to provide access to free potable water to their customers and not only when it is requested. Most restaurants and other similar establishments were observed not giving free water to customers, prompting them to buy bottled water instead;
- b. All restaurants and other business establishments operating within the City of Naga must regularly maintain and clean their water dispensers, water vending machines, and water storage containers (everyday cleaning);
- c. Food courts in public spaces, including malls, parks, and larger establishments, are required to give free access to clean potable water. This will prevent

customers from having to purchase individual plastic water bottles and cut costs on their expenses during their time in these establishments; and

- d. All restaurants and other similar establishments in the City of Naga are mandated to post signage of "Free Service Water" inside the premises of the establishments. For small establishments, it would be "Free Self-Service Water" which is the common practice.

SECTION 5. FUNCTIONS OF THE CITY HEALTH OFFICE (CHO) . -

The City Health Office (CHO) is hereby tasked to inspect all restaurants and other similar establishments to ensure their compliance.

All restaurants and other similar establishments shall display their business permit in a visible place together with the recent water test results of their water provider and their monthly water sampling and bacteriology test, which should be readily available to the general public and not only during inspection.

SECTION 6. PENALTY. - Any restaurant and other similar establishments that does not comply with the provisions of this Ordinance shall be liable for the following penalties:

First Offense - a fine of P3,000.00, reprimand and shall be given first notice of violation;

Second Offense - a fine of P4,000.00 and a second and final notice of violation; and

Third Offense - a fine of P5,000.00 and a suspension of the business permit and closure until such time the restaurant and other similar establishments comply with the Ordinance.

Official Citation tickets shall be issued by any authorized city government personnel at the time of inspection.

SECTION 7. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. - If any provision or section of this Ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is later declared invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the other provisions of this ordinance, as far as severable, shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. REPEALING CLAUSE. - All other prior Ordinances, Executive Orders, Administrative Orders, Resolutions, Rules and Regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Ordinance are likewise deemed repealed or amended.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. - This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval and publication in the Naga City Government pages and website or in a newspaper of local circulation.

Enacted:

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WE HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing ordinance.

GIL A. DE LA TORRE
Secretary to the
Sangguniang Panlungsod

GABRIEL H. BORDADO, JR.
City Vice Mayor
& Presiding Officer

CONCURRED:

MARIA LEONOR G. ROBREDO
City Mayor