



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN
South Wing, Provincial Capitol Building
South Capitol Road, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental 6100
Tel. Nos. 435-7698 * 433-4894 * 707-8075

**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS
OCCIDENTAL HELD IN THE CITY OF BACOLOD ON THE 12TH DAY OF
NOVEMBER 2024**

PRESENT:

Hon. Manuel Frederick O. Ko	Acting Vice Governor/Presiding Officer Pro-Tempore
Hon. Samson C. Mirhan	Temporary Presiding Officer
Hon. Araceli T. Somosa	Member – 1 st District
Hon. Rommel T. Debulgado	Member - 1 st District
Hon. Sixto Teofilo Roxas V. Guanzon, Jr.	Member - 2 nd District
Hon. Andrew Gerard L. Montelibano	Member - 3 rd District
Hon. Jose Benito A. Alonso	Member – 4 th District
Hon. Rita Angela S. Gatuslao	Member - 5 th District
Hon. Valentino Miguel J. Alonso	Member - 6 th District
Hon. Jeffrey T. Tubola	Member - 6 th District
Hon. Richard Julius L. Sablan	Member – ABC
Hon. Mayvelyn L. Madrid	Member – SK Rep.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS:

Hon. Andrew Martin Y. Torres	Member - 4 th District
Hon. Anthony Dennis J. Occeño	Member - 5 th District
Hon. Julius Martin D. Asistio	Member – PCL Rep.

ON ACTING CAPACITY AS GOVERNOR:

Hon. Jeffrey P. Ferrer	Vice Governor
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ORDINANCE NO. 021
Series of 2024

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE SOLO PARENT EMPOWERMENT AND
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SPEAR) IN THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS
OCCIDENTAL AND INTEGRATING IT INTO THE GENDER AND
DEVELOPMENT (GAD) CODE**

Authored and Introduced by:
HON. RITA S. GATUSLAO
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member, 5th District

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 8972, known as the “Solo Parents Welfare Act of 2000” provides a comprehensive package of benefits and services for solo parents and their children;

WHEREAS, the Gender and Development (GAD) Code of the Province of Negros Occidental mandates the promotion of gender equality and the protection of vulnerable sectors, including solo parents, especially women;

WHEREAS, solo parents face unique socio-economic challenges that require comprehensive and gender-responsive programs to ensure their empowerment and equal access to opportunities;

NOW THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Negros Occidental in session assembled:





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Section 1. TITLE. This Ordinance shall be known as the "Solo Parent Empowerment and Assistance Program" (SPEAR) Ordinance of the Province of Negros Occidental".

Section 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. It is the policy of the Province of Negros Occidental to:

- Promote the welfare and rights of solo parents by providing accessible services, programs, and protection through gender-responsive governance.
- Recognize solo parents, especially women, as a vulnerable sector that requires special support in line with the GAD Code and Republic Act No. 8972.
- Ensure that solo parents are empowered economically, socially, and psychologically, with full access to government programs and services, free from discrimination.

Section 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS. For purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- **Solo Parent:** A person qualified under the Solo Parents' Welfare Act of 2000, including those who raise children alone due to various circumstances such as abandonment, death of a spouse, annulment, or non-marriage.
- **GAD Code:** Refers to the Gender and Development Code of the Province of Negros Occidental, which mandates gender-responsive policies and programs, particularly for women and marginalized sectors.

Section 4. CREATION OF THE SOLO PARENT EMPOWERMENT AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SPEAR). The Solo Parent Empowerment and Assistance Program (SPEAR) is hereby established in the Province of Negros Occidental to provide a comprehensive package of services for solo parents. SPEAR shall be a fully integrated component of the provincial GAD Plan and Budget.

Section 5. PROGRAMS AND SERVICES UNDER SPEAR. The following programs and services shall be provided under SPEAR, aligned with the GAD Code:

1. Livelihood and Employment Support:

- Solo parents shall have access to skills training, livelihood programs, and employment opportunities, especially for women who are solo parents.
- Partnerships with local businesses and national agencies (TESDA, DOLE, etc.) shall be established to provide solo parents access to entrepreneurial training and micro-financing support.



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1. Financial Assistance:

- Solo parents facing financial hardships shall receive priority for financial assistance programs and subsidies funded through the GAD budget.
- Special grants for the education of children of solo parents shall be created under the provincial educational assistance programs.

2. Health and Wellness:

- Solo parents shall be entitled to priority access to provincial healthcare services, especially maternal and child healthcare, as part of the GAD-funded health initiatives.
- Mental health services, including free counseling and psychological support, shall be provided through provincial health offices.

3. Legal Assistance and Anti-Discrimination:

- The Provincial Legal Office, in partnership with the GAD Council, shall provide free legal services to solo parents who are victims of discrimination or abuse.
- Anti-discrimination measures shall be enforced, with solo parents protected from discrimination in employment, education, and public services.

4. Childcare and Educational Support:

- The province shall establish day-care centers and after-school care programs, specifically benefiting solo parents who require support in caring for their children.
- Scholarships and educational assistance shall be made available for solo parents and their children, particularly women-led households.

Section 6. INCLUSION IN THE ANNUAL GAD PLAN AND BUDGET. The SPEAR program shall be included as a regular item in the Annual GAD Plan and Budget of the Province of Negros Occidental. Funds shall be allocated from the mandated 5% GAD budget, with additional funding from local and national government agencies or private partnerships.

Section 7. ROLE OF THE PROVINCIAL GAD FOCAL POINT SYSTEM. The Provincial GAD Focal Point System shall oversee the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the SPEAR program. It shall ensure the integration of the needs of solo parents into all GAD-related programs and activities. Regular reports shall be submitted to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan on the progress and impact of the program.

Section 8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION. A Solo Parent Empowerment Committee shall be established under the Provincial GAD Council, consisting of representatives from the solo parent sector, provincial social welfare offices, and other relevant agencies. This committee shall monitor the implementation of the SPEAR program, ensuring its effectiveness and responsiveness to the needs of solo parents.



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Section 9. PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE. Any individual, organization, or institution found discriminating against solo parents or denying them access to the benefits and programs provided under this Ordinance shall be subject to penalties, as prescribed by the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of this Ordinance.

Section 10. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. The Provincial GAD Council, in coordination with relevant local government units, shall formulate the necessary implementing rules and regulations (IRR) within 90 days after the approval of this Ordinance.

Section 11. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. If any part or provision of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 12. EFFECTIVITY. This Ordinance shall take effect 15 days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Negros Occidental.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY. November 12, 2024.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon approval.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

HON. SAMSON C. MIRHAN
Temporary Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:

ATTY. MAKI ANGEL O. ASCALON
Provincial Secretary

APPROVED:

HON. JEFFREY P. FERRER
Acting Governor

Date: DEC 04 2024

Note: The Presiding Officer Pro-Tempore, Hon. Manuel Frederick O. Ko, relinquished the chair to the Temporary Presiding Officer, Hon. Samson C. Mirhan.