



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 NEGROS OCCIDENTAL HELD IN THE CITY OF BACOLOD, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL ON THE 12TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2024.

Present:

Hon. Manuel Frederick O. Ko	Acting Vice Governor/Presiding Officer Pro-Tempore
Hon. Rommel T. Debulgado	Member - 1 st District
Hon. Araceli T. Somosa	Member - 1 st District
Hon. Samson C. Mirhan	Member - 2 nd 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. Mayvelyn L. Madrid	Member - SK
Hon. Richard Julius L. Sablan	Member - ABC
On 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
On Acting Capacity as Governor:	
Hon. Jeffrey P. Ferrer	Vice Governor

ORDINANCE NO. 023
Series of 2024

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE SENIOR CITIZENS PROTECTION AND WELFARE PROGRAM (SCPWP) IN THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

(Authored by: Hon. Rita Angela S. Gatuslao Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member, 5th District, Negros Occidental)

WHEREAS, the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates the protection and promotion of the rights of senior citizens, ensuring that the elderly are provided with comprehensive care and support in their health, social, and economic well-being;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9994, also known as the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010,” provides a wide range of benefits and privileges for senior citizens to ensure their active participation in community development and protection from social exclusion;

WHEREAS, the Province of Negros Occidental recognizes the vital contributions of senior citizens to society and is committed to improving their quality of life through the establishment of a Senior Citizens Protection and Welfare Program (SCPWP);

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

SECTION 1. Title - This Ordinance shall be known as the “Senior Citizens Protection and Welfare Program (SCPWP) Ordinance of the Province of Negros Occidental.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy - It is the policy of the Province of Negros Occidental to:

1. Promote the rights, dignity, and welfare of senior citizens by providing them with health, social, and economic support;

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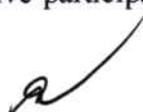
2. Establish programs that ensure the protection and full participation of senior citizens in the development of the province;
3. Ensure that senior citizens are protected from discrimination, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms - For the purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms are defined:

1. **Senior Citizens:** Individuals who are residents of the Philippines and are sixty (60) years old or above, as defined by Republic Act No. 9994.
2. **Indigent Senior Citizens:** Those who are frail, sickly, or disabled and without pension, permanent source of income, or family support.
3. **Protection and Welfare:** A comprehensive approach to ensuring the well-being of senior citizens, including access to health care, financial support, and social services.

SECTION 4. Rights of Senior Citizens - Senior citizens in the Province of Negros Occidental shall have the following rights:

1. **Health and Medical Services:**
 - a. Free access to public health services, including consultations, hospitalization, and medicines in all provincial hospitals.
 - b. Special lanes or priority services in public health facilities.
 - c. Annual medical check-ups and wellness programs organized by the Provincial Health Office.
2. **Social Protection and Financial Assistance:**
 - a. Monthly financial assistance for indigent senior citizens, subject to available provincial and national funds.
 - b. Provision of assistive devices like wheelchairs, canes, and hearing aids for senior citizens with physical limitations.
 - c. Priority assistance during disaster and emergency situations.
3. **Livelihood and Employment Opportunities:**
 - a. Livelihood training programs for senior citizens interested in starting small businesses or income-generating activities.
 - b. Recognition and incentives for businesses that employ senior citizens or provide support for senior-led initiatives.
4. **Legal Support and Protection from Abuse:**
 - a. Free legal assistance for senior citizens facing abuse, discrimination, or denial of rights.
 - b. Establishment of a Provincial Task Force on Senior Citizen Protection to handle cases of elder abuse and neglect.
5. **Recreational and Social Programs:**
 - a. Establishment of Senior Citizens Centers in municipalities or cities where the elderly can engage in social activities, recreation, and continuing education.
 - b. Programs promoting the active participation of senior citizens in cultural, sports, and community events.



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SECTION 5. Senior Citizens Protection and Welfare Office (SCPWO) - The Province of Negros Occidental shall establish the Senior Citizens Protection and Welfare Office (SCPWO), tasked with:

1. Developing policies, programs, and services for the elderly in coordination with local government units (LGUs), non-government organizations (NGOs), and private institutions.
2. Overseeing the implementation of this Ordinance and ensuring that senior citizens are provided with the necessary services and protection.
3. Collaborating with national government agencies for the efficient delivery of services to senior citizens.

SECTION 6. Senior Citizens Council - The Provincial Senior Citizens Council shall be created to advise and assist the SCPWO in implementing policies and programs. The Council shall include:

1. Representatives from the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO), Department of Health (DOH), and Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
2. Accredited senior citizen organizations;
3. Representatives from civil society and private sector partners.

SECTION 7. Programs and Services - The SCPWO shall oversee the following programs for senior citizens:

1. **Healthcare and Medical Assistance:**
 - a. Geriatric clinics in provincial hospitals that cater to the medical needs of elderly patients.
 - b. Annual medical missions and free vaccination drives specifically targeting senior citizens.
2. **Livelihood and Employment Support:**
 - a. Livelihood projects and entrepreneurship programs for senior citizens, focusing on capacity-building and market linkage.
 - b. Special assistance programs for senior citizen entrepreneurs, including access to capital and technical assistance.
3. **Social and Recreational Services:**
 - a. Cultural, recreational, and sports events celebrating National Senior Citizens Month, organized in cooperation with LGUs.
 - b. Wellness programs, including yoga, exercise, and hobby-related activities to promote mental and physical health.
4. **Legal and Financial Aid:**
 - a. Legal support programs for senior citizens in areas such as inheritance, property disputes, and elder rights.
 - b. Financial literacy programs to guide senior citizens in managing their pensions, savings, and other financial resources.

SECTION 8. Funding and Budget - The Senior Citizens Protection and Welfare Program (SCPWP) shall be funded through:



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1. The Annual Provincial Budget, which shall allocate a portion for senior citizen programs.
2. National government programs and grants supporting elderly welfare.
3. Donations and partnerships with private organizations and civil society groups.

SECTION 9. Monitoring and Evaluation - The Senior Citizens Protection and Welfare Office (SCPWO) shall monitor the implementation of this Ordinance and submit an annual report to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan on the status of senior citizens in the province, including the impact of programs and services.

SECTION 10. Penalties - Violations of this Ordinance, including failure to provide priority services, denial of benefits, or cases of elder abuse, shall be penalized as follows: • A fine subject to the LGU Ordinance for establishments or institutions failing to comply with this Ordinance. • Suspension or revocation of business permits for repeated offenses.

SECTION 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations - The SCPWO, in coordination with relevant provincial offices, shall formulate the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) within 60 days of the approval of this Ordinance.

SECTION 12. Separability Clause - If any provision of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 13. 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. MAKANGEL O. ASCALON
Provincial Secretary

APPROVED:

HON. JEFFREY P. FERRER
Acting Governor

Date: DEC 04 2024

Copy for: all concerned
Res2024@smury

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