



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
Old Capitol Building, Bacolod City
Tel. No. 707-8075 (Admin) * 435-7698 (Board Member) * 709-0121 (Legislative Division)
OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

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. Rommel T. Debulgado	Member - 1 st District
Hon. Araceli T. Somosa	Member - 1 st District
Hon. Sixto Teofilo Roxas V. Guanzon, Jr.	Member - 2 nd District
Hon. Samson C. Mirhan	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. Jeffrey T. Tubola	Member - 6 th District
Hon. Valentino Miguel J. Alonso	Member - 6 th District
Hon. Richard Julius L. Sablan	Member - ABC Rep.
Hon. Mayvelyn L. Madrid	Member - SK Rep.

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 Rep.

ON ACTING CAPACITY AS GOVERNOR

Hon. Jeffrey P. Ferrer	Vice-Governor
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ORDINANCE NO. 024
Series of 2024

AN ORDINANCE PROMOTING THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs) IN THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL AND INTEGRATING IT WITH THE GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT (GAD) CODE

Authored by: HON. RITA ANGELA S. GATUSLAO
Chairman, Committee on Women and Children
Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member, 5th District

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7277, also known as the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons,” and other relevant laws protect the rights of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and provide for their full inclusion in society;

WHEREAS, the Province of Negros Occidental recognizes the intersection of disability and gender, particularly the unique challenges faced by women and girls with disabilities, requiring the integration of disability concerns into the Gender and Development (GAD) Code;

WHEREAS, the Gender and Development Code of the Province of Negros Occidental promotes gender equality and mandates the creation of policies and programs that protect marginalized groups, including PWDs, especially women and children with disabilities;

WHEREAS, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) continue to experience barriers in accessing education, healthcare, employment, and participation in social and public life, necessitating comprehensive and gender-responsive interventions;



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NOW, THEREFORE, on motion of Hon. Rita Angela S. Gatuslao, duly seconded by all the members present,

BE IT ENACTED by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Negros Occidental in a Regular Session assembled that:

SECTION 1. TITLE

This Ordinance shall be known as the “PWD Rights and Welfare Ordinance of the Province of Negros Occidental, Integrated with the Gender and Development (GAD) Code.”

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY

It is the policy of the Province of Negros Occidental to:

- Uphold and promote the rights and welfare of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) by ensuring their full participation in society and equal access to opportunities and services.
- Integrate disability-related concerns into the Gender and Development (GAD) Code, recognizing the intersectionality between disability and gender, particularly the needs of women and girls with disabilities.
- Implement programs that address the specific challenges faced by PWDs through a gender sensitive, inclusive, and rights-based approach.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS

For the purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- **Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)** - individuals with long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.
- **Gender and Development (GAD) Code** - a framework of policies and programs in Negros Occidental designed to promote gender equality, including the protection and empowerment of marginalized sectors such as women, children, and PWDs.
- **Gender-Responsive** - refers to policies, programs, and practices that take into consideration the different needs and circumstances of men, women, and gender minorities, especially in vulnerable populations.

SECTION 4. RIGHTS OF PWDS

PWDs in the Province of Negros Occidental are entitled to the following rights, in line with national laws, international conventions, and the GAD Code:

1. Equal Access to Employment:

- PWDs, particularly women, shall have access to inclusive employment opportunities, free from discrimination.
- Employers are encouraged to hire PWDs and provide reasonable accommodations, with incentives for inclusive hiring practices through tax reductions or public recognition.

2. Inclusive Education:

- The province shall ensure the provision of inclusive education programs for PWDs, especially girls and young women with disabilities, aligned with gender-responsive educational initiatives.



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- Special education (SPED) centers shall be equipped to address the specific learning needs of PWDs, particularly children with physical and mental disabilities.

3. Healthcare Services:

- PWDs, particularly women, shall have access to healthcare services, including reproductive health, mental health support, and rehabilitation services.
- Provincial healthcare programs under the GAD budget shall ensure that PWDs receive priority services and that gender-specific health concerns of PWD women are addressed.

4. Social Protection and Welfare

- The province shall provide social protection services to PWDs, ensuring that they are beneficiaries of existing social welfare programs, including cash assistance, housing support, and disaster response programs.
- The Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO) shall implement GAD funded programs specifically addressing the needs of PWD women, such as livelihood training, counseling, and community-based support.

5. Accessible Infrastructure and Transportation

- All public infrastructure, transportation, and facilities shall comply with the Accessibility Law (BP 344) and be designed to accommodate PWDs, with additional provisions for gender-sensitive needs, such as separate facilities for women PWDs where appropriate.
- Public buildings shall provide access features such as ramps, elevators, tactile signage, and disability-friendly restrooms.

6. Protection from Violence and Discrimination

- PWDs, especially women, shall be protected from all forms of violence, abuse, and discrimination.
- The province shall implement programs to raise awareness on the rights of PWDs and provide legal assistance to PWDs who experience discrimination, harassment, or violence.

SECTION 5. PROVINCIAL COUNCIL FOR PWD AFFAIRS

The Provincial Council for PWD Affairs (PCPDA) shall be established under the Office of the Governor, integrated with the Provincial Gender and Development (GAD) Council. The PCPDA shall:

- Develop and implement policies and programs that address the needs of PWDs, particularly women and children, in line with the GAD Code.
- Monitor compliance with the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons and other disability-related laws in the province.
- Ensure that the rights and welfare of PWDs are integrated into the province's Annual GAD Plan and Budget.

SECTION 6. PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR PWDs

The Province of Negros Occidental shall establish the following programs and services for PWDs, integrated into the GAD Code:



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1. Livelihood and Employment Support:

- Livelihood training programs for PWDs, with special focus on empowering women with disabilities, shall be funded through the GAD budget.
- Partnerships with businesses shall be encouraged to create employment opportunities for PWDs, with recognition given to companies that promote disability-inclusive hiring.

2. Healthcare and Rehabilitation:

- The province shall provide free or subsidized assistive devices, physical therapy, and rehabilitation services for PWDs, particularly focusing on the needs of women and children with disabilities.
- Healthcare facilities shall provide gender-sensitive services for women with disabilities, including access to maternal and reproductive health care.

3. Legal Support and Anti-Discrimination Programs:

- Legal assistance shall be provided for PWDs facing discrimination in employment, education, or public services, with special attention to women and children with disabilities.
- Anti-discrimination campaigns, funded through the GAD budget, shall be launched to educate the public on the rights of PWDs and to reduce stigma and prejudice.

4. Inclusive Education Initiatives:

- Scholarships and educational assistance shall be provided for PWDs, particularly women and girls, to ensure their access to quality education.
- The province shall implement gender-sensitive inclusive education programs in public schools, including training for teachers on handling PWD students.

5. Social Welfare Programs:

- Regular distribution of benefits under the PWD ID program, including discounts on essential goods, healthcare services, and public utilities, shall be ensured for PWDs.
- The province shall also provide gender-responsive social services, such as mental health support and community-based rehabilitation, for women and children with disabilities.

SECTION 7. FUNDING AND BUDGET ALLOCATION

Programs and services under this Ordinance shall be funded through:

1. The **Annual Provincial Budget**, with a specific percentage allocated for PWD-related programs.
2. The **5% GAD Budget**, which shall be used to support programs for women and girls with disabilities and to address gender-specific disability issues.
3. Other sources such as national government support, grants from international organizations, and private sector partnerships.



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SECTION 8. MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE

The Provincial Council for PWD Affairs, in coordination with the GAD Council, shall monitor the implementation of this Ordinance. Regular reports shall be submitted to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan on the status of PWD rights and welfare, particularly focusing on gender-sensitive concerns.

SECTION 9. PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

Any establishment or individual found violating the provisions of this Ordinance, especially those relating to accessibility, discrimination, or denial of rights to PWDs, shall face penalties:

- A fine subject to the LGU Ordinance for non-compliance with accessibility or nondiscrimination provisions.
- Suspension or revocation of business permits for repeat offenses.

SECTION 10. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Provincial Council for PWD Affairs, in collaboration with the GAD Council and other relevant agencies, shall formulate the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) within 60 days of the approval of this Ordinance.

SECTION 11. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

If any provision or part 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.

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