



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 AUGUST 2025

PRESENT:

Hon. Jose Benito A. Alonso	Vice-Governor/Presiding Officer
Hon. Laurence Marxlen J. Dela Cruz	Member - 1 st District
Hon. Araceli T. Somosa	Member - 1 st District
Hon. Sixto Teofilo Roxas V. Guanzon, Jr.	Member - 2 nd District
Hon. Arthur Christopher D. Marañon	Member - 2 nd District
Hon. Hope Marey B. Depasucat	Member - 3 rd District
Hon. Andrew Gerard L. Montelibano	Member - 3 rd District
Hon. Patricia Paula M. Alonso-Valderrama	Member - 4 th District
Hon. Nicholas M. Yulo	Member - 4 th District
Hon. Rita Angela S. Gatuslao	Member - 5 th District
Hon. Hadji P. Trojillo	Member - 5 th District
Hon. Genaro G. Alvarez, IV	Member - 6 th District
Hon. Jeffrey T. Tubola	Member - 6 th District
Hon. Richard Julius L. Sablan	Member - ABC Rep
Hon. Mayvelyn L. Madrid	Member - SKF Rep.

ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS:

Hon. Julius Martin D. Asistio	Member - PCL Rep.
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ORDINANCE NO. 015
Series of 2025

AN ORDINANCE MANDATING THE ORGANIZATION OF A LOCAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL (LWC) IN EVERY LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT (LGU) IN THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

Authored By:

Hon. Rita Angela S. Gatuslao
Hon. Hope Marey B. Depasucat
Hon. Patricia Paula M. Alonso-Valderrama
Hon. Araceli T. Somosa
Hon. Mayvelyn L. Madrid

WHEREAS, the Philippine Constitution declares that the State recognizes the role of women in nation-building and shall ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men (Article II, Section 14);

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9710, otherwise known as the Magna Carta of Women, guarantees that women are given equal access to opportunities and ensures their full participation in development;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7192, the Women in Development and Nation Building Act, promotes the integration of women as full and equal partners of men in development and nation-building;



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WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9262, the Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004, mandates the creation of mechanisms And services at the local level to address issues of violence against women;

WHEREAS, the Local Government Code (Republic Act No. 7160) provides for the creation of local special bodies, including those for the promotion of women's rights and welfare;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Commission on Women has issued policies and guidelines to establish Local Women's Councils (LWC) to strengthen local governance, advance gender equality, and promote women's participation in policy-making processes;

WHEREAS, the Provincial Council for Women, serves as the main policy-making and coordinating body on women's concerns in the province, ensuring that gender-sensitive and gender-responsive measures are prioritized;

WHEREAS, there is need to institutionalize a mechanism at the local level to ensure the active participation and representation of women in local governance and development programs;

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

BE IT ORDAINED by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of the Province of Negros Occidental in Regular Session, duly assembled that:

Section 1. Title

This ordinance shall be known as the "Local Women's Council Organization Ordinance of Negros Occidental."

Section 2. Declaration of Policy

The Province of Negros Occidental recognizes the importance of women's empowerment and gender equality in governance and development. In line with the principles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Philippine Plan for Gender-Responsive Development, and other gender-related frameworks, this ordinance seeks to ensure the organization of Local Women's Councils (LWCs) in every LGU to promote women's participation and representation in governance.

Section 3. Mandate

All LGUs in Negros Occidental are hereby mandated to organize a Local Women's Council (LWC) to serve as an advisory and advocacy body that will promote gender equality, empower women, and address women's concerns.

Section 4. Guiding Principles

The organization of Local Women's Councils shall be conducted with the goal of promoting women empowerment, social justice, and poverty alleviation of marginalized women through the following principles:



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- Democratic participation of women from all sectors in the community.
- Autonomy of LGUs and NGOs: Respect for the independence and functions of local government units and non-governmental organizations.
- Inclusivity: Ensuring the participation of all women's organizations within the locality.
- Political neutrality and non-partisanship of government officials, staff, and organizations involved.
- Transparency and accountability in all activities and decisions of the council.

Section 5. Definition of Terms

Local Women's Council (LWC) - Refers to the non-government body organized in every city or municipality composed of women's organizations and sectoral groups duly recognized by the LGU, aimed at promoting women's empowerment and gender equality.

Gender and Development (GAD) Coordinator - The designated officer from the City/Municipal Social Welfare Development Office (CSWDO/MSWDO) tasked with coordinating the gender and development efforts and serving as the secretariat of the LWC.

Section 6. Composition of the LWC

- a) The Local Women's Council (LWC) shall be composed of the Presidents of Barangay Councils for Women, women's non-government organizations (NGOs), and people's organizations (POs) representing diverse sectors such as business, labor, indigenous groups, professional women, fisherfolk, and other relevant sectors.
- b) The Sanggunian Panlungsod/Sanggunian Bayan (SP/SB) Committee Chairperson on Women shall serve as the adviser of the LWC to ensure that gender-related concerns are well integrated into local legislation and governance.
- c) The GAD (Gender and Development) Coordinator from the City/Municipal Social Welfare Development Office (CSWDO/MSWDO) shall serve as the secretariat of the LWC, responsible for administrative tasks, coordination, and monitoring of the council's activities. This inclusion ensures that there is a clear link between the Local Women's Council and the local legislative body (through the SP/SB adviser) and that the GAD agenda is properly implemented and monitored (through the GAD Coordinator)

Section 7. Roles and Functions of the LWC

The LWC shall be tasked with the following functions:

- a) Assist in mainstreaming gender and development (GAD) in LGU policies, plans, and programs.
- b) Advocate and participate in the formulation of the LGU's GAD Plan and Budget.
- c) Monitor and evaluate the implementation of local policies affecting women and submit reports to the LGU and other relevant bodies.
- d) Collaborate with LGUs and other agencies in implementing projects addressing poverty alleviation, social justice, and women's empowerment.
- e) Build the entrepreneurial capability of marginalized women by collaborating with government and private sector institutions.
- f) Ensure women's participation in local governance and advocate for their inclusion in local special bodies and sectoral representation in the LGU Sanggunian.



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Section 8. Structure of the Local Women's Councils (LWC)

The structure and composition of the Local Women's Council (LWC) in each Local Government Unit (LGU) of Negros Occidental shall follow the framework outlined in Annex A: Structure of the Local Women's Council (LWC), attached hereto as an integral part of this Ordinance. This annex provides a detailed breakdown of the LWC's composition, including sectoral representation (e.g., women, youth, PWDs, Indigenous Peoples, solo parents), organizational roles, and the relationship of the LWC to the Sangguniang Panlungsod (SP) and Sangguniang Panbayan (SB) chairpersons for women.

Annex A defines how the LWCs will coordinate with the Provincial Council for Women to ensure comprehensive gender and development initiatives are implemented at both local and provincial levels. It also specifies the functions of the LWCs, their reporting mechanisms, and how they contribute to the overall goals of gender equality, women's empowerment, and inclusive development across the province.

Section 9. Meetings

- a) The LWC Board shall meet at least once a month.
- b) The full Council shall meet at least twice a year to review the progress of its activities and programs.

Section 10. Secretariat

The LGU's Municipal or City Social Welfare Development Office (MSWDO/CSWDO) GAD Coordinator shall serve as the secretariat of the LWC and shall ensure the proper coordination of its activities.

Section 11. Funding

Each LGU shall allocate funds for the operation of the LWC from its 5% GAD budget. This allocation shall cover the meetings, programs, trainings, and activities of the LWC.

Section 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations

The Provincial Council for Women, in coordination with the Provincial Gender and Development Office (PGDO), shall issue the implementing guidelines to ensure the proper execution of this ordinance.

Section 13. Repealing Clause

All ordinances, rules, and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 14. Effectivity

This ordinance shall take effect after compliance with the posting requirements as provided by law.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY, August 12, 2025.



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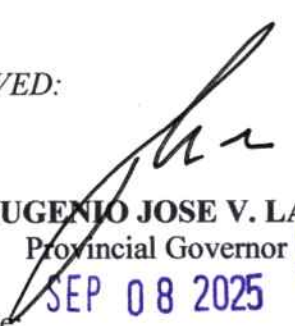
CERTIFIED CORRECT:


HON. JOSE BENITO A. ALONSO
Vice Governor/Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:


ATTY. MAKI ANGEL O. ASCALON
Provincial Secretary

APPROVED:


HON. EUGENIO JOSE V. LACSON
Provincial Governor

Date: SEP 08 2025

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