

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Ilocos Norte
SOLSONA

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 23RD JOINT REGULAR SESSION OF THE 5TH
SANGGUNIANG BAYAN AND THE ASSOCIATION OF BARANGAY COUNCILS OF
SOLSONA, ILOCOS NORTE, HELD IN ITS SESSION HALL ON MAY 5, 2003.

PRESENT:

Hon. Edison E. de Lara,	Vice Mayor & Presiding Officer,
Hon. Adlai C. Factora,	Member,
Hon. Bob G. Sacro,	Member,
Hon. Lorenzo M. Pascua,	Member,
Hon. Faustino H. Valdez, Jr.,	Member,
Hon. Zamuel F. Balantac,	Member,
Hon. Andresito A. Luis,	Member,
Hon. Robert T. Coña,	Member,
Hon. Cresencio M. Viloría,	ABC President, and
Hon. Lucky S. Sanchez,	SK President.

ALSO PRESENT:

20 Punong Barangays

ABSENT:

Hon. Jimmy A. Andres,	Member, and
PB Elpidio Domingo,	Barangay Maananteng.

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 2003-537

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE QUARANTINE OF SUSPECTED SARS-INFECTED PERSONS, IMPOSING SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATION THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

On motion of Hon. Faustino H. Valdez, Jr., duly seconded by Hon. Andresito A. Luis and Hon. Cresencio M. Viloría, be it

ENACTED, by the Sangguniang Bayan of Solsona, Ilocos Norte, Philippines, that:

SECTION 1. TITLE - This shall be known as the Anti-SARS Ordinance of 2003.

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY - It is declared a policy that local government units shall promote and ensure the protection of the health and safety of its inhabitants from all forms of diseases, especially those of epidemic effects.

Based on the report of the World Health Organization (WHO), the SARS virus has caused an alarming number of deaths in about twenty-seven (27) countries believed to be SARS affected or suspected of having probable cases of SARS. On the other hand, the Department of Health (DOH) has declared that SARS virus is now in the country and is classified as quarantinable disease because of its highly contagious nature and considering the danger it poses to public health.

As such and pursuant to their powers under Sec. 16 and 17 of the Local Government Code, it is imperative that Local Government Units (LGUs) take measures in order to prevent, abort and/or minimize the entry and spread of said disease in their respective localities, and to provide mechanism for the quarantine of residents who are suspected to have been infected with the deadly virus.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS - For purposes of this Ordinance, the terms hereunder mentioned shall be defined as follows:

(a) **SARS** - Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome also known as a typical pneumonia. It is caused by a new form of corona virus, related to the virus which causes flu. A confirmed case of SARS is one who has a fever of more than 38 degrees centigrade, develops body weakness, and respiratory signs and symptoms like cough, sore throat and shortness of breath and had travel to SARS infected countries or had close contact with a confirmed SARS victim. A suspected case is one who has lived with, cared for, or closely worked with a confirmed case and who also develops cough, sore throat and shortness of breath.

(b) **QUARANTINE** - Detention or isolation for the purpose of preventing the spread of epidemic diseases.

SECTION 4. QUARANTINE OF SUSPECTED SARS VICTIM - Pursuant to Executive Order No. 201 of the President, any individual who is identified or determined by the DOH of the local health officials to be suffering from the symptoms of the SARS virus, shall be required to undergo testing and be quarantined in either the San Lazaro Hospital in Manila or the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in Muntinlupa or in such other places/institutions that may be designated as quarantine areas by the DOH or the local health officials until such time that the DOH issues a SARS negative clearance.

All family members and/or other persons who have been in contact with the suspected SARS victim shall be required to undergo home confinement or be quarantined in places/institution as may be designated quarantine areas by the DOH or the local health authorities until such time that the DOH issues a SARS negative clearance.

While under quarantine, suspected SARS victim shall be prevented from making personal contact with other individuals except the medical personnel treating them, until a SARS negative clearance is issued for their discharge from quarantine.

For the effective implementation of this provision, the Municipal Mayor may call on the local PNP to ensure that the above persons shall remain in quarantine or in their area of confinement until the necessary clearance is issued by the DOH.

SECTION 5. OTHER PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST THE SPREAD OF SARS - In order to prevent the entry and spread of SARS in the community, the Municipal Mayor shall adopt measures against the spread of SARS to include but not limited to the following:

a. The conduct of massive information drive to raise the consciousness of the constituents on SARS and how it could affect their day-to-day activities.

The information drive may be in the form of fliers, leaflets, and other information materials on SARS prevention for distribution to the public through the help of barangay health workers, other officials and members of the barangay, public and private school teachers, officials and members of the Sangguniang Kabataan, and members of non-government organizations in the area. Owners of cinemas may also be requested to allow the showing of infomercials on SARS preventive measures for a certain period, as maybe agreed upon.

b. Mandatory requirement to all personnel and staff of public and private hospitals to wear personal protective equipment such as masks and apparel while on duty.

c. Mandatory requirement to all owner/proprietors/administrators of private establishments, including private hospitals, to formulate their own safety measures to protect their employees and the general public from the threat brought about by SARS and inform the Municipal Government of their SARS prevention plan.

d. Mandatory requirement to crematoriums and/or funeral and embalming establishments to provide for the immediate cremation/burial of any person confirmed or suspected to have died of SARS. These establishments are further required to coordinate with the DOH and/or local health authorities in formulating measures for the safe handling of the remains of persons confirmed or suspected to have died of SARS.

e. The conduct of clean-up drive in the barangays, regularly but not less than once a week, to include households, esteros, rivers and riverbanks, drainage, streets, alleys, pathways and other public places. All barangay officials shall be required to take the lead in the massive clean-up operations in the barangays.

The Municipal Mayor may promulgate or issue such other rules and regulations consistent with this Ordinance.

SECTION 6. FUNDING - The appropriate funding needed for the implementation of this Ordinance shall be taken from the funds of the Municipality, the Calamity Fund of the Municipality may be utilized subject, however, to existing guidelines prescribed under the rules and regulations and other issuances implementing Republic Act No. 8185, governing the allocation and utilization of the local calamity fund.

SECTION 7. SANCTIONS - Any person who violate the requirement for home confinement as provided for in the second paragraph of Section 4 hereof, shall be subject to forced confinement in any of the quarantine areas designated by the DOH, until the necessary clearance is issued by the latter.

Any crematorium or funeral or embalming establishments offering cremation services who refuse to cremate any person confirmed or suspected to have died from SARS shall be subject to closure and cancellation of their business and mayor's permit. In addition, the owners, proprietors and/or managers of the said establishments shall be penalized with a fine of not exceeding TWO THOUSAND PESOS (Php. 2,000.00) or an imprisonment for a period not exceeding six (6) months, or both in the discretion of the court.

SECTION 8. SEPARATION CLAUSE - If any provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other parts or provisions thereof, which are not affected thereby, shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. REPEALING CLAUSE - All Ordinances found to be inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.


SECTION 10. EFFECTIVITY - This Ordinance shall take effect immediately after its posting in three (3) prominent places and publication for three consecutive weeks in a local newspapers of general circulation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, with the following votes:


In favor - Hons. Factora, Sacro, Pascua, Valdez, Balantac, Luis, Corla, Vitoria and Sanchez;

Against - None

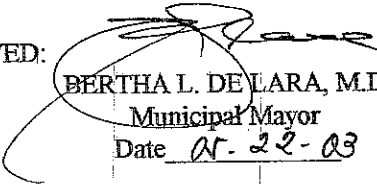
CERTIFIED TRUE & CORRECT :


GLORIA S. ESPIRITU
Acting SB Secretary

ATTESTED:


EDISON E. DE LARA
Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer

APPROVED:


BERTHA L. DE LARA, M.D.
Municipal Mayor
Date At. 22-03