



Republika ng Pilipinas
Lungsod Quezon
SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD
(City Council)

PO2003-93

64th Regular Session

ORDINANCE NO. SP-**1248**, S-2003

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE QUARANTINE OF SUSPECTED SARS-INFECTED PERSONS, IMPLEMENTING MEASURES TO CURB THE SPREAD THEREOF AND IMPOSING SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATION THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Introduced by Councilors ALMA F. MONTILLA, DANTE M. DE GUZMAN, BERNADETTE HERRERA-DY, JORGE L. BANAL, WENCEROM BENEDICT C. LAGUMBAY, JESUS MANUEL C. SUNTAY, WILMA AMORANTO-SARINO, VICTOR V. FERRER, JR., ELIZABETH A. DELARMENTE, VOLTAIRE GODOFREDO L. LIBAN III, AIKO MELENDEZ-YLLANA, RAMON P. MEDALLA, ALLAN BUTCH T. FRANCISCO, ERIC Z. MEDINA, MARY ANN L. SUSANO, JULIAN M.L. COSETENG, FRANZ S. PUMAREN, JANET M. MALAYA, RICARDO R. DEL ROSARIO, RESTITUTO B. MALAÑGEN and XYRUS L. LANOT.

WHEREAS, the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in the People's Republic of China has rapidly spread to almost thirty (30) countries in Asia, North America and Europe; threatening the Philippines from being affected by the infectious viral disease;

WHEREAS, concrete and proactive steps must be undertaken to prevent, contain and restrict the possibility of spreading the epidemic within the territorial jurisdiction of Quezon City;

WHEREAS, Sections 16-17, Republic Act 7160, as amended, provides that local government units are empowered to exercise powers to promote health and safety, including the provision of services to control communicable diseases;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Executive Order No. 201 (26 April 2003) and the recently concluded National-Local Governments' Counter Attack Against SARS Forum (03 May 2003), local government units have been tasked to adopt necessary and timely measures to prevent the further spread of SARS.

Aug.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF QUEZON CITY
IN SESSION ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. - This Ordinance shall be known and referred to as the "ANTI-SARS ORDINANCE OF QUEZON CITY".

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. - It is an adopted policy that the Quezon City government promote and ensure the protection of the health and safety of its residents from all forms of communicable and non-communicable diseases, especially those which have epidemic effects.

In relation to the findings of the World Health Organization, the Department of Health (DOH) has declared that SARS has reached Philippine shores and has been classified as a quarantineable disease due to its contagious nature and the danger it poses on public health and safety.

The Quezon City government is empowered by Sections 16 -17, Republic Act 7160, as amended, to implement measures calculated to prevent, abate and mitigate, even confine, the entry and spread of SARS within its territorial jurisdiction and provide for services to control infection from such communicable disease, including the imposition of quarantine for suspected infected persons.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS. - For purposes of this Ordinance, unless the contrary is indicated, the following terms mean and shall be construed as follows:

- 3.1 Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) - a communicable disease derived from a group of viruses, called coronaviruses. It has a halo or crown-like (corona) microscopic view. These viruses are common cause of mild to moderate upper-respiratory illness in humans and are associated with respiratory, gastro-intestinal, liver and neurologic diseases in animals. Contracting the illness begins with a fever, with a temperature greater than 100.4° fahrenheit or 38° celsius. The fever is sometimes associated with chills or symptoms, including headache, general feeling of discomfort and body aches. At the outset, some experience mild respiratory symptoms. After two to seven days, SARS patients may





develop a dry, non-productive cough that might be accompanied by or progress to the point where insufficient oxygen is getting to the blood. In 10 to 20 percent of cases, patients will require mechanical ventilation.


3.2. Quarantine - the limitation of movement, by competent authority, of persons who have been exposed or are suspected to have been exposed to a person inflicted with a communicable disease. This includes voluntary home confinement which is the voluntary limitation of movement of a person within the confines of the person's residence, who has traveled to a SARS-affected area, for a period not less than fourteen (14) days.

3.3. Isolation - the total separation of a person confirmed to be infected with SARS. Such person must be confined in an isolated room in a hospital, medical facility or institution dedicated for SARS patients to limit the spread of SARS.

SECTION 4. MANDATORY QUARANTINE OF SUSPECTED SARS VICTIMS. - Pursuant to the provisions of Presidential Executive Order No. 201 (26 April 2003), individual persons identified or determined to be suffering the symptoms of the SARS virus, the City Health Officer shall recommend to the Secretary of Health, the mandatory testing and quarantine of such person in the San Lazaro Hospital of Manila or the Muntinlupa Research Institute for Tropical Medicine or in such other institutions as may be designated as quarantine areas by the Department of Health until a SARS Negative Clearance has been issued by the Secretary of Health.

All family members, including third persons, who have been in contact with a suspected SARS-infected victim are required to undergo voluntary home confinement, as defined under this Ordinance, or shall be quarantined in places or institutions as may be designated as quarantine areas by the Department of Health or the City Health Officer until a SARS Negative Clearance has been issued by the Secretary of Health.



While under quarantine, a suspected SARS-victim are prevented from establishing or making personal contact with other persons except the medical personnel treating them until a SARS Negative Clearance is issued for their discharge from quarantine.

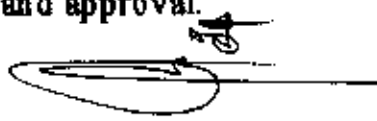
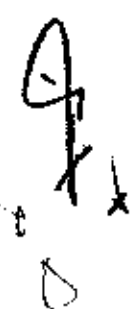
To ensure the effective implementation of this Ordinance, the City Mayor, through the City Health Officer, may call upon the Philippine National Police to ensure that the persons referred to in the preceding paragraphs shall remain in quarantine or within their area of confinement until a SARS Negative Clearance is issued by the Secretary of Health.

SECTION 5. OTHER PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST SARS. - To prevent and abate the entry and spread of SARS within the territorial jurisdiction of Quezon City, the City Mayor shall adopt measures against the possibility of spread of SARS, to include but not limited to the following:

- 5.1 Conduct of an intensified and community-level information and education campaign to increase the awareness of the residents of Quezon City on SARS and its effects on daily activities.

The information drive may be in the form of fliers, leaflets, posters and other informative materials on the prevention of SARS, to be distributed to the public through the barangay health workers, barangay officials, public and private school teachers, the Sangguniang Kabataan and accredited members of civil society organizations. owners and operators of moviehouses, theaters and other related entertainment halls shall be requested to allow the showing of infomercials on SARS and its preventive measures.

- 5.2 Public and private hospital staffs are required to wear, at no cost to health personnel, personal protective equipment, such as N95 masks, gowns and goggles while attending to SARS-suspected victims and shall practice medically prescribed infection control measures.

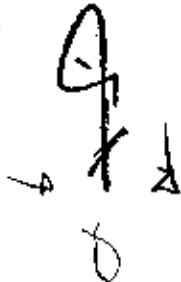
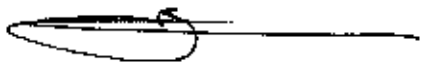
- 5.3 Owners, proprietors, operators and administrators of private establishments, including private hospitals, are required to formulate their respective safety and prevention measures to protect their employees and the public from the threat of contracting the SARS virus: Provided, however, that their SARS prevention plans shall be submitted to the City Health Officer for review and approval.
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- 5.4 Funeral parlors, embalming establishments and crematoriums are required to provide for the immediate burial or cremation of any person confirmed or suspected to have succumbed to the SARS virus. They are further required to inform and coordinate with the Department of Health or the City Health Officer in adopting measures for the safe handling of the remains of persons confirmed or suspected to have died from SARS.
- 5.5 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan officials shall coordinate with the Environment Protection and Waste Management Department in the conduct of environment clean-up drive of streets, alleys and pathways, including but not limited to the cleaning of domestic and household wastes, dredgings and clearing of esteros, rivers, drainage, other waterways and other public areas, consistent with the provisions of Presidential Proclamation No. 366, dated 24 April 2003.

SECTION 6. ANTI-SARS TASK FORCE. - An Anti-SARS Task Force, to be chaired by the City Mayor and co-chaired by the City Vice Mayor, is hereby constituted and ordered to immediately convene from the approval of this ordinance and to assist in the implementation of this Ordinance; with the following members:

- 6.1 The City Administrator;
6.2 The City Health Officer;
6.3 The City Planning and Development Office;
6.4 Department of Public Order and Safety;
6.5 Social Service and Department Office;
6.6 Environment Protection and Waste Management Department;
6.7 City General Services Office;
6.8 Public Affairs and Information Service Office;
6.9 Chairperson, City Council Committee on Health;
6.10 Chairperson, City Council Committee on Environment; and
6.11 Chairperson, City Council Committee on Urban Poor.

SECTION 7. FUNDING. - Subject to the provisions of Republic Act 8185, amending Section 324 (d) of Republic Act 7160, as amended, the City Mayor is hereby authorized to utilize the Calamity Fund, subject to availability of funds and the usual accounting and auditing procedures.



SECTION 8. PENAL PROVISIONS. - Any person violating Section 4 of this Ordinance shall be suffered to undergo mandatory quarantine or confinement in any of the quarantine areas designated by the Department of Health, until the Secretary of Health issues a SARS Negative Clearance.

Funeral Parlors, embalming establishments or crematoriums who refuse to provide embalming or crematory services to any person confirmed or suspected to have died from the SARS virus shall suffer the penalty of suspension, and revocation of their business license and permit.


In addition, owners, proprietors, operators or administrators of establishments in the preceding paragraph, shall be penalized with a fine not exceeding Five Thousand Pesos (PhP5,000.00) or an imprisonment for a period not exceeding one (1) year, or both, at the discretion of the Court.

Distributors or dealers, whether on wholesale or retail, who shall be found to offer for distribution, sale or any other mode of sales, protective masks and other protective equipment, at rates exceeding those prescribed by existing Price Control and Consumer Protection laws and regulations prescribed by the Department of Trade and Industry, shall in addition to the penalties already prescribed, suffer the penalty of a fine not exceeding Five Thousand Pesos (PhP5,000.00) or an imprisonment for a period not exceeding One (1) year, or both at the discretion of the Court.

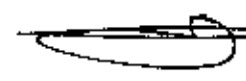
The Business Permits and Licensing Office shall conduct regular inspections, price control and monitoring activities and shall recommend the prosecution of violations of the provisions of this section.

SECTION 9. IMPLEMENTING RULES. - The City Mayor shall immediately promulgate such rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 10. SEPARATION CLAUSE. - If any provision of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts of provisions thereof, not affected thereby, shall remain in full force and effect.



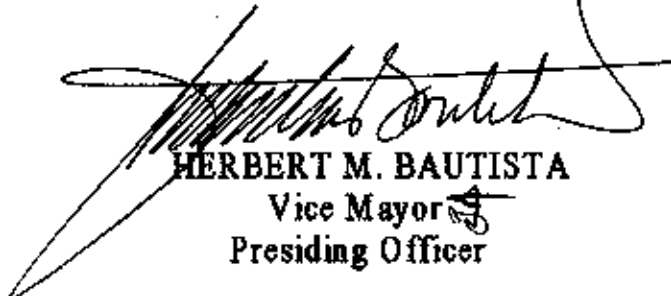
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SECTION 11. REPEALING CLAUSE. - All ordinances, resolutions and Executive Orders found inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

ENACTED: May 6, 2003.


HERBERT M. BAUTISTA
Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:


EUGENIO V. JURILLA
City Council Secretary

APPROVED: June 4, 2003


FELICIANO R. BELMONTE, JR.
City Mayor

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this Ordinance which was APPROVED on Second Reading Under Suspended Rules on May 6, 2003, was finally PASSED on Third Reading by the City Council on May 20, 2003.


EUGENIO V. JURILLA
City Council Secretary