



Republic of the Philippines  
BATANGAS CITY

**Office of the Sangguniang Panlungsod**

Tel. No. 722-0304

**ORDINANCE NO. 24 S. 2020**

**AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE MALICIOUS AND WILLFUL PROPAGATION OF FALSE INFORMATION WHICH CAN SOW FEAR, ANXIETY, AND PANIC TO THE PUBLIC IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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**AUTHORS : HON. AILEEN GRACE A. MONTALBO  
HON. LORENZO A. GAMBOA, JR.**

**CO-AUTHOR: HON. NESTOR E. DIMACUHA**  
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**WHEREAS**, the 1987 Constitution declares as policy of the state to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

**WHEREAS**, the General Welfare Clause of the Local Government Code of 1991 authorizes the Local Government Units to enact ordinances promoting health and safety of its people;

**WHEREAS**, a deluge of fake news bombarded social media during the community quarantine as people liked, shared and promoted online unverified, baseless, non-scientific alternative medicines for the treatment of the COVID-19 VIRUS;

**WHEREAS**, disinformation continued to be an unwarranted virus as the country grappled with strict community quarantine measures as a measure against COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for the government to contain and regulate public health-related information and information pertaining to emergencies such as, but not limited to disasters, which is critical to the survival of its people;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF BATANGAS CITY IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED:**

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE** - This ordinance shall be known and cited as "Anti-Fake News Ordinance of Batangas City."

**SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY**- The City Government of Batangas declares a policy to recognize the right of the people to accurate information for their safety and well-being; for the purpose of enhancing their awareness and compliance with the law, and preparedness to respond to emergency situations where their lives can be at stake.

**SECTION 3. PURPOSE AND COVERAGE**- This Ordinance shall apply to all duly registered citizens of the City of Batangas, as well as individuals in the city temporary residing at the time of the offense, in a residential unit which includes but not limited to a house, apartment and villa, for academic, professional, employment and other related purposes.





Continuation of Ordinance No. 24 S. 2020

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**SECTION 4. DEFINITION OF TERMS**

- a. **Disaster** – is a sudden, calamitous event that seriously disrupts the functioning of a community or society and causes human, material, and economic or environmental losses that exceed the community's or society's ability to cope using its own resources. Though often caused by nature, disasters can have human origins.
- b. **Emergency** – a sudden, urgent, usually unexpected occurrence or occasion requiring immediate action.
- c. **Fake News**- also known as junk news , pseudo-news, alternative facts or hoax news, is a form of news consisting of deliberate disinformation or hoaxes spread via traditional news media or online social media. Digital news has brought back and increased the usage of fake news, or yellow journalism.
- d. **False Information** – any written or verbal statement or representation of fact that is not true and that was made intentionally, knowingly or without having taken reasonable steps to ascertain whether or not the information was true.
- e. **Health Crisis** – a difficult situation or complex health system that affects humans in one or more geographic areas from particular locality.
- f. **Intervention Program**- the conduct of counselling or rehabilitation program, including rendition of socio-cultural services in Batangas City, such as, but not limited to repacking of relief of goods, distribution of relief of goods in various barangays, or other community services.
- g. **Natural Calamity**- is a traumatic environmental event, such as flood, earthquake, typhoon, hurricane, tornado, mudslide, landslide, volcanic eruption, wildfire or other events.

**SECTION 5. PROHIBITED ACTS** – No person shall wilfully and maliciously convey, communicate, transmit, impart, pass on, or otherwise disseminate, by word of mouth or in written, printed, or video form, through whatever form or medium of communication, including but not limited to, telephone, cellular phone, electronic mail, messaging, electronic chat in whatever platform, or Internet-based social media platform, false information concerning but not limited to the spread of infectious diseases, natural hazards and other similar calamities that would cause alarm or public scare, misinformation, or could influence people to do acts to aggravate the existing social situation;

**SECTION 6. PENALTY** - Any person found violating the requirement provided in this ordinance shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of not more than six (6) months or fine of not less than Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00) or both at the discretion of the court.



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**SECTION 7. IMPLEMENTING RULES.** - The City Mayor may formulate and issue rules and regulations for the efficient implementation of any provision of this Ordinance. The Non-issuance of the rules and regulations shall not in any manner forestall the effectivity and implementation of this Ordinance. Copy of the IRR shall be furnished immediately to the Sangguniang Panlungsod for the information of the members.

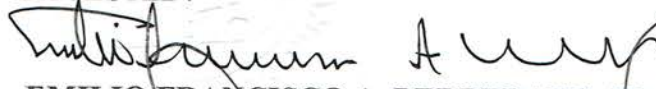
**SECTION 8. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE** - In any case any provision of this Ordinance is declared to be void or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected by the declaration of invalidity or unconstitutionality shall remain in force.

**SECTION 9. REPEALING CLAUSE**- All existing Ordinances, resolutions, rules and regulations, inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 10. EFFECTIVITY** - This Ordinance shall take effect ten (10) days after it has been posted at prominent places within the City.

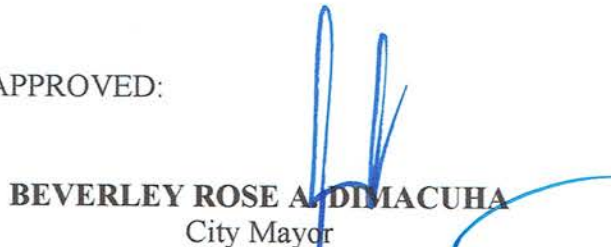
Enacted by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Batangas City, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020.

ATTESTED:

  
**EMILIO FRANCISCO A. BERBERABE, JR.**  
Presiding Officer

  
**ATTY. OLIVA D. TELEGATOS**  
Secretary  
Sangguniang Panlungsod

APPROVED:

  
**BEVERLEY ROSE A. DIMACUHA**  
City Mayor

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

**AUG 12 2020**



**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
BATANGAS CITY**

**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD**

**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION HELD BY THE  
MEMBERS OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF BATANGAS CITY  
ON AUGUST 11, 2020 VIA ZOOM APPLICATION**

**PRESENT:**

Hon. Emilio Francisco A. Berberabe Jr.,	Presiding Officer
Hon. Alyssa Renee A. Cruz,	Councilor
Hon. Aileen Grace A. Montalbo,	“
Hon. Nestor E. Dimacuha,	“
Hon. Karlos Emmanjuel A. Buted,	“
Hon. Gerardo A. Dela Roca,	“
Hon. Oliver Z. Macatangay,	“
Hon. Nelson J. Chavez,	“
Hon. Julian B. Villena,	“
Hon. Michael Thomas T. Pastor,	“
Hon. Isidra “Ched” M. Atienza,	“
Hon. Maria Aleth A. Lazarte,	“
Hon. Lorenzo A. Gamboa, Jr.,	“
Hon. Angelito “Dondon” A. Dimacuha,	ABC-Rep.
Hon. Marjorie A. Manalo,	SK-Fed. Pres.

On motion of Councilor Gamboa seconded by Councilor Montalbo and Councilor Nestor Dimacuha, the following Resolution was Adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 221 S. 2020**

**APPROVING THE ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE MALICIOUS AND WILLFULL  
PROPAGATION OF FALSE INFORMATION WHICH CAN SOW FEAR, ANXIETY  
AND PANIC TO THE PUBLIC, IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, EXEMPTING FROM THE THREE-READING RULE**

**RESOLVED**, to approve the ordinance entitled “An Ordinance Prohibiting the Malicious and Willfull Propagation of False Information which can Sow Fear, Anxiety and Panic to the Public, Imposing Penalties for Violation Thereof and for Other Purposes” exempting from the Three-Reading Rule.

**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 221 S. 2020 was approved by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Batangas City during its Regular Session held on August 11, 2020.

  
**ATTY. OLIVA D. TELEGATOS**  
Secretary  
Sangguniang Panlungsod

**ATTESTED:**

  
**EMILIO FRANCISCO A. BERBERABE, JR.**  
Presiding Officer