



OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 34TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE 2019 – 2022 SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF LOOC, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON HELD AT MUNICIPAL SESSION HALL ON MAY 12, 2020.

PRESENT:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| HON. DIANSON R. TAYTAY..... | Municipal Vice Mayor & Presiding Officer |
| HON. PERIANO R. BERNARDO..... | SB Member |
| HON. ISMAEL S. OSORIO, JR..... | SB Member |
| HON. BENROL M. PALACIO..... | SB Member |
| HON. TEODULO G. TIROL, JR. | SB Member |
| HON. JOHNNY M. AGUIRRE..... | SB Member |
| HON. HERMIE G. LACHICA..... | SB Member |
| HON. MICHAEL P. FRANCISCO..... | SB Member |
| HON. ROLANDO F. BAUTISTA..... | SB Member |
| HON. JOSEFINA G. MORTEL | LnB President |
| HON. ANGELIC F. CONDES..... | SK Federation President |

ABSENT:

NONE

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 081 - 2020

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE PUBLICATION AND USE OF FALSE REPORTS WHICH MAY ENDANGER THE PUBLIC DURING TIMES OF CALAMITY EMERGENCY, CRISIS OR DISASTER OR OTHER SIMILAR SITUATIONS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF

Sponsor: Hon. Ismael S. Osorio, Jr.

Co-sponsors: Hon. Periano R. Bernardo, Hon. Benrol M. Palacio, Hon. Teodulo G. Tirol, Jr., Hon. Johnny M. Aguirre, Hon. Hermie G. Lachica, Hon. Michael P. Francisco, Hon. Rolando F. Bautista, Hon. Josefina G. Mortel - LnB President and Hon. Angelic F. Condes - SK Federation President

WHEREAS, Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160 also known as the Local Government Code of 1991, gives Local Government Units such powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied there from, as well powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare;

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Looc is exposed to different hazards which may endanger the life of its people and community;

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Periano R. Bernardo

Osorio

Angelic F. Condes

Ismael S. Osorio, Jr.

Periano R. Bernardo

Teodulo G. Tirol, Jr.

WHEREAS, it is the obligation of the LGU-Looc to strengthen the capacities of the municipal organization and communities in mitigating and preparing for, responding to and recovering from impacts of disaster, as provided for under RA 10121 or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010;

WHEREAS, integral to the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Framework is the generation and dissemination of timely and meaningful warning information to enable individuals, communities and organizations threatened by hazard to prepare and to act appropriately and in adequate time to reduce the possibility of harm or loss;

WHEREAS, the LGU-Looc respects the rights of every individual to free speech, as provided for by the 1987 Philippine Constitution;

WHEREAS, the LGU-Looc believes that the exercise of this freedom of speech does not countenance the use and distribution of false, unverified, or obsolete news, report, or information that has become prevalent on social media, especially if the use and distribution of said false news shall cause alarm unnecessary panic to the rest of the population, thus putting them more in danger;

WHEREAS, the LGU-Looc sees the need to re-assert its authority in providing official and verified information to the population to avoid panic and protect the population from possible harm due to the use and distribution of false reports;

Section 1. Title. This ordinance shall also be known and may be cited as the "Responsible Information Dissemination Ordinance if Looc, Romblon".

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared as the policy of the LGU-Looc, Romblon to strengthen the capacities of the municipal organization and communities in mitigating and preparing for, responding to and recovering from impacts of disaster, through the generation and dissemination of timely and meaningful warning information to enable individuals, communities and organizations threatened by hazard to prepare and to act appropriately and in sufficient time to reduce the possibility of harm or loss, as provided for under RA 10121 or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010.

Section 3. Objectives. This Ordinance shall have to following objectives:

- a. To further enhance the system and manner or early warning and emergency alert system, by identifying the authorized sources of official information, to provide accurate and timely advice to local emergency response organizations and to the general public through diverse forms of media;
- b. To penalize the publication and use of false, unverified, or obsolete news, report, or information in any form of media (print, radio, television, or online) with regards to hazards, emergency, crisis, disaster, or any similar events affecting the locality; and
- c. To protect the people from panic or danger that may be caused by the use of false, unverified, or obsolete news, report, or information.

Section 4. Definition of Terms. For purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms shall mean:

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- a. Authorized sources shall refer to the Municipal Mayor or his/her designate and the Head of the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (LDRRMC);
 - b. Early warning system refers to the manner, protocol or procedure of generating and disseminating timely and meaningful warning information to enable the people of harm or loss. It may be done through visual or auditory signals or through information sent through the available forms of media;
 - c. False news or report refers to unverified, fraudulent, or obsolete news, data, or information;
 - d. Use of false news or report means the publication, online-sharing, dissemination, or any manner of distribution or mass circulation of false news; and
 - e. Official information refers to vetted reports consolidated from the barangay DRRMs, the LDRRM Council, the PNP-Looc, the BFP-Looc, accredited volunteers and local NGOs with operations in the area, and the PDRRMC.
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Section 5. Prohibited Acts. The Following acts are declared unlawful and prohibited:

- a. The publication, use online-sharing, dissemination, or any manner of distribution or mass circulation of false news or reports with regards to hazards or weather conditions, or any similar events affecting the locality, regardless of whether or not it caused panic to the general population; and
 - b. The premature distribution of unofficial or unfinalized government decisions without the authorization of the concerned government official shall be considered as use of false news or reports.
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Section 6. Enforcement. The Philippine National Police (PNP) is hereby mandated to enforce the full extent of this Ordinance, as well as barangay officials.

Section 7. Penalty Clause. Any individual or juridical entity that commits any of the prohibited acts provided for in Section 5 of this Ordinance shall be prosecuted for violation of this Ordinance and upon conviction shall suffer a fine of not more than Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (₱2,500.00) or imprisonment for a period not exceeding six (6) months, or both in the discretion of the Court.

If the commission of any of the prohibited acts in Section 5 of this Ordinance resulted to a widespread panic or harm to the members of the community in addition to the filing of an action for the violation of this Ordinance, the LGU-Looc reserves its rights to file the corresponding criminal and/or administrative actions against the violator.

Section 8. Separability Clause. If for any reason, any provision, section or part of this Ordinance is declared not valid by a court of competent jurisdiction or suspended or revised by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan such judgement shall not affect or impair the remaining provisions, section or parts thereof and shall remain or continue to be in full force and effect.

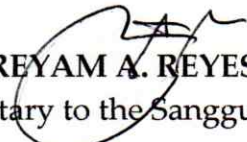
Section 9. Repealing Clause. All ordinances, executive orders, implementing rules and regulations, or parts thereof, in conflict with, or inconsistent with any provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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Section 10. Effectivity Clause - This Ordinance shall take effect upon its approval and completion of its posting at least three (3) public places of the Municipality .

Approved: 12 May 2020/34th Regular Session.

CERTIFIED to the correctness of the aforesaid Ordinance.


REYAM A. REYES
Secretary to the Sanggunian

ATTESTED:



DIANSON R. TAYTAY
Municipal Vice Mayor &
Presiding Officer

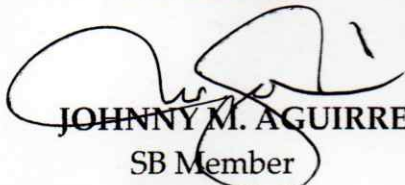
Concurred:


PERIANO R. BERNARDO
SB Member


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MICHAEL P. FRANCISCO
SB Member


ROLANDO F. BAUTISTA
SB Member


JOSEFINA G. MORTEL
LnB President


ANGELIC F. CONDES
SK Federation President

APPROVED:


ATTY. LISETTE M. ARBOLEDA
Municipal Mayor