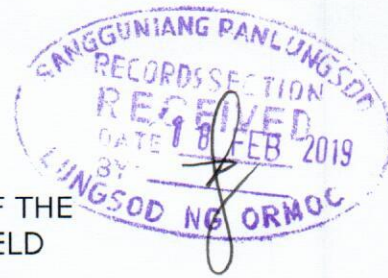


REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD
LUNGSOD NG ORMOC



EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
FOURTEENTH SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD NG ORMOC HELD
AT THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD SESSION HALL,
ORMOC CITY HALL BUILDING
ON FEBRUARY 14, 2019

PRESENT:

Benjamin S. Pongos, Jr.,	(Acting City Vice-Mayor & Temporary Presiding Officer)	SP Member
Vincent L. Rama,		SP Member, Majority Floor Leader
Mario M. Rodriguez,		SP Member, Presiding Officer "Pro-Tempore"
Tomas R. Serafica,		SP Member, Asst. Majority Floor Leader
Eusebio Gerardo S. Penserga,		SP Member
Gregorio G. Yrastorza III,		SP Member
Nolito M. Quilang,		SP Member
John Eulalio Nepomuceno O. Aparis II,		SP Member
		Minority Floor Leader
Lea Doris C. Villar,		SP Member, Asst. Minority Floor Leader
Esteban V. Laurente,		Ex-Officio SP Member, Chapter President, Liga ng mga Barangay ng Ormoc
Jasper C. Yerro,		Ex-Officio SP Member, Chapter President, Panlungsod Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan ng Ormoc

ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS:

Leo Carmelo L. Locsin, Jr. (OIC-City Mayor),
City Vice Mayor & Presiding Officer

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-040

A RESOLUTION MOST EARNESTLY URGING HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE, TO RECONSIDER THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO LIBERALIZE THE IMPORTATION OF SUGAR, WHICH WILL CAUSE SUBSTANTIAL INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT LOSSES TO THE CITY, WHICH IS HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON THE SUGAR INDUSTRY, AND ITS SUGAR-DEPENDENT SECTOR, ESPECIALLY THE SMALL SUGARCANE FARMERS.

WHEREAS, this Fourteenth Sangguniang Panlungsod was in receipt of an Indorsement dated February 12, 2019 from the Office of the City Mayor, endorsing a request for the issuance of a Resolution seeking the reconsideration of the plan of the national government to liberalize the sugar industry and allow unregulated entry of imported sugar into the Philippine market leading to the loss of livelihood of sugar farmers in Ormoc City which is home to a substantial number of small farmers, unemployment of farm and mill workers, closure of businesses allied to sugar production and overall slowdown of economic activity in the City and further classifying the same as EXTREMELY URGENT;

WHEREAS, the sugar industry is a significant contributor towards national development, where sugar farming and mill operations generates Ninety Billion Pesos (Php 90,000,000,000.00) annually from the sale of raw sugar, refined sugar, molasses and ethanol and provides employment to an estimated Seven Hundred Thousand (700,000) sugar workers across twenty (20) sugar producing provinces of the country;

WHEREAS, the Ormoc-Kananga (HISUMCO) Sugar Milling District has Six Thousand Eight Hundred (6,800) hectares planted with sugarcane which is estimated to produce Twenty-nine Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Seven (29,747) metric tons raw sugar in Crop Year 2018-2019;

WHEREAS, the Ormoc-Kananga (HISUMCO) Sugar Milling District covers Nine (9) municipalities with a combined total of Eight Hundred Fifty (850) sugarcane farmers around 79.65% of whom are farming less than Five (5) hectares ;

WHEREAS, the Ormoc-Kananga (HISUMCO) Sugar Milling District hosts one sugar mill - HISUMCO Sugar Central - which generates economic activity in the mill district, provides livelihood to surrounding communities, and is a major source of local taxes and investments for various local government units including the Province of Leyte;

WHEREAS, any disruption in sugar farming or cessation in mill operations will severely and negatively affect the livelihood of farmers, workers, and allied businesses of sugar production (e.g. trucking, repair shops, carinderias and sari-sari stores, etc.), as well as tax collection of municipalities covered by Ormoc-Kananga (HISUMCO) Sugar Milling District and the overall economic activity of the Province of Leyte;

WHEREAS, it was reported recently in newspapers across the country that the National government is planning to liberalize the sugar industry by allowing the unregulated entry of imported sugar into the Philippine market;

WHEREAS, the unregulated entry of imported sugar will lead to drop in purchases of sugar produced by farms and mill in the Ormoc-Kananga (HISUMCO) Sugar Milling District, loss of livelihood of sugar farmers in the area, most of whom are small farmers, unemployment of farm and mill workers, closure of businesses allied to sugar production, and overall slowdown of economic activity in the Province of Leyte;

WHEREAS, the City of Ormoc, having sugar as one of its top products, will be severely affected by such change and that this Sanggunian finds that the same is detrimental to the sugar industry as the same is considered the prime source of income of farmers, producers, millers, and retailers in the Region;

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that copies of this Resolution be sent to the Sugar Board, Sugar Regulatory Administration and Office of Secretary, Department of Agriculture.

WHEREFORE, on MASS MOTION of the Body; be it

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to pass a RESOLUTION MOST EARNESTLY URGING HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE, TO RECONSIDER THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO LIBERALIZE THE IMPORTATION OF SUGAR, WHICH WILL CAUSE SUBSTANTIAL INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT LOSSES TO THE CITY, WHICH IS HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON THE SUGAR INDUSTRY, AND ITS SUGAR-DEPENDENT SECTOR, ESPECIALLY THE SMALL SUGARCANE FARMERS.

ADOPTED, February 14, 2019.

RESOLVED, FINALLY, to furnish copies of this resolution each to the City Mayor of Ormoc Richard I. Gomez, the City Administrator, Mr. Vincent L. Emnas; the City Legal Officer, Atty. Josephine A. Mejia-Romero; the City Agriculture Office; the Sugar Board; the Sugar Regulatory Administration; the Office of Secretary, Department of Agriculture; the OIC-City Director, DILG; and other offices concerned for their information and guidance;

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing resolution.


MARIA ANTONIETA G. CO HAT
(OIC – SP Secretary)
Supervising Administrative Officer

ATTESTED:


BENJAMIN S. PONGOS, JR.
(Acting City Vice-Mayor & Temporary Presiding Officer)
SP Member

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