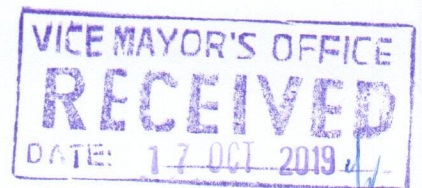


REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD
LUNGSOD NG ORMOC



EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
FIFTEENTH SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD NG ORMOC HELD
AT THE ORMOC CITY SUPERDOME
ON OCTOBER 15, 2019

PRESENT:

Leo Carmelo L. Locsin, Jr.	City Vice Mayor & Presiding Officer
Benjamin S. Pongos, Jr.,	SP Member, Majority Floor Leader
Roiland H. Villasencio,	SP Member, 1 st Asst. Majority Floor Leader
Tomas R. Serafica,	SP Member, Presiding Officer "Pro-Tempore"
Nolito M. Quilang,	SP Member, 2 nd Asst. Majority Floor Leader
Eusebio Gerardo S. Penserga,	SP Member
Jasper M. Lucero,	SP Member
Peter M. Rodriguez,	SP Member
Vincent L. Rama,	SP Member
Gregorio G. Yrastorza III,	SP Member
Lalaine A. Marcos,	SP Member
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 na Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan ng Ormoc

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-100

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE CITY'S STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S PLANNED LIBERALIZATION OR DEREGULATION OF THE IMPORTATION OF SUGAR WHICH WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE CITY'S ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT SECTOR WHICH ARE HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON THE LOCAL SUGARCANE INDUSTRY, AND LENDING FULL SUPPORT, THEREFORE, TO HOUSE RESOLUTION NUMBER 412 OF THE EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CO-AUTHORED BY FOURTH DISTRICT OF LEYTE REPRESENTATIVE LUCY MARIE TORRES-GOMEZ.

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of this august Body that on September 27, 2019 the Department of Finance (DOF) had issued an Economic Bulletin which called for the removal of quantitative restrictions of sugar imports to the country;

WHEREAS, the said DOF Economic Bulletin, if implemented, will cause the unregulated entry of imported sugar, which is subsidized by their host countries' respective governments and therefore, cheaper than those we locally produce;

WHEREAS, in view of the entry of cheaper imported sugar, the sugarcane industry in the country, including that of the City's, will be adversely affected if Government pushes through with the planned liberalization or deregulation of the importation of sugar, for which reasons no less than the Eighteenth Congress of the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines passed House Resolution Number 412 dated October 2, 2019, entitled: "A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE STRONG OPPOSITION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONGRESS TO THE PLANNED LIBERALIZATION OR DEREGULATION OF THE IMPORTATION OF SUGAR FOR THE PURPOSE OF SAFEGUARDING THE WELFARE OF SUGAR FARMERS, FARM AND MILL WORKERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY," of which our very own Fourth District of Leyte Representative Lucy Marie Torres-Gomez is one of the sponsors;

WHEREAS, to recall, on February 14, 2019 this Sanggunian had previously passed Resolution No. 2019-040 entitled: "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 HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON THE SUGAR INDUSTRY, AND ITS SUGAR-DEPENDENT SECTOR, ESPECIALLY THE SMALL SUGARCANE FARMERS", which Resolution's obvious and clear intent is precisely to stop the implementation of any policy that will liberalize the importation of sugar into the country;

WHEREAS, further, this Sanggunian was in receipt of a Letter dated October 14, 2019 from the heads of sugarcane associations in Ormoc City, namely: the Ormoc North District Irrigators Multi-Purpose; Leyte Cane Planters Association, Inc.; Ormoc Sugarcane Planters Association, Inc.; Unifarm Multi-Purpose Cooperative; Boroc Agricultural Primary Multi-Purpose Cooperative; and, lastly, Occidental Leyte Farmers' Multi-Purpose Cooperative Association, seeking for immediate intervention by the City Government thru City Mayor Richard I. Gomez and City Vice Mayor Leo Carmelo L. Locsin, Jr., to prevent the unregulated entry of foreign sugar into the country which will cause the impending collapse of the country's sugar industry and cause considerable damage to the City's local economy and employment sector;

WHEREAS, the sugar industry, no doubt, is a significant contributor towards national development, where sugar farming and mill operations generates roughly Ninety Billion Philippine Pesos (PHP90,000,000,000.00) annually from the sale of raw sugar, refined sugar, molasses and ethanol and provides employment to an estimated Seven Hundred Thousand sugar workers across twenty (20) sugar-producing provinces across 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 the coming crop year;

WHEREAS, Ormoc-Kananga (HISUMCO) Sugar Milling District covers One (1) City and Nine (9) Municipalities with a combined total of Eight Hundred Fifty (850) sugarcane farmers of which a big majority or around 79.65% of them are small farmers with less than Five (5) hectares farms;

WHEREAS, the Ormoc-Kananga (HISUMCO) Sugar Milling District hosts one sugar mill - HISUMCO Sugar Central - which generates economic activity, 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, the unregulated entry of imported sugar into the country will certainly cause detrimental effects to the sugar industry, leading to the closure of the sugarcane farms and sugar mill in the Districts, the laying-off of employees and workers in the industry, the closure of businesses allied with the industry, the loss of much-needed revenues by the concerned local government units, and the overall slowdown of economic activity not only in the City but in the Province of Leyte as well;

WHEREAS, this Sanggunian, therefore, finds it imperative to immediately pass herein Resolution in order to fully protect and serve the best interests of the local sugarcane industry and the City as a whole;

WHEREFORE, on MASS MOTION of the Body; be it

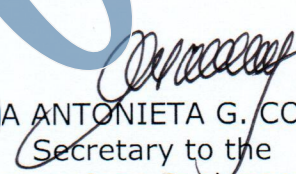
RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to pass a RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE CITY'S STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S PLANNED LIBERALIZATION OR DEREGULATION OF THE IMPORTATION OF SUGAR WHICH WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE CITY'S ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT SECTOR WHICH ARE HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON THE LOCAL SUGARCANE INDUSTRY, AND LENDING FULL SUPPORT, THEREFORE, TO HOUSE RESOLUTION NUMBER 412 OF THE EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CO-AUTHORED BY FOURTH DISTRICT OF LEYTE REPRESENTATIVE LUCY MARIE TORRES-GOMEZ;

ADOPTED, October 15, 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 Fourth District of Leyte Representative Lucy Marie Torres-Gomez; the Office of Secretary, Department of Agriculture; the City Local Government Operations Officer-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
Secretary to the
Sangguniang Panlungsod

ATTESTED:


LEO CARMELO L. LOCSIN, JR.
City Vice Mayor & Presiding Officer