

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 SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD SESSION HALL  
ON MAY 12, 2020

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 <sup>st</sup> Asst. Majority Floor Leader
Tomas R. Serafica,	SP Member, Presiding Officer "Pro-Tempore"
Nolito M. Quilang,	SP Member, 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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
Joan Marbie C. Simbajon,	Ex-Officio SP Member, Chapter President, Panlungsod na Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan ng Ormoc

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-139**

**A RESOLUTION APPEALING TO THE INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES (IATF) ON THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE ORMOC CITY AS A LOW RISK AREA AND NO LONGER SUBJECT TO COMMUNITY QUARANTINE, AND SEEKING THE CONCURRENCE OF THE REGIONAL INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE (RIATF) - REGION VIII TO SUCH APPEAL, BOTH IN ACCORDANCE WITH IATF RESOLUTION NO. 35.**

WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2020, Presidential Proclamation No. 922 was issued declaring the country in a State of Public Health Emergency in relation to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Proclamation 929 was likewise issued placing the entire Philippines under the state of calamity to allow the government to tap more funds to contain the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, Section 16 of the Local Government Code (RA 7160), every LGU is granted the authority to exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom, as well as powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare;



WHEREAS, insofar as the management of COVID-19 patients, the health care facilities in the city are very limited, specifically:

- I. Two (2) Level 2 private hospitals and one (1) Level 1 private hospital in the city;
- II. Total number of bed capacity of the hospitals only approximately 300;
- III. Approximately 80 private and public physicians in a city with a population of more than 250,000 persons, not counting the nearby municipalities that also do not have sufficient health care facilities and attendants in their respective areas;
- IV. Only one (1) Infectious Disease Specialist in the city;
- V. Approximately only 10 functional ventilators;
- VI. Medicines and medical supplies are all sourced from Cebu and/or Manila;
- VII. No testing center in the city;

WHEREAS, taking into consideration the limitation of the health care resources of the city as to manpower, provisions and supply, and the virulence of the COVID-19 infection, the City Government of Ormoc immediately implemented several measures to prevent, mitigate, contain and curtail the spread of the highly contagious disease, thus:

- I. Placed the whole of the city under General Community Quarantine to the end that the movement of persons within the city is restricted to work and essentials;
- II. Prohibited the entry of all persons to and through Ormoc through land, sea or air travel, except for those authorized under its own Executive Order and in accordance with the national policies;

WHEREAS, Ormoc is a port city and a gateway to the Eastern Visayas that caters to nearby provinces as travel by land through Ormoc to Western and Southern Leyte is faster. Due to proximity, Cebu City is practical choice for tertiary education, hospitalization and other needs of Ormoc residents, which if not properly controlled or managed may result to higher risk of transmission and spread from Cebu to Eastern Visayas;

WHEREAS, even as the city has allowed almost all establishments to operate subject to the strict observance of health protocols to allow the stabilization of the local economy, there remains the urgent need to continue imposing strict border controls and regulating the movement of people to essentials, to curb the risk of contamination of a virus and slow down its entry into Ormoc, given the challenges as described above;

WHEREAS, the city and the entire country is not yet equipped to do early detection of the COVID-19 virus, conduct aggressive testing and isolate those found to be infected on a massive scale;

WHEREAS, in a very recent news article published in CNN Philippines, James Griffith wrote of the notable and alarming resurgence of COVID-19 cases in South Korea, China and Germany- countries known to have controlled the spread of infection through surveillance, stringent social distancing measures, strict border controls and lockdowns, with South Korean President Moon Jae-In having been quoted as saying, "we must never lower our guard regarding epidemic prevention";



WHEREAS, Section 1 of IATF Resolution No. 35 states that Ormoc City being a low- risk area shall no longer be subject to community quarantine;

WHEREAS, the same Section of IATF Resolution No. 35 provides that ICCs classified as low- risk areas may appeal such classification to the screening and validation committee with the concurrence of the RIATF not later than May 13, 2020;

WHEREAS, in view of the all the foregoing, of the risks presented and of the capacity of the city to address all the hazards presented by the COVID-19 infection, the city government finds it necessary to appeal the IATF Resolution classifying Ormoc as a low- risk area and no longer under community quarantine, and to seek the concurrence of the Regional IATF, both in accordance with IATF Resolution No. 35;

NOW, THEREFORE, on MASS MOTION of the Body; be it

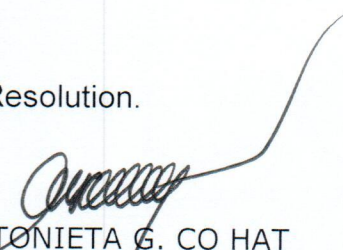
RESOLVED, AS IT HEREBY RESOLVED, to pass a RESOLUTION APPEALING TO THE INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES (IATF) ON THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE ORMOC CITY AS A LOW RISK AREA AND NO LONGER SUBJECT TO COMMUNITY QUARANTINE, AND SEEKING THE CONCURRENCE OF THE REGIONAL INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE (RIATF) - REGION VIII TO SUCH APPEAL, BOTH IN ACCORDANCE WITH IATF RESOLUTION NO. 35;

ADOPTED, May 12, 2020.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that copies of this Resolution be furnished to the City Mayor of Ormoc, Richard I. Gomez; the City Administrator, Mr. Vincent L. Emnas; the City Legal Officer; Atty. Josephine Mejia-Romero; the Regional Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases; the National Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Disease (IATF); the Office of the President; the Department of Interior and Local Government; the City Health Department; the City Local Government Operations Officer-DILG; and all concerned agencies.

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