



**CITY ORDINANCE NO. 332**

**July 17, 2003**

**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE QUARANTINE OF "SUSPECTED SARS PERSONS", IMPOSING SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATION THEREOF.**

**WHEREAS**, Anti-SARS campaign had been launched by the national government as mandated by Executive Order No. 201, dated 26 April 2003, Memorandum Order No. 98, dated 24 April, 2003, Proclamation Order No. 366, dated 24 April 2003, and DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2003-78, dated 28 April, 2003.

**WHEREAS**, in said Memorandum Order No. 98, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, directed all the Provincial Governors, City/Municipal Mayors, and Punong Barangays to ensure the efficient and effective campaign against SARS within their respective territorial jurisdiction.

**WHEREAS**, for the purpose of providing adequate basis for the enforcement of the Anti-SARS campaign in the local level, and to prescribe applicable penalties in extreme case where individuals refuse to cooperate with the aforesaid campaign,

**WHEREAS**, Bacolod City has a lot of overseas workers who are coming home from SARS infected areas;

**WHEREAS**, under R.A. 7160 commonly known as the Local Government Code of 1991, particularly Section 468 (a) (i) (iii) and (iv) thereof, provides legal anchor for the adoption of a local measure to protect the inhabitants of the City of Bacolod from harmful effects of natural diseases. By virtue of the foregoing reasons:

Be it ordained by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Bacolod, that:

**Section 1. TITLE** - This shall known as the Anti-SARS Ordinance 2003.

**Section 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY** - It is declared a policy that local government units shall promote and ensure the protection of the health and safety of its inhabitants from all forms of diseases, especially those of epidemic effects.

Based on the report of the World Health Organization (WHO) the SARS virus has caused an alarming number of deaths in about twenty-seven (27) countries believed to be SARS affected or suspected of having probable cases of SARS. On the other hand, the department of Health (DOH) has declared that SARS virus is now threatening the country and is classified as quarantinable disease because of its highly contagious nature and considering the danger it poses to public health.

As such and pursuant to their powers under Sec. 16 and 17 of the Local Government Code, it is imperative that Local Government Units (LGUs) take measures in order to prevent, abort and/minimize entry and spread of said disease in their respective localities and to provide mechanism for the quarantine of residents who are suspected to have been infected with the deadly virus.

**Section 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS** - For purposes of this Ordinance, the terms hereunder - mentioned shall be defined as follows:

- a. **SARS** - Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome caused by Corona Virus characterized by rapidly progressive pneumonia which is sometime fatal.
- b. **SARS SUSPECT CASE** - A person presenting high fever more than ( $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), one or more respiratory symptoms including cough, shortness of breath, difficulty of breathing and any one of the following: close contact, within 14 days onset symptoms, with a person who has been diagnosed with SARS, history of travel, within 14 days of onset symptoms, to an area in which there are reported foci of transmission of SARS.
- c. **SARS Probable Case** - A suspect case with chest x-ray findings of pneumonia or Respiratory Distress Syndrome or a suspect case with an unexplained respiratory illness resulting in death with an autopsy examination demonstrating the pathology of Respiratory distress Syndrome without an identifiable cause.
- d. **SARS Confirmed Case** - is one whose blood sample or mucus has been subjected to Laboratory examination and was found to be positive or corona virus.
- e. **CLOSE CONTACT** - means having cared for, having lived with, or having had direct contact with respiratory secretions and body fluids or a person with SARS.
- f. **QUARANTINE** - Detention or isolation for the purpose of preventing the spread of epidemic Diseases.

**Section 4. QUARANTINE OF SUSPECTED SARS VICTIM** - Pursuant to Executive Order 201 of the President, any individual who is identified or determined by the DOH or the local health officials to be suffering from the symptoms of SARS virus, shall be required to undergo testing and be quarantined in either the San Lazaro Hospital in Manila, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in Muntinlupa, Western Visayas Medical Center in Iloilo or the Corazon Locsin Montelibano Regional Hospital or in such other/institutions that may be designated as quarantine areas by the DOH or the local health officials until such time that the DOH issues SARS negative clearance.

All family members and/or other persons who have been in contact with the suspected SARS victims shall be required to undergo home confinement 14 days or be quarantined in the places/institution as may be designated quarantine areas by the DOH or the local health authorities until such time that the DOH issues a SARS negative clearance.

While under quarantine, suspected SARS victim shall be prevented from making personal contact with other individuals except the medical personnel treating them, until a SARS negative clearance is issued for their discharge from quarantine.

For the effective implementation of this provision, the City Mayor shall call on the local PNP to ensure that the above persons shall remain in quarantine or in their area of confinement until the necessary clearance is issued by the DOH.

**Section 5 - OTHER PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST SPREAD OF SARS -**

In order to prevent the entry and spread of SARS in the community, City Mayor, City Health Officers, barangay and Purok Officials are mandated to adopt measures against spread of SARS to include but not limited to the following:

- a. Formation of City Task Force against SARS, which shall be responsible for:
  - (1.) Recommending and setting up of preventive measures against the spread of SARS including the implementation of a monitoring mechanism to identify and keep track of SARS or possible SARS case.
  - (2.) Planning an extensive information campaign that will educate people about SARS, how to identify SARS symptoms, how to respond to possible SARS cases and how to prevent the spread of SARS.
  - (3.) Provide training for all staff, including ancillary staff in the infection control measures required for care of such patient.
  - (4.) Provide Health Workers and all other personnels when necessary, of personal protection equipments such as, N95 Mask as a minimum, Single pair of Gloves, Goggles, Disposable Gown, Apron and Footwear and Medicine that can be Decontaminated.
  - (5.) Setting up of SARS HOTLINE in the city.
- b. Conduct of Clean-up Drive in the barangays, regularly but not less than once a week, to include households, esteros, rivers and riverbanks, drainage, streets, alleys, pathways and other public places. All Barangay officials are directed to take the lead in the massive clean-up operations in the Barangay.

**Section 6. FUNDING -** The appropriate funding, in the event of official declaration by duly authorized representative to the Department of Health (DOH) of suspected SARS in Bacolod City, to purchase protective equipments, such as N95mask, pair of globes, goggles, disposable gown, apron, footwear, and medicines, shall be taken from the Calamity Fund, upon passage of Appropriation Ordinance, Program of Work, together with the Appropriation Ordinance shall be submitted to the Sangguniang Panlungsod for approval.

**Section 7. SANCTIONS -** Any person who violates the requirement for home confinement as provided for in the second paragraph of Sec. 4 hereof, shall be compelled to undergo a mandatory confinement in any of the quarantine areas designated by the DOH, until the necessary clearance is issued by the latter.

**Section 8. SEPARATION CLAUSE** - If any provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other parts or provisions thereof, which are not affected thereby, shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 9. REPEALING CLAUSE** - All ordinances found to be inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Section 10. EFFECTIVITY** - This ordinance shall take effect immediately.

**CARRIED BY THE VOTE OF:**

**Affirmative:**

**Councillors:** Archie S. Baribar, Jude Thaddeus A. Sayson, Ana Marie V. Palermo, Celia Matea R. Flor, Lyndon P. Caña, Elmer T. Sy, Bobbie S. Lucasan, Greg G. Gasataya, Reynold I. Iledan, Sonya M. Verdeflor, Marx Louie S. de la Rosa.

**Negative:** None.

**Absent:** None.

**Author:** Councillor Reynold I. Iledan.

**Official Leave:** Councillor Arturo V. Parreño.

**Passed:** July 17, 2003 (106th Regular Session).

**Comments:** Passed.

Councillors Roberto M. Rojas and Jose H. Gabuat were out of the session hall when this ordinance was passed.

**RAMIRO L. GARCIA, JR.**

Vice Mayor  
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:

**ATTY. NILO T. ALEJANDRINO**

Secretary to the Sanggunian

APPROVED: July 17, 2003.

**LUZVIMINDA S. VALDEZ**

City Mayor / h 7/24/03

