



# Sangguniang Panlalawigan

BATAAN CAPITOL, BALANGA CITY



## EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF BATAAN ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 HELD AT LOU-IS RESTAURANT, BALANGA CITY, BATAAN

**PRESENT:**

Hon. Ma. Cristina M. Garcia, Vice Governor and Presiding Officer

**FIRST DISTRICT:**

Hon. Antonino B. Roman III, J.D., LL.M., Board Member  
Hon. Benjamin C. Serrano, Jr., Board Member  
Hon. Jomar L. Gaza J.D., Board Member

**SECOND DISTRICT:**

Hon. Maria Margarita R. Roque, Board Member  
Hon. Manuel N. Beltran, Board Member  
Hon. Noel Joseph L. Valdecañas, Board Member

**THIRD DISTRICT:**

Hon. Romano L. Del Rosario, Board Member  
Hon. Jorge S. Estanislao, M.D., Board Member  
Hon. Angelito M. Sunga, Board Member  
Hon. Roman Harold R. Espeleta, Board Member

Hon. Jovy Z. Banzon, Board Member (PCL President)  
Hon. Doroteo M. Austria, Board Member (FABC President)  
Hon. Precious D. Manuel, Board Member (SKF President)

**ABSENT:**

None

### PROVINCIAL ORDINANCE NO. 17 Series of 2022

### AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE PROVINCIAL LEGAL AWARENESS GROUP (PLAG) IN THE PROVINCE OF BATAAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

**AUTHORED AND SPONSORED BY:  
HON. ANTONINO B. ROMAN III, J.D., LL.M.**

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 11, of the Constitution, states, "free access to the courts and quasi-judicial bodies and adequate legal assistance shall not be denied to any person by reason of poverty";

WHEREAS, under Section 3 of R.A. No. 9406, "An Act Reorganizing and Strengthening the Public Attorney's Office (PAO), Amending for the Purpose Pertinent Provisions of Executive Order No. 292, Otherwise Known as the 'The Administrative Code of 1987,' as amended, Granting Special Allowance to PAO

JOSE ENRIQUE S. GARCIA III  
Provincial Governor

"EXCELLENT PUBLIC SERVICE TOWARDS A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL"

SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN  
CAPITOL BATAAN  
RELEASED  
RECORDS DIVISION  
SEP 27 2022

*[Handwritten signatures and initials are present throughout the document, including those of the Vice Governor, Board Members, and the Provincial Governor.]*

Officials and Lawyers, and Providing Funds Therefor," the PAO shall "render, free of charge, legal representation, assistance, and counselling to indigent persons in criminal, civil, labor, administrative and other quasi-judicial cases";

WHEREAS, the PAO is subject to conflict-of-interest rules limiting its capacity to fully serve the public;

WHEREAS, some Bataeños are not qualified to avail any of the services offered by the PAO due to the indigency test implemented by the agency;

WHEREAS, *pro bono* service by lawyers is merely encouraged and not required by the Supreme Court;

WHEREAS, the Legal Aid Program of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines merely provides civil and criminal defense to indigent clients;

WHEREAS, Article XIV, Section 3, of the Constitution directs "[a]ll educational institutions [to] include the study of the Constitution as part of the curricula";

WHEREAS, study of the Constitution is introduced only at the high school level;

WHEREAS, the public has the right to know and should be given access to legal information affecting them;

WHEREAS, there is a need for the Provincial Government of Bataan to reach out to its constituents, especially those in remote areas, to provide free legal seminars and legal aid clinics to educate Bataeños on their legal rights and legal procedures;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED:**

**Section 1. Short Title.** – This Ordinance shall be known as the "Provincial Legal Awareness Ordinance of Bataan."

**Section 2. Purpose.** – The Provincial Government of Bataan believes in transparency and an informed citizenry, and supports the directive under Article XIV, Section 3, of the Constitution that the Constitution be taught in all educational institutions. It also believes that indigents should have access to justice, in particular, affordable or free legal instruction and assistance.

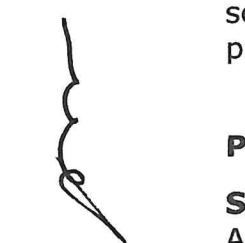
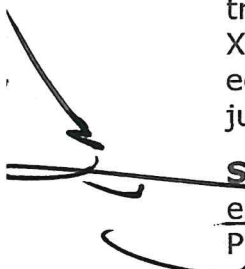

**Section 3. Provincial Legal Awareness Group (PLAG).** – The PLAG, is established under the Office of the Provincial Governor, to be headed by the Provincial Legal Office.

The Chairperson of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Committee on Justice, Human Rights, and Legal Matters shall be *ex-officio* co-head of the PLAG. The rest of the members of the Committee on Justice, Human Rights, and Legal Matters shall be *ex-officio* members of the PLAG.

**Section 4. Duties and Responsibilities.** – The PLAG shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- a) To provide free legal instruction on the Constitution;
- b) To raise awareness regarding key national and local legislative measures and executive orders;
- c) To stage events (seminars, workshops, clinics, or forums) addressing common legal problems; and
- d) To explore collaboration and partnerships with the Public Attorneys' Office, Office of the Provincial Prosecutor, Integrated Bar of the Philippines and its members, other lawyer groups, *Lupon*

  
JOSE ENRIQUE S. GARCIA III  
Provincial Governor




*Tagapamayapa*, the Judiciary, law schools, and other institutions in discharging the aforementioned duties and responsibilities.

**Section 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The Provincial Legal Office shall coordinate with the Public Attorneys' Office, Office of the Provincial Prosecutor, Integrated Bar of the Philippines and its members, *Lupon Tagapamayapa*, the Judiciary and law schools in formulating the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations for this Ordinance. The same shall be submitted to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan for its approval not later than thirty (30) days from the adoption of this Ordinance.

**Section 6. PLAG Online Information Hub.** - The PLAG shall explore the feasibility of creating and maintaining a Facebook Page and/or website for constituents to serve as an online hub for legal information, such as but not limited to select local and national laws, primers on select laws, executive orders, ordinances, and regulations, video blogs on common legal problems, and sample legal forms. All efforts shall be made to automate the provision of PLAG services where economically feasible.

**Section 7. Appropriations.** - The Provincial Government of Bataan shall, subject to the availability of funds, cause the appropriation or allocation of funds necessary to frugally, efficiently, and effectively carry out the provisions of this Ordinance.

**Section 8. Repealing Clause.** - All Ordinances, Resolutions, Orders, Memoranda, and Other Issuances inconsistent with this Ordinance, are hereby altered, amended, or repealed accordingly.

**Section 9. Separability Clause.** - In case any provision of this Ordinance shall be found to be invalid or unconstitutional, all other provisions not affected thereof shall remain in force and effect.

**Section 10. Effectivity Clause.** - This Ordinance shall take effect after compliance with the relevant requirements under the Local Government Code of 1991.

**UNANIMOUSLY ENACTED** this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September 2022.


**I HEREBY CERTIFY** to the correctness of the foregoing ordinance.

  
ATTY. MARK LORENZ C. QUEZON  
Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan

  
ANTONINO B. ROMAN III, J.D., LL.M.  
Board Member

  
MARIA MARGARITA R. ROQUE  
Board Member

  
BENJAMIN C. SERRANO, JR.  
Board Member

  
MANUEL N. BELTRAN  
Board Member

  
JOSE ENRIQUE S. GARCIA III  
Provincial Governor









  
JOMAR L. GAZA J.D.  
Board Member

  
NOEL JOSEPH L. VALDECAÑAS  
Board Member

  
ROMANO L. DEL ROSARIO  
Board Member

  
ANGELITO M. SUNGA  
Board Member

  
JORGE S. ESTANISLAO, M.D.  
Board Member

  
ROMAN HAROLD R. ESPELETA  
Board Member

  
JOVY Z. BANZON  
Board Member  
(PCL President)

  
PRECIOUS D. MANUEL  
Board Member  
(SKF President)


  
DOROTEO M. AUSTRIA  
Board Member  
(FABC President)

ATTESTED:



  
MA. CRISTINA M. GARCIA  
Vice Governor & Presiding Officer

APPROVED:

  
JOSE ENRIQUE S. GARCIA III  
Provincial Governor  
Date: 9-27-2022









