



Sangguniang Panlalawigan

BATAAN CAPITOL, BALANGA CITY



EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 83RD REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF BATAAN ON MARCH 18, 2024 HELD AT THE SESSION HALL, THE BUNKER, CAPITOL COMPOUND, 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. Lovely Joy A. Poblete, Board Member (SKF President)
Hon. Feliciano G. Magay, Jr., Board Member (IPMR)

ABSENT:

Hon. Romeo A. Austria, Board Member (FABC President) (O.B.)

PROVINCIAL ORDINANCE NO. 06

Series of 2024

AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTIONALIZING THE BATAAN HEALTHY SCHOOLS SETTING PROGRAM, CREATING AN AD HOC NUTRITION OFFICE FOR THE PURPOSE, AND PROVIDING FOR THE SOURCE OF FUNDS THEREFOR.

AUTHORED AND SPONSORED BY:

HON. JOMAR L. GAZA J.D.

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

WHEREAS, Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991 (LGC) states that "(e)very local government unit shall 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;

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WHEREAS, the same section of the LGC provides that it is the responsibility of the Local Government Units (LGUs) to promote the health of their inhabitants;

WHEREAS, Section 17 (b)(2)(iv) of the LGC mandates the provision of social welfare services which include programs and projects on child and youth welfare, and other pro-poor projects; and nutrition services;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Republic Act No. 11037 or the Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act, schools are designated as healthy settings, where the State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and vows to promote their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being. In recognition of the demonstrated relationship between food and nutrition, and the capacity of the students to develop and learn, the State provides therein that it shall establish a comprehensive national feeding program that will address the problem of undernutrition among Filipino children;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Republic Act No. 11223 or the Universal Health Care Act, schools are designated as healthy settings, where the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Department of Health (DOH) are tasked to formulate programs to effectively promote, among others, healthy lifestyle and proper nutrition;

WHEREAS, in Section 30 thereof, LGUs are also directed to enact stricter ordinances that strengthen and broaden existing health policies, and implement effective programs that promote a healthy lifestyle among their constituencies to advance population health and individual well-being, and improve health indicators;

WHEREAS, even Republic Act No. 11292 or The Seal of Good Local Governance Act of 2019 recognizes the importance of health and wellbeing by including as one of the criteria for the award of the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) the LGU's capability to effectively implement and deliver health services, as well as pursue evidenced-based health promotion and protection policies scientifically proven and accepted to advance population health and individual well-being;

WHEREAS, pursuant to all of the foregoing, in September 2023, the Provincial Government of Bataan (PGB), in close coordination with the Bataan Schools Division - DepEd and other stakeholders, launched the Bataan Healthy Schools Setting (BHSS);

WHEREAS, as the centerpiece project of the BHSS, the PGB launched pilot and expanded implementations of the Healthy Lunch Activity (HLA), and on the basis thereof, the following quantitative findings were established:








- Compared to the baseline data, the endline data shows a 7% increase in the prevalence of normal nutritional status and a 17% decrease in the prevalence of malnutrition among the student beneficiaries;
- 98% of students strongly agree that the HLA allowed them to learn how to eat fruits and vegetables;
- 97% of students strongly agree that because of the HLA, they now avoid eating unhealthy or junk food such as chips, candies, soft drinks, etc.;
- 99% of students strongly agree that because of the HLA, they are more


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encouraged and motivated to go to school everyday;

- 73% of parents strongly agree that because of the HLA, they have been influenced to prepare healthier food at home;
- 60% of parents strongly agree that since the start of the HLA, they have noticed a positive change in the overall behavior and bodies of their children;
- 59% of parents strongly agree that because of the HLA, their children are able to eat more fruits and vegetables;
- 67% of teachers strongly agree that because the students eat altogether during the HLA, they influence one another to eat more fruits and vegetables;
- 58% of teachers strongly agree that because of the HLA, the students are more encouraged to listen in class.

WHEREAS, School-based Feeding Program is one of the six flagship programs of the DepEd under its umbrella brand for all of its school health programs called Oplan Kalusugan sa DepEd (OKD);

WHEREAS, there is a need to institutionalize the BHSS, especially the HLA, so as to ensure its continued and expanded implementation through an integrated and comprehensive methodology, utilizing a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach in which community participation and that of all stakeholders are indispensable;

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

Section 1. Short title. - This ordinance shall be known and cited as the "Bataan Healthy Schools Settings Ordinance".

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. - As a matter of policy, the PGB is committed to safeguarding and advancing the right to health for Bataeños. It recognizes the importance of instilling health consciousness among the populace, with the ultimate goal of preserving public health and securing the physical well-being of all constituents. The policy further aims to foster a generation of individuals who are physically and mentally resilient, equipped with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to make informed choices regarding their well-being. This, in turn, encourages a lifelong commitment to overall health and wellness.

Section 3. The Bataan Healthy School Setting (BHSS). - The BHSS program stands as a pioneering initiative, deploying a school-based integrated and comprehensive preventive and promotive methodology. Its primary goal is to establish and maintain a health-conscious school environment across educational institutions in Bataan. Through this program, a proactive approach is adopted, encompassing various preventive and promotive measures to ensure the overall well-being of students and the entire school community. The BHSS program strategically addresses health-related aspects within schools, fostering


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a culture that prioritizes preventive health practices, promotes well-being, and cultivates a vibrant and thriving educational setting throughout the Province of Bataan.

The BHSS program specifically aims to attain the following objectives:

- Empower children during their formative years to cultivate healthy habits, enabling them to make informed choices and prioritize their well-being as they transition into adulthood;
- Cultivate the health and well-being of school learners and personnel, continually enhancing the capacity of educational institutions as health-promoting settings for living, learning, and working;
- Foster collaboration among parents, school officials, teachers, community leaders, and other stakeholders to enhance school health and create a supportive environment for students; and
- Institutionalize health promotion initiatives in schools across the Province of Bataan, ensuring a sustained and comprehensive approach to fostering a healthy and thriving educational community.

In pursuit of the aforementioned goals, the BHSS will initially consist of the following pillars and projects, which will be implemented by the respective departments, offices or bodies:

| Pillars | Projects | Lead Entity |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nutrition Promotion | Healthy Lunch Activity | <i>Ad Hoc</i> Nutrition Office |
| | Gulayan sa Paaralan | LGU Agriculturist |
| Promotion of Physical Activity | Hataw Bataan; Kilos KaBataan; Others | 1Bataan Health Promotion Board (1BHPB); Bataan Sports Council |
| Mental Health Advocacy | Peer Facilitator | 1BHPB; Mariveles Mental Wellness and General Hospital |
| Substance Abuse | Tobacco Free Generation | 1BHPB |
| Health Promotion | Youth Health Ambassador | 1BHPB |

Section 4. The Healthy Lunch Activity (HLA) – The HLA, a pivotal initiative within the BHSS program, stands as the cornerstone project, synergizing with the Gulayan sa Paaralan initiative. This homegrown school meal program actively engages community sectors in the preparation and cooking of nutritious meals for students. However, the HLA transcends the conventional feeding program objective of merely providing nourishment. Its primary focus is to lay the groundwork for cultivating healthy eating habits and nutritional awareness that students can adopt as part of a lifestyle and carry with them throughout their lives.

Central to its philosophy is the belief that healthy students are inherently better learners, and the academic achievements they attain yield lifelong health

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benefits. Leveraging the school environment, the HLA recognizes schools as ideal settings to impart knowledge and provide opportunities for students to enhance their dietary and physical activity behaviors.

By implementing comprehensive school health policies and practices, the HLA endeavors to mold healthy students into successful and resilient adults, fostering an environment where well-being and academic accomplishments coalesce for a lifetime of prosperity.

Section 5. Creation of the Ad Hoc Provincial Nutrition Office. – A Nutrition Office (NO), directly under the Office of the Provincial Governor, is hereby created as an *ad hoc* office composed of existing personnel from different relevant departments and offices of the PGB. The said personnel may be assigned, designated or seconded to the NO thru an Office Order. Employees from the DepEd, other national government agencies and LGUs may likewise be seconded to the NO.

The creation of this *ad hoc* NO is without prejudice to the formal creation of the same as a full-blown Provincial Nutrition Office (PNO), with its own organic personnel, through a subsequent and proper ordinance or issuance.

Section 6. Functions of the ad hoc NO. – The ad hoc NO shall have the following functions:

- a. Spearhead the implementation of the HLA, ensuring its effective execution and alignment with project objectives;
- b. Offer comprehensive general and technical assistance, providing guidance in the formulation of plans and strategies pertinent to the HLA's execution, monitoring, and evaluation processes;
- c. Lead coordination efforts with key stakeholders such as DepEd, LGUs, and relevant offices, fostering collaborative activities for the success of the project;
- d. Actively promote, coordinate, and facilitate the engagement of diverse stakeholders in formulating, executing, and reviewing plans and strategies for successful project implementation;
- e. Provide assistance, conduct training sessions, and advocacy programs, facilitating the gradual transition of HLA implementation to the City and Municipal Local Governments;
- f. Extend support to schools, teachers and parents ensuring their cooperation and involvement in the project;
- g. Undertake all necessary actions to fulfill functions and achieve objectives outlined in this Ordinance, in strict adherence to relevant laws, rules, and regulations.

Section 7. Duties and Responsibilities of Bataan Schools Division and Balanga Schools Division. – As provided in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) executed by the Bataan Schools Division, Balanga Schools Division, the

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PGB, and the 11 municipalities and 1 city of Bataan, the Bataan Schools Division and Balanga Schools Division shall perform the following duties and responsibilities:

- "a. Plan, execute, monitor and evaluate Bataan Healthy School Setting activities and strategies;
- b. Gather initial data of learners, schools, and other pertinent information to establish evidence-based plans and strategies;
- c. Implement capacity-building activities for different stakeholders for the execution of the Healthy School Setting plans and strategies;
- d. Carry out information campaigns to relevant stakeholders and provide guidance to the Pilot Schools in the implementation of the program;
- e. Formulate, conduct and implement the relevant assessment mechanisms in the periodic review, monitoring and evaluation of the program output and results;
- f. Prepare and submit technical and evaluation reports on the implementation of the pilot project, particularly the focused activities of the program (Nutrition, Physical Activity and Substance Abuse);
- g. On periodic review, determine schools to be enrolled in the program, from the pilot areas into more areas of the province until the program is institutionalized into the whole province;
- h. Establish a secretariat that shall be responsible in providing administrative support, documentation and other assistance in order to carry the program;
- i. Call for meetings and conferences as the need may arise."

Section 8. Transition of Implementation of the BHSS to the Municipal and City Governments. – The gradual transition of the implementation of the BHSS, especially the HLA, to the local government of the 11 municipalities and 1 city of the Province of Bataan shall be promoted. The respective local government of the said municipalities and city shall endeavor to capacitate itself for this purpose.

Section 9. Duties and Responsibilities of Municipal and City Governments. – As provided in the said MOA, in the implementation of the BHSS program, and in connection with the gradual transition of the implementation of the BHSS to the local government of the 11 municipalities and 1 city of the Province, the same shall perform the following duties and responsibilities:

- a. Assume primary responsibility for the local implementation of the HLA within the municipality. Oversee the day-to-day execution of the HLA, ensuring adherence to established guidelines. Coordinate with schools, communities, and relevant stakeholders for efficient program delivery;
- b. Manage and allocate local resources for the successful implementation of the HLA ensuring the efficient distribution of resources to schools, considering local needs and priorities;


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- c. Facilitate collaboration among various stakeholders to enhance the program's impact;
- d. Implement monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure program effectiveness by regularly assessing the nutritional impact of the HLA on students and by conducting periodic evaluations to identify areas for improvement and efficiency;
- e. Strengthen local capacities to manage and sustain the HLA effectively. Provide training and capacity-building programs for school personnel involved in the HLA and develop and implement awareness campaigns on nutrition and health within the community;
- f. Align local policies with provincial and national guidelines for a harmonized approach. Ensure that local policies and regulations support the objectives of the HLA;
- g. Maintain transparent and open communication channels with provincial authorities. Submit regular reports on the progress of the HLA to provincial offices, including challenges, successes, and recommendations for program improvement;
- h. Customize the program to accommodate local dietary preferences and nutritional requirements by considering cultural sensitivities and community feedback.

Section 10. Whole-of-Society Approach. – The successful implementation of the BHSS, particularly the HLA, necessitates a whole-of-society approach, extending its scope beyond government agencies. This approach actively involves and collaborates with diverse societal stakeholders, including communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), businesses, and individuals. Members of the community are strongly encouraged to actively participate in the BHSS program, with incentives and recognition provided to acknowledge their valuable efforts and contributions. This inclusive strategy ensures that the program benefits from the collective engagement and expertise of various sectors, fostering a sense of shared responsibility and community ownership.

Section 11. Appropriation. - The amount necessary to implement the objectives of this Ordinance, may be sourced from the following:

- a. The Special Education Fund (SEF) to the extent allowed by relevant laws and guidelines;
- b. Appropriations which may be allocated through the Annual Appropriation Ordinance and/or Supplemental Appropriation Ordinances, as may be necessary;
- c. Donations or grants;
- d. Proceeds of fund-raising activities;
- e. Those resulting from Public-Private Partnerships;
- f. Other sources as may be allowed by law.


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Section 12. Separability Clause. – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 13. Repealing Clause. – All ordinances, resolutions, local executive orders or administrative regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 14. Effectivity. – This Ordinance shall take effect after compliance with the relevant provisions of the Local Government Code on posting and publication.

UNANIMOUSLY ENACTED this 18th day of March 2024.

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the enactment of the foregoing ordinance.



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



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



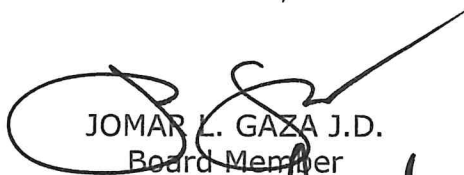
MARIA MARGARITA R. ROQUE
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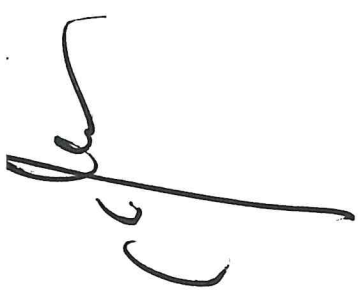

FELICIANO G. MAGAY, JR.
Board Member
(IPMR)

ATTESTED:


MA. CRISTINA M. GARCIA
Vice Governor & Presiding Officer

APPROVED:


JOSE ENRIQUE S. GARCIA III
Provincial Governor
Date: 4-1-2024 



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