Republic of the Philippines
Province of Oriental Mindoro
MUNICIPALITY OF ROXAS

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

EXCERPTS FROM THE JOURNAL OF THE 85TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE 11TH SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF ROXAS, ORIENTAL MINDORO HELD ON 25 MARCH 2024, 1:00 P.M. AT THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN SESSION HALL

Present:

Municipal Vice Mayor Jerwin S. Dimapilis	- Presiding Officer
Councilor Robert S. Quiatchon	- Member
Councilor Lucille T. Bacay	- Member
Councilor Juan Rafael M. Talens	- Member
Councilor King Philip B. Dimapilis	- Member
Councilor Robert A. Baticos	- Member
Councilor Veil Charlleo B. Cusi	- Member
Councilor Marietta R. Pajila	- Member
Councilor Hermis S. Catapang	- President, Liga ng Barangay
Councilor Sheikinah Grace C. Sanz	- Member, MSKF President

Absent:

Councilor John John S. Yason	- Member

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 31
Series of 2024

AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ROXAS, ORIENTAL MINDORO AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF

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Explanatory Note

In 2022, the Philippines posted 5.4% among women aged 15 to 19 years have been pregnant, about 1.6% of them were currently pregnant, and less than 1% have had a pregnancy loss.

The latest statistics show that teenage pregnancy among Filipino women aged 15 to 19 years declined from 8.6% to 5.4% in 2022 (PSA, 2023)

However, the author has made a research and was able to come up with the number of teenage pregnancy in the Municipality of Roxas as follows:

Year 2019	-	79 Cases
Year 2020	-	141 Cases
Year 2021	-	124 Cases
Year 2022	-	124 Cases
Year 2023	-	161 Cases

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This data merely shows that we really need a heightened vigilance against adolescent pregnancies in the Municipality of Roxas. In addition, the Philippines has the second highest teenage pregnancy rate in the East Asia and the Pacific and is the only country showing an upward trend. Thus, the need for this ordinance.

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 13 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that "The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs;

WHEREAS, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child guarantees the right to education, health and autonomy. Adolescent pregnancy undermines these rights. For some girls, early pregnancy results in death – an ultimate violation of their right. Upholding these rights help eliminate conditions that contribute to adolescent pregnancy and can help break the cycle of intergenerational poverty, allowing them to contribute meaningfully to their household and community;

WHEREAS, adolescent pregnancy is intertwined with issues of human rights. The future of an adolescent pregnant girl changes radically and rarely for the better. She will be forced to drop out of school, thus denying her the right to an education. This will further limit her job prospects exposing her to vulnerabilities and further intergenerational poverty;

WHEREAS, maternal mortality and morbidity directly impair a woman 's right to life, to be equal in dignity, to education, to her role in nation-building and to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights. For adolescent pregnant mothers, these also impair their vital role in nation-building both as women and as young Filipinos.

WHEREAS, the focus should be on transformative interventions anchored on the empowerment of adolescents and the pursuit of their rights to health and development, thus building and supporting a girl's agency, providing access to comprehensive reproductive health services and information, and removing the stigma on adolescent sex and pregnancy by providing psychosocial and community support among others;

WHEREAS, there is a need to establish a local policy that addresses adolescents' sexual and reproductive health concerns and reduces the adolescent birth rate significantly through institutionalizing social protection programs for adolescent parents. Hence, the passage of this local ordinance is earnestly sought.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Sangguniang Bayan of Roxas, Oriental Mindoro hereby ordains and decrees:

SECTION 1. Short Title. This ordinance shall be known as "**AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ROXAS, ORIENTAL MINDORO AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF**."

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SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. It shall be the policy of the Municipality to:

a) Recognize, promote and strengthen the role of adolescents and young people in the overall human and socioeconomic development of the Municipality.

b) Pursue sustainable and genuine human development that values the dignity of the total human person and afford full protection of people's rights especially of adolescent women and men and their families.

c) Promote and protect the human rights of all individuals including adolescents particularly in their exercise of their rights to sexual and reproductive health, equality and equity before the law, the right to development, the right to education, freedom of expression, the right to participate in decision-making, and the right to choose and make responsible decisions for themselves.

d) Pursue an adolescent pregnancy reduction strategy anchored on the empowerment of adolescents and their fights to health and development that is cognizant of the structural barriers including, but not limited to, gender, poverty, age, ethnicity and disability that lead to adolescent pregnancy and that is based on adolescents' needs and preferences.

e) Provide full and comprehensive information to adolescents to help them prevent early and unintended pregnancies and their lifelong consequences.

f) Provide safe, quality and respectful maternal health care including antenatal, delivery and postnatal care to adolescent women and enable their access to these services.

g) Ensure corresponding interventions that could respond to the socioeconomic, health and emotional needs of adolescents and youth especially young women with due regard for their own creative capabilities, for social, family and community support, employment opportunities, participation in the political process, and access to education, health, counseling and high-quality reproductive health services.

h) Encourage and enable adolescent mothers and fathers to continue and finish their education in order to equip them for a better life, to increase their human potential, to help prevent early marriages, high-risk child-bearing and repealed pregnancy, and to reduce associated mortality and morbidity though comprehensive social protection interventions.

i) Recognize and promote the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents, teachers, health professionals and other persons legally responsible for the growth of adolescents to provide in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the adolescent, appropriate direction and guidance in sexual and reproductive matters.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

a) **Adolescents** refer to the population between the ages of 10 and 19.

b) **Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) Care** refers to the access to a full range of methods, techniques and services that contribute to the reproductive health and well-being of young people by preventing and solving reproductive health-related problems. Following the WHO's definition of sexual health, ASRH is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the sexual and reproductive system and to its functions and processes in individuals aged 10 to 19.

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c) **Adolescent Sexuality** as adapted from the World Health Organization's definition of sexuality, it is a central aspect of being human throughout life which encompasses sex, gender identities and roles, sexual orientation, eroticism, pleasure, intimacy and reproduction of individuals aged 10 to 19. It is experienced and expressed in thoughts, fantasies, desires, beliefs, attitudes, values, behaviors, practices, roles and relationships, and is influenced by the interaction of biological, psychological, social, economic, political, cultural, legal, historical, religious and spiritual factors.

d) **Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)** is a package of teaching and imparting information on cognitive, emotional, physical and social aspects of gender, sexuality and adolescent reproductive health. It aims to equip children and young people with age-appropriate knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will empower them to realize their health, well-being and dignity, develop respectful social and sexual relationships, consider how their choices affect their own well-being and that of others, and understand and ensure the protection of their rights throughout their lives. It is a rights-based, gender-focused approach to adolescent health education taught over several years with progressive appropriateness based on age-appropriate information consistent with the evolving capacities of young people and adolescents.

e) **Evolving Capacities of the Adolescent** refers to the concept enshrined in Article 5 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child recognizing the developmental changes and corresponding progress in cognitive abilities and capacities for self-determination undergone by children as they grow up, thus requiring parents and others charged with the responsibility for the child to provide varying degrees of protection and to allow their participation in opportunities for autonomous decision making in different contexts and across all areas of decision making.

f) **Harm Reduction Principle** refers to interventions aimed at reducing the negative effects of behaviors. The goal is to address risk behaviors that occur alongside the harms of pregnancy to adolescent bodies.

g) **Information and Service Delivery Network for Adolescent Health Development (ISDN)** refers to the network of facilities, institutions and providers within the municipal health and social system offering information, training and core packages of health and social care services in an integrated and coordinated manner.

h) **Local Youth Development Council (LYDC)** refers to the local body to be created based on Republic Act 10742 (SK Reform Law) which is composed of representatives of youth and youth-serving organizations in the provincial and municipal levels with the primary function of assisting in the planning and execution of projects and programs of the Sangguniang Kabataan and the Pederasyon ng Sangguniang Kabataan in all levels.

i) **Male Involvement and Participation** refers to the involvement, participation, commitment of and joint responsibility of men with women in all areas of sexual and reproductive health as well as reproductive health concerns specific to men.

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j) **Mature Minor Doctrine** refers to the legal principle that recognizes the capacity of some minors to consent independently to medical procedures if they have been assessed by qualified health care professionals to understand the nature of procedures and their consequence to make a decision on their own.

k) **Normal Schools or Teachers College** refer to the learning institutions training or educating teachers.

l) **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** is a cooperative arrangement between one or more public and private sectors, typically of a long-term nature, for various development programs or projects.

m) **Reproductive Health** refers to a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes.

n) **Risky Behaviors** refer to ill-advised practices and actions that are potentially detrimental to a person's health or general well-being.

o) **Social Protection** consists of policies and programs designed to reduce poverty and vulnerability by promoting efficient labor markets, diminishing people's exposure to risks and enhancing their capacity to manage economic and social risks such as unemployment, exclusion, sickness, disability and old age.

p) **Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Council**, hereafter referred to as the Council, is an inter-agency and inter-sectoral council that shall be formed through this Ordinance and shall serve as its implementing body.

q) **Adolescent Health** – is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being of person aged 10-19 years

r) **Early Pregnancy** – refers to pregnancy in women less than 20 years old.

SECTION 4. Adolescent Pregnancy and Prevention Council of the Municipality of Roxas. The Adolescent Pregnancy and Prevention Council of the Municipality shall be created with the following composition:

Chairman	-	Municipal Mayor
Vice Chairman	-	Municipal Health Officer
Members	-	Representative, Population and Development Office
		Representative, Committee on Health and Sanitation
		Representative, Committee on Women and Family
		Representative, Philippine National Police
		Representative, MSWDO
		(3) Representatives, Women Non-Government Organizations
		Representative, Department of Education
		Representative, Commission on Higher Education
		(2) Representatives, Student Organizations
		Representative, Public Information Office
		Representative, Gender and Development Office
		Representative, Sangguniang Kabataan

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