ORDINANCE NO. 2020-088

AN ORDINANCE PENALIZING THE DISHONESTY OR UNTRUTHFUL DECLARATION OF ANY PATIENT IN TIMES OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OR PANDEMIC, AND IMPOSING THE APPROPRIATE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF.

Hon. Coun. Alexson V. Diaz
Hon. Coun. Paty Katy C. Boncayao
Hon. Coun. Louisito A. Arciaga
Hon. Coun. Allan Rey A. Camilon
Hon. Coun. Ting Nieves
Hon. Coun. Stephanie G. Teves
Hon. Coun. Ivey Rhia A. Tadefa
Hon. Coun. Engr. Marissa C. Rongavilla
Hon. Coun. Francis Ian T. Bagatsing
Hon. Coun. Mark Lester M. Baes
Hon. Coun. Engr. Arlene D. Hilapo
Hon. Coun. Cornelio M. Martinez
Hon. Coun. Walter A. Arcilla

WHEREAS, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued Presidential Proclamation No. 922 on March 8, 2020 declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines due to COVID-19, and Presidential Proclamation No. 929 on March 16, 2020 declaring a State of Calamity throughout the Philippines and imposing an Enhanced Community Quarantine in the entire Luzon;

WHEREAS, since the outbreak of the said coronavirus, there are reports of affected patients who have been untruthful or dishonest with their travel history and health conditions so as to avoid discrimination for themselves and their families but to the damage and prejudice of health workers compromising their safety and that of the medical institution or facility;

WHEREAS, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP), the Philippine Medical Association (PMA), and the Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS), in a joint statement entitled as “Public Health and Safety Prevails over Confidentiality of Medical Data,” have recognized the fact that it is inequitable and counter-productive for COVID-19 patients or PUIs to conceal their true condition thereby possibly infecting health workers;

WHEREAS, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines – Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa (IBP-PPLM) Chapter is urging the City Council of Muntinlupa to enact an “Anti-Patient’s Dishonesty Ordinance” to protect the lives of frontliners especially the health workers; and
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WHEREAS, the City Government of Muntinlupa is herein compelled to adopt clear-cut measures in order to protect health workers and hospital employees who are fighting this dreadful disease from the risk to their health and safety that may be brought to by the dishonesty or untruthful declarations of COVID-19 patients;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, AS IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED, by the 9th Sangguniang Panlungsod of Muntinlupa in session assembled that:

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Ordinance shall be known as the “The Anti-Patient’s Dishonesty Ordinance of 2020.”

SECTION 2. Definition of Terms:

a. Confirmed COVID-19 Infected Person – any person who has been tested positive for COVID-19 by laboratories or health facilities authorized and accredited by the Department of Health.

b. Health Workers – refers to any person who renders health care services to persons who sought or brought for medical attention, either directly or indirectly, such as, doctors, nurses, medics, hospital and clinic aides, laboratory technicians and other health professionals.

c. Hospital Employees – refers to persons, not necessarily health professionals, who are working in hospitals, clinics, laboratories and diagnostic centers dealing with patients with COVID-19 related medical concerns.

d. Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) – refers to persons, regardless of nationality, race, gender or age, who are classified as such under the protocols and guidelines of the Department of Health. They are usually experiencing signs and symptoms like fever and/or cough and with travel history in COVID-19 infected areas with issued travel restrictions.

e. Persons Under Monitoring (PUMs) – refers to persons, regardless of nationality, race, gender or age, who are classified as such under the protocols and guidelines of the Department of Health. They are usually not exhibiting any sign or symptom but with known exposure to COVID-19 infected persons or with travel history in COVID-19 infected areas with issued travel restrictions.

SECTION 3. Policy of Honesty. – Any person who shall be required by any medical clinic, hospital, health center/office, diagnostic center, laboratory, or any health/medical facility, whether public or private, to fill-up or accomplish information sheet data form, declaration or any similar document, shall be expected to observe honesty, state the truth and disclose all relevant information as may be required in the said form or document or as may be asked by the health worker, hospital employee or concerned public officer such as but not limited to nurse, physician or their assistants, medical officers or quarantine officers.
SECTION 4. Unlawful Acts. – It shall be unlawful for any such person as mentioned in the immediately preceding paragraph, who may be a Confirmed COVID-19 Infected Person, Person Under Investigation (PUI), or Person Under Monitoring (PUM), to knowingly and deliberately lie, commits dishonesty and/or withhold relevant information (such as but not limited to travel history, experience of symptoms, medical condition, etc.) during a state of public health emergency as declared by the National Government or a pandemic as declared by the World Health Organization.

SECTION 5. Prima Facie Evidence. – Any omission of the required relevant information as required in the forms or documents as provided in Section 3 hereof, of which a reasonable person is expected to have knowledge shall be prima facie evidence of the violation of this Ordinance.

SECTION 6. Penalties. – Any person who committed the unlawful acts under Section 4 hereof shall be liable to pay a fine in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00) and community service for thirty (30) days or imprisonment of at least six (6) months but not exceeding nine (9) months OR both. In case of inability to pay the fine, the offender shall be required to render additional thirty (30) days of community service or subsidiary imprisonment, at the discretion of the court.

SECTION 7. Separability Clause. – If for any reason, any provision of this Ordinance shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions hereof which are not affected by the invalidity shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. Effectivity. – This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its publication in the official website or official social media account of the City Government of Muntinlupa, or any newspaper of general circulation.

ENACTED, by the 9th Sangguniang Panlungsod of Muntinlupa this 13th day of April, 2020, on its 40th Regular Session.

CONCURRED:

DISTRICT 1:

COUN. ATTY. RAUL R. CORRO
Member

COUN. ALEXSON V. DIAZ
Member

COUN. PATY KATY O. BONCAYAO
Member

COUN. LOUISITO A. ARCIAGA
Member
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COUN. ALLAN REY A. CAMILON
Member

COUN. TING NIEFES
Member

COUN. STEPHANIE G. TEVES
Member

COUN. IVEE RHIA A. TADEFA
Member

DISTRICT 2

COUN. ENGR. MARISSA C. RONGAVILLA
Member

COUN. FRANCIS IAN T. BAGATSING
Member

COUN. MARK LESTER M. BAES
Member

COUN. MA. DHESIREE G. AREVALO
Member

COUN. ENGR. MAMERTO T. SEVILLA, JR.
Member

COUN. ENGR. ARLENE D. HILAPO
Member

COUN. CORNELIO M. MARTINEZ
Member

COUN. WALTER A. ARCILLA
President
Sectoral Representative
Association of Barangay Chairman

COUN. KENICHI D. TAKAGI, JR.
President
Sectoral Representative
Federation of Sangguniang Kabataan

I HEREBY CERTIFY, as to the correctness of the foregoing Ordinance.

CECILIA C. LAZARTE
Secretary to the Sangguniang Kabataan
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ATTESTED:

ARTEMIO A. SIMUNDAC
City Vice-Mayor/Presiding Officer

APPROVED:

ATTY. JAIME R. FRESENI
City Mayor
Date: 13 APR 2020