



# Sangguniang Panlalawigan

BATAAN CAPITOL, BALANGA CITY



## EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 113<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF BATAAN ON NOVEMBER 4, 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. 25

Series of 2024

**AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTIONALIZING, PROMOTING AND DEVELOPING ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF BATAAN, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

### AUTHORED AND SPONSORED BY:

HON. ROMANO L. DEL ROSARIO

### CHAPTER I INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS

**Section 1. Title.** - This Ordinance shall be known as the "Organic Agriculture Ordinance of the Province of Bataan."

**Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the Provincial Government of Bataan (PGB) to promote, propagate, develop further, and implement the practice of organic agriculture in the province that will

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cumulatively promote and enhance the fertility of soil, increase farm productivity, reduce pollution and damage to the environment, save our natural resources, and protect the health of farmers, consumers, and the general public. Towards this end, the PGB shall mainstream organic agriculture as the main agricultural practice in the province.

**Section 3. Definition of Terms.** - As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall mean:

- a. Agriculture - shall include all fields, such as but not limited to aquaculture, animal husbandry, agronomy, agro-forestry and horticulture;
- b. Gene/Seed Bank - a collection of seeds from potentially useful wild plants, which may be used in the future for breeding new varieties;
- c. Smallholder and Marginalized Farmer - refers to natural persons dependent on small-scale subsistence farming as their primary source of income and whose sale, barter or exchange of agricultural products do not exceed a gross value of One Hundred Eighty Thousand Pesos (PHP 180,000.00) per annum based on 1992 constant prices. An inter-agency committee composed of the Department of Agrarian Reform, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Finance and the National Economic and Development Authority and headed by the Department of Agriculture may conduct periodic review and adjustments of the income level to take into account the effects of changes in inflation, devaluation and consumer price index (Republic Act No. 7607 or An Act Providing a Magna Carta of Small Farmers);
- d. Organic - refers to the particular farming and processing system, described in the standards and not in the classical chemical sense. The term 'organic' is synonymous in other languages to 'biological' or 'ecological'. It is also a labeling term that denotes products considered based on the Philippine National Standards for Organic Agriculture (Organic Agriculture Act of 2010);
- e. Organic Farm Villages - villages composed of smallholder and marginalized farmers in a community organized into a smallholder and marginalized groups and certified or in process for certification by a third-party organic certification body;
- f. Organic Agriculture - includes all agricultural systems that promote the ecologically sound, socially acceptable, economically viable and technically feasible production of food and fibers. Organic agriculture dramatically reduces external inputs by refraining from the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and pharmaceuticals. It also covers areas such as, but not limited to, soil fertility management, varietal breeding and selection under chemical and pesticide-free conditions, the use of biotechnology and other cultural practices that are consistent with the principles and policies of Republic Act No. 10068 or the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010, and enhance productivity without compromising the soil and water, and harming farmers, consumers and the environment as defined by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM): Provided, that the biotechnology herein referred to shall not include genetically modified organisms or GMOs.

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**Section 4. Coverage.** - The provisions of this Ordinance shall apply to the development and promotion of the Organic Agriculture and shall include, but not limited to the following:

- a. Policy formulation on regulation, registration, accreditation, certification and labeling on organic agriculture;
- b. Research, development and extension of appropriate sustainable environment and gender-friendly organic agriculture;
- c. Promotion and encouragement of the establishment of facilities, equipment and processing plants that would accelerate the production and commercialization of organic fertilizers, organic herbicides/pesticides and other appropriate farm inputs; and
- d. Implementation of organic agricultural programs, projects and activities, including the provision and delivery of support services with a focus on the farmers and other stakeholders.

**Section 5. Provincial Organic Agriculture Program.** - There is hereby established a comprehensive Provincial Organic Agriculture Program in line with the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP) through the promotion and commercialization of organic farming practices, cultivation and adoption of production and processing methods which have already been developed, continuing research and upgrading thereof, the capacity building of farmers and the education of consumers thereon, the extension of assistance to Local Government Units (LGUs), People's Organizations (POs), Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders including individuals and groups who are willing to do other pertinent activities, and documentation and evaluation of the program.

## CHAPTER II INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

**Section 6. Provincial Technical Committee on Organic Agriculture (PTCOA).** - Pursuant to the mandate of RA 10068, otherwise known as the Organic Agriculture of 2010, there shall be created a Provincial Technical Committee on Organic Agriculture (PTCOA) for purposes of implementing plans, projects, programs, or activities in line with the NOAP. The compositions of this technical committee are as follows:

Chairperson : Provincial Governor;

Vice-Chairperson : Provincial Agriculturist;

Members : SP Member - Committee on Agriculture, Food and Fisheries;

Provincial Director - DILG;

Provincial Government - Environment and Natural Resources Officer;

Bataan Schools Division Superintendent;

Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer;

Provincial Director - DTI;

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Chairman of the Provincial Agricultural and Fisheries Council (PAFC);

Director, Provincial Science and Technology Centers;

Three (3) Representatives from Smallholder and Marginalized Farmers;

One (1) Representative from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) involved in organic agriculture for at least three (3) years;

One (1) Representative from Agriculture College and Universities;

One (1) Representative from the Private Sector or Agribusiness Firm involved in organic agriculture for at least three (3) years; and

One (1) Representative from Consumers Group involved in organic agriculture for at least three (3) years.

**Section 7. Roles and Functions of PTCOA.** - The Committee shall have the following roles and functions:

- i. Establish a collaborative mechanism for the development, review, consolidation, and endorsement of the organic agriculture program, in line with the NOAP;
- ii. Assist the municipality/city Local Technical Committee-Organic Agriculture (LTC-OA) in the implementation of the NOAP, and monitor and evaluate the implementation program in their respective jurisdictions;
- iii. Adopt the existing national standards for the accreditation of organic agriculture practitioners, which may take into account second or third-party certification systems and participatory guarantee systems;
- iv. Support the LGUs in the promotion and formation of Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) groups;
- v. Assist in policy formulation, including enactment of ordinances for the monitoring and regulation of organic produce and products sold within its respective jurisdiction;
- vi. Develop incentive mechanism for the organic agriculture sector in collaboration with local government agencies; and
- vii. Perform such other functions as may be necessary for the realization of the policies as well as the principles enunciated under this Ordinance.

### CHAPTER III PROGRAMS AND STRATEGIES

**Section 8. Standards and Accreditation.** - The PGB shall promote the use of certified inputs and the certification of organic farms by certifying bodies or by accredited PGS Core Group.

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**Section 9. Conservation of Indigenous Farm Practices and Resources.** - Measures shall be established by the farming communities, including indigenous peoples communities, to conserve and protect indigenous knowledge relating to organic agriculture, including those that relate to aquaculture, animal husbandry, seed conservation and propagation and the various ways in which on-farm and ex-situ mechanisms are established and sustained.

**Section 10. Organic Gene/Seed Bank.** - The PGB with the participation of NGOs, international organizations and other appropriate agencies shall establish an organic Gene/Seed Bank which will produce and supply organic, endemic or indigenous seeds to farmers.

**Section 11. Promotion of Urban/Backyard Gardening.** - The PGB, through the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, shall encourage, promote and support urban and backyard gardening using organic agriculture practices all throughout the Province.

**Section 12. Support Services to Organic Farmers.** - There shall be support services provided to organic farmers and smallholder and marginalized farmers who wish to engage in organic agriculture, such as training, production, marketing and branding, including financial management and accounting, among other necessary skills to develop an organic agriculture product that will secure a market niche, including the practice of fair trade as well as ensure household level food security. These services shall not be limited to the following:

- a. Education – Continuous trainings, follow-up, hands-on consultations, field exposures, including research and development activities;
- b. Information Campaign – Advocacy of organic agriculture, benefits, challenges, updates, as well as farmers' success stories and information access on the different alternative agricultural practices recognized and identified to organic agriculture through published handouts, handbooks, and other reading materials that farmers can access. In addition, information education and awareness campaign for consumers in general shall also be done;
- c. Production – Information and access to organic farm inputs (such as but not limited to molasses, compost fertilizers, inoculants and foliar such as effective microorganisms and other natural fermentations); financial assistance/support to pre- and post-production, including rehabilitation and post-harvest facilities devoted solely for organic agriculture produce;
- d. Marketing – Fair trade and pricing (farm gate and market prices); available market outlets, trading posts including "bagsakan", organic markets and organic eateries and the like; inclusion of the marketing and trade of organic agriculture in festivals or fairs of cities, municipalities and the province;
- e. Branding of Products – Consultation as to labeling the organic products with Department of Agriculture – National Organic Agriculture Board/Department of Trade and Industry/Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority/Department of Science and Technology including processing for higher value-added of the agricultural produce;
- f. Access to credit, whether cash, equipment or in kind, as well as to official development assistance, grants and donations and crop insurance, including financial management and accounting and project monitoring

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and evaluation and preparation of feasibility studies; and

- g. Farm machineries, equipment, infrastructure and facilities attuned to sustainable organic agriculture activities at the level of the smallholder and marginalized farmers.

**Section 13. Biological and Botanical Control.** - Organic farmers shall practice and utilize biological and botanical methods, which rely on predation, parasitism, herbivory or other natural mechanisms in the control of pests in their organic farm. Maximum protection of beneficial insects and animals shall be practiced.

**Section 14. Incentives.** - The PGB shall establish and institutionalize incentives and awards system for individuals and organizations, engaged in organic agriculture, which may include the following components:

- i. annual search and recognition and awards for model farmers, farmer organizations, LGUs practicing organic farming in the province and farms that have been duly certified by certifying bodies or by accredited PGS Core Group; and
- ii. such other rewards and incentives that may hereinafter be developed.

#### CHAPTER IV FUNDING AND FINAL PROVISIONS

**Section 15. Appropriation.** - The PGB shall appropriate an initial amount of Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (PHP 500,000.00) for the implementation of this Ordinance and to support the organic agriculture projects and programs of the province.

**Section 16. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within one hundred twenty (120) days after the approval of this Ordinance, the Committee shall, upon consultation with Barangay Officials, government agencies, private sector, Farmer NGOs and POs, promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Ordinance: Provided, that failure to issue rules and regulations shall not in any manner affect the executory nature of the provisions of this Ordinance.

**Section 17. Repealing Clause.** - All ordinances, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Section 18. Separability Clause.** - If for any reason any section or provision of this Ordinance is declared as unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

**Section 19. Effectivity Clause.** - This Ordinance shall take effect upon approval and compliance with the relevant provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991.

UNANIMOUSLY ENACTED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of November 2024.

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

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

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Provincial Governor

  
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

  
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)


  
LOVELY JOY A. POBLETE  
Board Member  
(SKF President)

  
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: 11-15-2024

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