



Republic of the Philippines
City of Bago
OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

ORDINANCE NO. 23-08

SOLO PARENT ORDINANCE OF BAGO CITY

WHEREAS, it is the thrust of the city to strengthen and improve the lives of different vulnerable sectors within its jurisdiction through social legislation so that those who have less in life will have more in law;

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the family as the foundation of the society should be strengthened and protected in order for it to produce responsible and productive citizens.

WHEREAS, towards this end, the city should develop comprehensive programs for the development and benefit of families especially those headed by solo parents and their children to be carried out by the concerned agencies of the city in collaboration with the National Government and non-government organizations;

WHEREAS, during the Committee Meeting of the Committee on Social Services it was revealed that the city is already affording assistance and benefits to solo parents pursuant to Republic Act No. 8972 as amended by RA 11861 or the Expanded Solo Parent Welfare Act. However, the member of this August Body is of the consensus on its institutionalization through the enactment of a local ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, upon motion of SP Member Ma. Femmy A. Martir, and unanimously seconded by all members present, be it enacted by the Sanggunian Panlungsod that:

SECTION 1. TITLE. – This ordinance shall be known as the SOLO PARENT ORDINANCE OF BAGO CITY.

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. – The City recognizes the vital role of the family in the formation and development of responsible individuals. It shall endeavor to promote its welfare and afford it with the necessary protection for it to realize its full potential. The special vulnerability of families headed by solo parents is likewise recognized and for this purpose, it is the policy of the City to afford it with special care to strengthen and empower them to become useful and productive sectors of society through the enactment of appropriate legislative benefits.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS. – As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall mean:

a. **Solo Parent** - a mother or father either separated or widower that has been left with a child or children to nurture with. It may also refer to any individual who falls under any of the following categories:

(1) A woman who gives birth as a result of rape and other crimes against chastity even without a final conviction of the offender: Provided, that the mother keeps and raises the child;

(2) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to the death of a spouse;

(3) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood while the spouse is detained or is serving a sentence for a criminal conviction for at least three (3) months;

(4) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to physical and/or mental incapacity of spouse as certified by a public medical practitioner;

(5) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to legal separation or de facto separation from spouse for at least six (6) months, as long as he/she is entrusted with the custody of the children;

(6) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to declaration of nullity or annulment of marriage as decreed by a court or by a church as long as he/she is entrusted with the custody of the children;

(7) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to abandonment by the spouse for at least six (6) months;

(8) Spouse or any family of an Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW), or the guardian of the child or children of an OFW, provided, that the said OFW belongs to the low-skilled worker category and is away from the Philippines for an uninterrupted period of 12 months;

(9) Unmarried mother/father who has preferred to keep and rear her/his child/children instead of having others care for them or give them up to a welfare institution;

(10) Any legal guardian, adoptive and foster parent who solely provides parental care and support to a child or children;

(11) Any relative within the 4th civil degree of consanguinity and affinity of the parent or legal guardian who assumes parental care and support to the child or children as a result of the death, abandonment, disappearance, or prolonged absence of the parents or solo parent;

(12) A pregnant woman who provides sole parental care and support to her unborn child or children for at least six (6) months;

b. **Children/Dependents** – refer to those living with or dependent upon the solo parent for support who are unmarried, unemployed, and twenty-two (22) years old or below, or those over twenty-two years old but who are unable to fully take care of or protect themselves from abuse of a physical or mental disability.

c. **Parental Care and Support** – refers to the acts of providing basic needs, health care, mental and physical safety, emotional support, and formation of the personality of a child.

d. **Spouse** – refers to a husband or a wife by virtue of a valid marriage or a partner in a common-law relationship as defined in the Family Code of the Philippines.

e. **Child minding center** – refers to a facility or area within the workplace or inaccessible locations to the solo parent where the children seven (7) years old and below receive care and supervision during working hours.

f. **Magna Carta** - a document constituting a fundamental guarantee of rights and privileges of solo parents.

g. **Quasi Government Agent of Change** - representative of the City as an agent of change pursuant to the Seal of Good Local Governance.

h. **Federation of Solo Parent** - aggrupation of different Solo Parents' Associations from different barangays of the City.

SECTION 4. THE VISION AND MISSION OF THIS ORDINANCE. – The City envisions Solo Parents as partners in development and becoming responsible drivers in carrying out different roles and responsibilities in nurturing their children by making them informed and responsible individuals and law-abiding citizens. It is the mission of this ordinance to identify, recognize, organize, and train Solo Parents of the City for them to become active partners in community building and positive contributors in the different aspects of local governance.

SECTION 5. THE TWIN OBJECTIVES OF A SOLO PARENT. – The twin objectives of a Solo Parent are the following:

a. **As Solo Parents** - They are to be developed as responsible parents that nurture the children, aware of the present programs of the City and other regulatory ordinances or laws of the land with the highest level of obedience expected of responsible citizens.

b. **As Quasi-Government Agent of Change** – The City aims to train, develop, empower, strengthen, and make Solo Parents responsible citizens who are at the forefront of the transformation of the community in different areas of governance such as but not limited to the following aspects: environment, peace and order, disaster preparedness, good governance, social development, and fiscal independence which redounds to the benefits of every segment of society enjoying a progressive, peaceful, God-fearing harmonious lives.

SECTION 6. THE SOLO PARENTS IN EVERY BARANGAY. – There shall an organized Solo Parents' Association in every barangay of the City which will also form part of the Federation of Solo Parents' Association (FSPA) in the City. They shall be organized based on the following tenets:

1. Members must be law-abiding citizens especially as to the provisions of this ordinance.
2. For barangay Solo Parents' Associations, its members must possess the following qualifications:
 - 2.1. A resident of the concerned barangay for at least six (6) months prior to their application for membership;
 - 2.2. Must have reared or nurtured a child through legal adoption or other legal modes outside the framework of the Child and Youth Welfare Code.
 - 2.3. Must be duly registered with the SWD and have a valid Solo Parent Identification Card;
 - 2.4. All other necessary requirements that may be required by the SWD.

SECTION 7. POLICY-MAKING BODY. – The SOLO PARENT COUNCIL (SPC) is hereby created as the primary policy-making body responsible for the formulation and development of policies, rules, and other issuances relative to the objectives, vision, and mission of this ordinance which shall be composed as follows:

Chairman	-	City Mayor
Vice Chairman	-	City Social Welfare and Development Officer
Members	-	SP Committee on Social Services Chairperson
	-	Federation of Solo Parents' Association President
	-	ABC President
	-	City Planning and Development Officer (CPDO)
	-	City Budget Officer (CBO)
	-	City Treasurer
	-	City Accountant

The SPC shall convene every quarter to perform its function which shall be transmitted to the implementing arm, the CSWDO.

SECTION 8. IMPLEMENTING ARM. – The CSWDO is hereby designated as the implementing arm of this Ordinance. Among others, it shall have the following specific functions:

8.1. Maintain an official registry of all qualified Solo Parents in the City through an appropriate system that affords close monitoring of their activities, development and welfare.

8.2. Spearhead the conduct of trainings/workshops which will serve as a venue to solicit inputs directly from the various Solo Parents' Associations (SPA) of every barangay in order to achieve a responsive and well-participated plan for short-term, medium-term, and long-term programs and activities.

8.3. Prepare the appropriate funding requirement of the sector for the consideration of the Sangguniang Panlungsod before the budget completion deadline.

8.4. Assist in the registration and accreditation of SPA's. For this purpose, it shall maintain a harmonious working relationship with the FSPA in order to ensure the proper accreditation, recognition, and updating of its members and promote transparency in the handling of the association's finances through regular audits.

8.5. To establish links to other government agencies and non-government partners in order to acquire technical and financial assistance for programs and activities for the advancement of the sector.

SECTION 9. FUNDING REQUIREMENT. – a. Annual Assembly. The annual assembly of Solo Parents shall be held every third (3rd) week of April of every year which shall be provided with the budgetary allocation.

b. Mobilization Fund Every Year

The Federation shall be provided with an annual mobilization fund in the City's Executive Budget in such amount to defray the cost of traveling expenses of all Barangay Presidents attending monthly meetings.

SECTION 10. OFFICE SPACE. - The City shall provide an office space free of charge including maintenance costs to the Solo Parent Federation.

SECTION 11. IDENTIFICATION AND DEPUTATION. - Solo Parents properly identified shall bear Identification Cards duly signed by the City Mayor, Federation President of Solo Parent Association, and the City Social Welfare and Development Officer with the date of validity in them.

SECTION 12. REQUIREMENT TO BECOME AN AGENT OF CHANGE. – To become agents of change, Solo Parents must:

a. Undergo Capability Training and Development Seminar on the aspect of Seal of Good Local Governance in the area of environment, social, financial accountability, peace and order, and disaster preparedness to become Agents of Change;

b. Not have any record of litigation or indictment in any court of law;

c. Never been convicted of any crime neither imprisoned for violation of ordinance rules, issuances, or any other relevant laws;

After the completion of the seminar, a certification will be issued by the training officer, concurred by the SWD, and signed by the City Mayor. It may, however, be revoked for reasons as stated in the policies and guidelines approved by the Policy Making Body.

SECTION 13. RIGHTS OF A SOLO PARENT. - A Solo Parent shall have the following rights:

a. To be organized, identified, and undergo training and seminar;

- b. To be deputized for a given period of time;
- c. To become an Agent of Change and a contributor to the attainment of the objectives of the City or Barangay to which he/she belongs.
- d. To participate in all government activities and programs as may be necessary;
- e. To receive allowances, honoraria, and other forms of remunerations, as may be determined by existing rules, regulations, and ordinances or issuances;
- f. To apply for re-accreditation once revoked, or suspended by the accrediting agency on grounds stated in Section 15 of this Ordinance.
- g. To expand the membership of the association to which he belongs and to form other subgroups.
- h. To submit a yearly proposal for inclusion in the appropriate LGU Investment Plan.
- i. To submit proposals, policies, and guidelines for consideration by the Policy Making Body.
- j. To submit pertinent documents and other concerns which affect the organization to which he belongs to appropriate agencies.

SECTION 14. PRIVILEGES OF A SOLO PARENT-MEMBER. – A Solo Parent who is a member of an accredited Association of Solo Parents is entitled to privileges from the present program of the City particularly the following:

a. Comprehensive Package of Social Protection Services

1. Livelihood Development Services and skills training
2. Provision of Financial Assistance based on the existing program guidelines of AICS
3. Counseling
4. Capability building training and support group services
5. Celebration of the Solo Parent Day
6. Parent Effectiveness Services
7. Provision of Critical Incident Stress Debriefing of CHO and CDRRM
8. Targeted interventions for individuals in need of special protection
9. Legal Assistance

b. City Development Council Membership

The City Federation of Solo Parents President shall sit as a member of the City Development Council.

c. Uniform

Solo Parents be provided uniforms every year which shall be sourced from the yearly allocation given by the Federation.

d. Livelihood

They shall be entitled to avail the livelihood program of the city as well as the Provincial Government and if available, from the National Government.

e. Housing Allocation

Whenever necessary, depending on the availability of a housing program sponsored by the national, provincial, or local government, they shall be entitled to avail the housing units subject to existing guidelines, rules, and regulations.

SECTION 15. BENEFITS OF A SOLO PARENT. - A Solo Parent who is a member of an accredited Association of Solo Parents is entitled to the following benefits:

a. No work Discrimination. No employer shall discriminate against any solo parent employee with respect to terms and conditions of employment on account of his or her status.

b. Flexible Working Schedule. The employer shall provide for a flexible work schedule for solo parents: Provided, that it shall not affect individual and company productivity

c. Parental Leave. Entitled to a forfeitable and noncumulative parental leave of not more than 7 days every year who has rendered service for at least 6 months regardless of employment status (in addition to leave privileges under existing laws). Provided, that a valid Solo Parent Identification Card is the only requirement to avail of parental leave.

d. Child Minding Centers. Employers to establish and maintain child-minding centers. National government agencies with more than 300 employees, including government-owned and controlled corporations (COCCs), and private employers with 200 or more employees, may establish child minding to accommodate their employees' children who are aged 7 and below.

The child-minding centers shall be available free of charge to their employees, with priority given to those who are solo parent.

e. Breastfeeding. The DOLE and CSC shall continue to encourage working mothers, who are solo parents, to practice breastfeeding in the workplace. Employers shall give breastfeeding mothers additional breaks in addition to the regular time off for meals to express their breastmilk for a year after the birth of a child.

f. Additional Privileges. - Qualified solo parents who are members of an accredited solo parents' association are also entitled to the following additional privileges:

1. Subject to the availability of funds and dependent on the amount of the GAD budget, a monthly cash subsidy may be approved by the SPC but not less than P300.00;
2. **A 10% discount and exemption from the value-added tax (VAT)** on baby's milk food and micronutrient supplements and sanitary diapers purchased, duly prescribed medicines, vaccines, and other medical supplements purchased from the birth of the child until 6 years of age of a solo parent who is earning less than 250,000.00 annually. In availing of this benefit, the solo parent booklet shall also be presented.
3. **Work Prioritization** particularly for solo mothers **in re-entering the workforce, and their children** in apprenticeships, scholarships, livelihood training, reintegration programs for OFWs, employment information, and other poverty alleviation programs of TESDA, DTI, CHED, DepEd, DOLE, DMW, and other related government agencies, subject to the standard eligibility and qualifications.

SECTION 16. DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS. – The following documentary requirements shall be required of the solo parent:

a) For the solo parent with a child as a consequence of rape:

1. Birth certificate of the child
2. Complaint affidavit
3. Medical record on the incident of rape; and
4. Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent has sole parental care and support of the child
5. Affidavit of a barangay official attesting that the solo parent is a resident of the barangay and that the child is under the parental care and support of the Solo Parent

- b) For the solo parent on account of the **death of the spouse:**
1. Birth certificate of the child
 2. Marriage certificate
 3. Death certificate of the spouse; and
 4. Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent and sole parental care and support of the child
 5. Affidavit of a barangay official attesting that the solo parent is a resident of the barangay and that the child is under the parental care and support of the Solo Parent
- c) For the solo parent on account of the **detention or criminal conviction of the spouse:**
1. Birth certificate of the child
 2. Marriage certificate
 3. Certificate of detention or a certification that the spouse is serving a sentence for at least 3 months issued by the law enforcement agency having actual custody of the detained spouse, or a commitment order issued by the court; and
 4. Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has sole parental care and support of the child
 5. Affidavit of a barangay official attesting that the solo parent is a resident of the barangay and that the child is under the parental care and support of the Solo Parent.
- d) For the solo parent on account of the **Physical and Mental incapacity of the spouse:**
1. Birth certificate of the child
 2. Marriage certificate
 3. Medical record or medical abstract
 4. Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has sole parental care and support of the child
 5. Affidavit of a barangay official attesting that the solo parent is a resident of the barangay and that the child is under the parental care and support of the Solo Parent
- e) For the solo parent on account of **legal or de facto separation:**
1. Birth certificate of the child
 2. Marriage certificate
 3. Judicial decree of legal separation of the spouses or, an affidavit of 2 disinterested persons for de facto separation
 4. Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has sole parental care and support of the child
 5. Affidavit of a barangay official attesting that the solo parent is a resident of the barangay and that the child is under the parental care and support of the Solo Parent.
- f) For the solo parent on account of the **declaration of nullity of marriage:**
1. Birth certificate of the child
 2. Marriage certificate
 3. Judicial decree of nullity of marriage or judicial recognition of foreign divorce
 4. Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent and sole parental care and support of the child
 5. Affidavit of a barangay official attesting that the solo parent is a resident of the barangay and that the child is under the parental care and support of the Solo Parent.
- g) For the solo parent on account of the **abandonment of the spouse:**
1. Birth certificate of the child
 2. Marriage certificate
 3. Affidavit of 2 disinterested persons attesting to the abandonment of the spouse

4. Police or barangay record of the fact of abandonment
5. Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has sole parental care and support of the child
6. Affidavit of a barangay official attesting that the solo parent is a resident of the barangay and that the child is under the parental care and support of the Solo Parent.

h) For the spouse or any family member of an OFW:

1. Birth certificate of the child
2. Marriage certificate
3. Overseas Employment Certificate or its equivalent docs
4. Copy of passport stamps showing continuous 12 months of overseas work.
5. Employment contract
6. Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has sole parental care and support of the child
7. Affidavit of a barangay official attesting that the solo parent is a resident of the barangay and that the child is under the parental care and support of the Solo Parent.

i) For the unmarried father or mother who keeps and rears the child or children:

1. Birth certificate of the child
2. CENOMAR
3. Affidavit of a barangay official attesting that the solo parent is a resident of the barangay and that the children are under the parental care and support of the applicant solo parent
4. Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has sole parental care and support of the child
5. Affidavit of a barangay official attesting that the solo parent is a resident of the barangay and that the child is under the parental care and support of the Solo Parent.

j) For the solo parent who is a legal guardian, adoptive or foster parent:

1. Birth certificate of the child
2. Proof of guardianship, foster care, or adoption
3. Affidavit of a barangay official attesting that the solo parent is a resident of the barangay and that the children are under the parental care and support of the applicant solo parent
4. Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has sole parental care and support of the child
5. Affidavit of a barangay official attesting that the solo parent is a resident of the barangay and that the child is under the parental care and support of the Solo Parent

k) For the solo parent who is a pregnant woman:

1. Medical record of her pregnancy
2. Affidavit of a barangay official attesting that the applicant's solo parent is a resident of the barangay and that the applicant has no spouse.
3. Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent has sole parental care and support of the child
4. Affidavit of a barangay official attesting that the solo parent is a resident of the barangay and that the child is under the parental care and support of the Solo Parent

l) For a solo parent availing subsidy and discounts provided for under section 15:

1. Affidavit of no employment
2. Income Tax Return (ITR)
3. Social Case Study issued by the DSWD; or
4. Any verifiable proof of income.

SECTION 17. LIMITATION/TERMINATION OF THE BENEFITS OF A SOLO PARENT. - In the availment of privileges and benefits by solo parents, the following conditions shall apply:

1. Only a solo parent exercising sole parental custody, care, and support of the child, children, or dependent/s is entitled to claim the benefits of a solo parent. Provided, that a solo parent shall not lose her status as a solo parent if the other parent provides occasional assistance and/or seasonal gifts that do not meet the legal requirement of support under the family code of the Philippines.
2. The absence of a valid and legal marriage between the mother and father of a child does not automatically entitle either individual to the benefits under this Act if the factual circumstances demonstrate that parental care and support are shared
3. A solo parent, as defined under this Act, ceases to be such by reason of change of status and circumstances, the said solo parent shall be ineligible to avail of the benefits under this Act

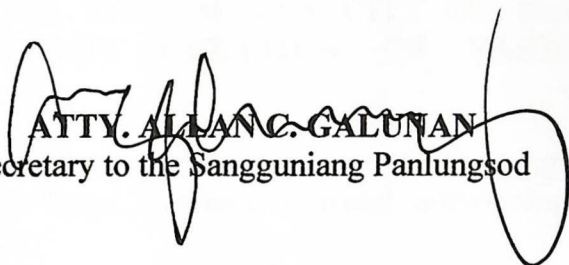
SECTION 18. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. - If any part of this Ordinance is declared invalid or in contravention to any existing laws, the remaining unaffected parts shall remain effective and enforceable.

SECTION 19. REPEALING CLAUSE. - This ordinance repeals, modifies, or amends all local rules or issuances not consistent with it.


SECTION 20. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. - This Ordinance shall become effective upon its approval subject to the applicable provision of the Local Government Code.

Enacted: May 10, 2023.


I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing Ordinance which was duly enacted by the Sangguniang Panlungsod during its Regular Session held on May 10, 2023.


ATTY. ALLAN C. GALUNAN
Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlungsod

ATTESTED:


RAMON D. TORRES
City Vice Mayor-Presiding Officer

Approved this 15th day of may 2023.


NICHOLAS M. YULO
City Mayor