



OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

Literal copy of *Municipal Ordinance No. 2023-18-139* approved by the Sangguniang Bayan of Palanan, Isabela in its *Regular Session on September 18, 2023* held at the Legislative Session Hall, this Municipality.

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 2023-18-139

SPONSORED: HON. PACITA MONA Q. ATANACIO, *Sangguniang Bayan Member*
HON. ANGELINA A. BERNARDO, *LNB President/ Ex-Officio Member*
HON. RONNIE A. ATIENZA, *Sangguniang Bayan Member*
HON. RONALDO M. BERNARDO, *Sangguniang Bayan Member*
HON. EARL JOHN ANGELO S. BERNARDO, *Sangguniang Bayan Member*

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7883, ENTITLED, "GRANTING BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES TO ACCREDITED BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES" FOR LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PALANAN, PROVINCE OF ISABELA.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Sangguniang Bayan of Palanan, Isabela in a session assembled:

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Ordinance shall be known as the "**Barangay Health Workers' Benefits and Incentives Ordinance**".

SECTION 2. Statement of Policy. The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and to provide conditions for health empowerment, where each individual has access to information and services that will bring about health and well-being. The Primary Health Care Approach is recognized as the major strategy towards health empowerment, emphasizing the need to provide accessible and acceptable health services through participatory strategies such as health education, training of barangay health workers, community building and organizing.

Towards this end, this Ordinance shall provide incentives to communities and act as frontliners in the Primary Health Care Approach. The government and all its instrumentalities shall also recognize the rights of Barangay Health Workers to organize themselves; to strengthen and systematize their services for their community; and to make a venue for sharing their experiences and for recommending policies and guidelines for the promotion, maintenance and advancement of their activities and services.

SECTION 3. Definition. The term "**Barangay Health Worker**" refers to a person who has undergone training programs under any accredited government and non-government organization and who voluntarily renders primary health care services in the community after having been accredited to function as such by the Local Health Board in accordance with the guidelines promulgated by the Department of Health (DOH).

EARL JOHN ANGELO S. BERNARDO
SB MEMBER

RONNIE A. ATIENZA
SB MEMBER

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SB MEMBER

MICHAEL D. RAMILO
Acting Municipal Vice Mayor &
Temporary Presiding Officer

ROBERT B. NERI
Acting Municipal Mayor

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SECTION 4. Registration. In order for barangay health workers to be entitled to benefits and incentives provided under this Ordinance, they shall register with the Local Health Board in the municipality in which they render service. The Local Health Board, through the Provincial Health Board, shall furnish a copy of such registry to the DOH, which is hereby mandated to maintain a national registry of barangay health workers. The accredited barangay health workers shall be given appropriate proof of said accreditation.

SECTION 5. Number of Barangay Health Workers. The MHO shall determine the ideal ratio of barangay health workers to the number of households: *Provided*, that the total number of barangay health workers shall not exceed one percent (1%) of the total population of the municipality.

SECTION 6. Incentives and Benefits. In recognition of their services, all accredited Barangay Health Workers who are actively and regularly performing their duties shall be entitled to the following incentives and benefits:

- a. **Monthly Allowance** - The BHWs shall be entitled to monthly allowance of **Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 2,500.00)**, subject to increase and review every after three (3) years depending upon the availability of funds;
- b. **Hazard Allowance** - Volunteer barangay health workers in rural and urban areas, exposed to situations, conditions, or factors in the work environment or place where foreseeable but unavoidable danger or risks exist which adversely endanger his health or life and/or increase the risk of producing adverse effect on his person in the exercise of his duties, to be validated by the proper authorities, shall be entitled to hazard allowance in an amount to be determined by the local health board and the local peace and order council of the local government unit concerned.
- c. **Subsistence Allowance** - Barangay Health Workers who render service within the premises of isolated barangay health stations in order to make their services available at any and all times, shall be entitled to subsistence allowance equivalent to the meals they take in the course of their duty, which shall be computed in accordance with prevailing circumstances as determined by the local government unit concerned.
- d. **Training, Education and Career Enrichment Programs** - The MHO, in coordination with the Department of Health and other concerned government agencies and non-government organizations, shall provide opportunities for the following:
 - 1. educational programs which shall recognize years of primary health care service as credits to higher education in institutions with stepladder curricula that will entitle barangay health workers to upgrade their skills and knowledge for community work or to pursue further training as midwives, pharmacists, nurses or doctors;
 - 2. continuing education, study and exposure tours, training, grants, field immersion, scholarships, etc.;

3. preferential access to scholarship benefits in the form of educational assistance to be granted to one child of every barangay health worker from any available scholarship programs of the government; and

4. special training programs such as those on traditional medicine, disaster preparedness and other programs that address emergent community health problems and issues.

e. **Civil Service Eligibility.** A second grade eligibility shall be granted to barangay health workers who have rendered five (5) years continuous service as such: Provided, That should the barangay health worker become a regular employee of the government, the total number of years served as barangay health worker shall be credited to his/her service in computing retirement benefits.

f. **Free Legal Services.** Legal representation and consultation services for barangay health workers shall be immediately provided by the Public Attorneys Office in cases of coercion, interference, and in other civil cases and criminal cases filed by or against barangay health workers arising out of or in connection with the performance of their duties as such;

g. **Gratuity Pay.** Recognizing the vital role of BHWs in the municipality, they shall be entitled to a retirement benefits amounting to Twenty Five Thousand Pesos (Php 25,000.00) upon reaching the age of sixty (60) and/or actively rendered primary health care services for at least twenty five (25) years, subject for increase and review every after five (5) years depending upon the availability of funds to be sourced out from the available fund of the Office of the Municipal Health Officer; and

h. **Preferential Access to Loans.** The MHO in coordination with other concerned government agencies shall provide preferential access to loans from any available lending institutions in the municipality.

SECTION 7. Review by the Local Health Board. Every incentive or benefit for barangay health workers requiring the expenditure of local funds shall be reviewed and approved by the local health board to ensure that only the deserving barangay health workers get the same.

SECTION 8. Funding. An additional amount is hereby appropriated under the 5% GAD Fund for the Incentives and Benefits of BHWs and for the implementation of this Ordinance.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid, the remainder or any provision hereof not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

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SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, executive orders and other presidential issuances, which are inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. Effectivity. This Ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication.

ENACTED, September 18, 2023.


I HEREBY ATTEST that the foregoing ordinance, which was duly enacted by the Sangguniang Bayan of Palanan, Isabela during its **Regular Session**.


NELIA ALAMO-PLATA
Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan

CERTIFIED TO BE DULY ENACTED:


MICHAEL D. RAMILO
Acting Municipal Vice Mayor &
Temporary Presiding Officer

APPROVED:


ROBERT B. NERI
Acting Municipal Mayor
Date: 09-21-2023


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