



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN
Lingayen
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OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN SECRETARY

CERTIFICATION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that at the regular session duly constituted of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Province of Pangasinan, held on February 22, 2021 at Lingayen, Pangasinan, the following provincial ordinance was approved:

Authored by SP Member Jeremy Agerico B. Rosario and co-authored by all Members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan

PROVINCIAL ORDINANCE NO. 258-2021

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE OPERATION OF THE PANGASINAN MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS LABORATORY

WHEREAS, the State is mandated to protect and promote the right to health of the people under Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, and local government units are empowered to exercise necessary, appropriate and incidental powers for its efficient governance in promotion of general welfare, as provided by Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as Local Government Code of 1991;

WHEREAS, in order to ensure that laboratory results to detect emerging and re-emerging diseases be obtained properly, efficiently and expeditiously, the Pangasinan Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory was established by virtue of Provincial Ordinance No. 245-2020;

WHEREAS, Department of Health Administrative Order No. 2007-0027, dated August 7, 2007, titled "Revised Rules and Regulations Governing the Licensure and Regulation of Clinical laboratories in the Philippines" provides the revised minimum standards for clinical laboratories which ensure the accuracy and precision of laboratory examinations in order to safeguard public health and safety;

WHEREAS, Department of Health Administrative Order (A.O.) No. 2020-0014 dated April 7, 2020, titled "Guidelines in Securing a License to Operate a COVID-19 Testing Laboratory in the Philippines" was issued as a strategy to expand the testing capacity for SARS-CoV-2 in the country;

WHEREAS, Provincial Resolution No. 477-2020 entitled: Urging Local Government Units in the Province of Pangasinan to Allocate Augmentation of Funds for the Purchase of Needed Test Materials, specifically the Viral Transport Medium (VTM), for the use of their constituents undergoing COVID-19 Tests at the Pangasinan Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory, was enacted as a joint responsibility between local government units to extend aid to the people of Pangasinan ensuring equal access and affordable laboratory diagnostic services;



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WHEREAS, provisional guidelines and standards should be set up in accordance with DOH A.O. No. 2020-0014, to ensure the sustainability and maintenance of quality and safety at all times of the molecular diagnostic's and laboratory facility of the Province;

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion of Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member Jeremy Agerico Rosario (Chairman on the Committee on Health), and co-authored by all Members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Pangasinan in regular session duly assembled hereby ordains;

Section 1. TITLE- This Ordinance shall be known as "An Ordinance Providing for the Operation of the Pangasinan Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory".

Section 2. PURPOSE- To provide assured quality laboratory services, thus ensuring accurate and expeditious laboratory diagnostic aid.

Section 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS- For purposes of this Ordinance, the following are defined as follows:

- a. **DOH** - Department of Health
- b. **LGU** - Local Government Unit
- c. **RT- PCR** - Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction, a PCR test designed to detect, measure and study RNA viruses. It allows a single strand of RNA to be translated into complementary DNA which will then be amplified following the routine PCR method.
- d. **4Ps** - Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program
- e. **PHIC** - Philippine Health Insurance Company
- f. **PPH** – Pangasinan Provincial Hospital
- g. **PMDL** – Pangasinan Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory
- h. **DOH-LTO** – Department of Health License to Operate, a formal authorization issued by the DOH through the Health Facilities and Services Regulatory Bureau (HFSRB) to an individual, partnership, corporation or association seeking to perform SARS-CoV-2 detection in a COVID-19 testing laboratory in compliance with the requirement prescribe in DOH Administrative Order.

Section 4. COVERAGE – The Pangasinan Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory shall cater to detection of Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases, particularly but not limited to COVID-19 related cases using the Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR), and shall serve the people within the territorial jurisdiction of the Province and extend its laboratory services to people from component municipalities and cities.