

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE CY 2024 – 41st REGULAR SESSION OF THE HONORABLE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN TIGBAUAN, ILOILO HELD AT THE S.B. SESSION HALL, TIGBAUAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING ON OCTOBER 9, 2024 AT 9:00 O’CLOCK IN THE MORNING

- PRESENT:**
- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| HON. LUGEN T. ORTILANO, | - | Vice Mayor & Presiding Officer |
| HON. ADRIAN S. CAMPOSAGRADO | - | SB Member |
| HON. NERI T. CAMIÑA | - | SB Member |
| HON. REYNALDO E. TUMABOTABO | - | SB Member |
| HON. JULIUS T. LEDESMA | - | SB Member |
| HON. NORBERTO T. TURALBA | - | SB Member |
| HON. JERRY T. TUARES | - | SB Member |
| HON. JOEL L. SAYSON | - | SB Member |
| HON. ANA ROWENA A. PERERA | - | SB Member |
| HON. GAYLORD T. TRASPORTO | - | Liga President |
| HON. FLORENCE JOY V. CABALONGA | - | SKMF President |

ABSENT: NONE

Municipal Ordinance No. 2024-030

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO DISTRESSED TIGBAUANON OVERSEAS MIGRANT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TIGBAUAN, PROVINCE OF ILOILO, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Author : HON. LUGEN T. ORTILANO
Moved by : Hon. Adrian S. Camposagrado
Sponsored by: Committee on Economic Affairs, Investment, Labor & Employment
Chairman: Hon. Lugen T. Ortilano
Vice Chairman: Hon. Adrian S. Camposagrado
Members: Hon. Norberto Turalba, Hon. Ana Rowena A. Perera and Hon. Gaylord Trasporto
Seconded by: Hon. Neri T. Camina, Hon.Reynaldo E. Tumabotabo, Hon. Julius T. Ledesma, Hon. Norberto T. Turalba, Hon. Jerry T. Tuares, Hon. Joel L. Sayson, Hon. Ana Rowena A. Perera, Hon. Gaylord T. Trasporto and Hon. Florence Joy V. Cabalonga

BE IT ORDAINED by the Sangguniang Bayan of the Municipality of Tigbauan that:

SECTION 1. Title - This Ordinance shall be known as the *"Tigbauan Distressed Overseas Migrant Workers Protection and Assistance Ordinance."*

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy

It is the policy of the Municipality of Tigbauan to recognize and uphold the rights of overseas migrant workers and their families. The Municipality is committed in promoting their welfare, ensuring their protection, and providing support to improve their quality of life.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms - For purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- a. **Overseas Migrant Worker** – Refers to any person from the Municipality of Tigbauan who is engaged, is being engaged, or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a foreign country
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under a contract of employment, whether land-based or sea-based, including those who have been repatriated or returned to the Philippines due to the completion of the contract or unforeseen circumstances. This includes both documented and undocumented workers, as well as those currently seeking overseas employment.

- b. **Distressed OFWs** – Refers to Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) who are facing difficult or crisis situations while working abroad, such as abuse, exploitation, human trafficking, contract violations, health issues, accidents, or other circumstances that compromise their safety, well-being, and rights. This also includes OFWs who are stranded, detained, or in need of urgent repatriation due to legal, financial, or personal issues.
- c. **Family Members** – Immediate family members of the overseas migrant worker, including spouse, children, and dependent relatives.
- d. **Welfare Services** – Services aimed at enhancing the well-being of overseas migrant workers and their families, including but not limited to healthcare, education, legal aid, and social support.

SECTION 4. Rights and Protections

1. **Employment Rights** – The Municipality shall work in collaboration with relevant agencies to ensure that overseas migrant workers are aware of their rights and receive fair treatment in their workplaces.
2. **Legal Assistance** – Overseas Migrant workers and their families shall have access to legal assistance for issues related to employment contracts, disputes, and other legal matters.
3. **Healthcare** – The Municipality shall facilitate access to basic healthcare services for overseas migrant workers and their families through partnerships with local health providers.
4. **Education** – Efforts shall be made to provide educational support for the children of overseas migrant workers, including scholarships and school supplies.
5. **Emergency Assistance** – Emergency relief and support services shall be available for overseas migrant workers and their families in cases of crisis or unforeseen circumstances.

SECTION 5. Creation of the Tigbauan Overseas Migrant Resource and Development Center (TOMRDC) under the Public Employment Service Office (PESO). The TOMRDC is hereby established within the PESO of Tigbauan. The TOMRDC shall serve as a dedicated facility to support and assist overseas migrant workers and their families.

SECTION 6. Functions of the Center

- a. **Information and Counseling Services** - The TOMRDC shall offer detailed information and personalized counseling of legal rights, employment opportunities, social services, and integration support for overseas migrant workers and their families.
- b. **Welfare Program Management** - The Center shall design, implement, and oversee welfare programs, including health services, educational support, financial assistance, and emergency relief tailored to the needs of overseas migrant workers.
- c. **Advocacy and Coordination** - The TOMRDC will advocate for overseas migrant workers' rights and collaborate with national and local agencies, NGOs, and community organizations to address issues affecting overseas migrant workers and improve their living and working conditions.
- d. **Resource Development** - The Center shall develop and manage resources such as informational materials, training programs, and financial aid to support and empower overseas migrant workers and their families.
- e. **Monitoring and Evaluation** - The TOMRDC will regularly monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of its programs and services, utilizing feedback from beneficiaries to make necessary improvements and ensure the Center's objectives are being met.

SECTION 7. Composition of the Center

- a. **Center Director** - The Center Director shall be appointed by the Municipal Mayor, will oversee the overall management and administration of the TOMRDC. The Director will be responsible for implementing policies, managing staff, and ensuring effective delivery of services.
- b. **Program Officers** - The TOMRDC shall include Program Officers specializing in various areas:
 - 1. *Legal Aid Officer* – Provides legal assistance and guidance on employment contracts, disputes, and other legal issues.
 - 2. *Healthcare Officer* – Coordinates health services and wellness programs for overseas migrant workers.
 - 3. *Education Officer* – Manages educational support initiatives, including scholarships and training opportunities.
 - 4. *Emergency Services Officer* – Oversees emergency relief and support services for overseas migrant workers facing crises.
- c. **Administrative Staff** – The Administrative staff will handle day-to-day operations, including reception, data management, record keeping, and client support.
- d. **Advisory Board** - An Advisory Board will be established to provide guidance and oversight for the TOMRDC. The Advisory Board will be composed of:
 - 1. **Municipal Mayor** as the Chairman
 - 2. **Municipal Vice Mayor** as Vice Chairman
 - 3. **Members**
 - a. SB Committee on Economic Affairs, Investment, Labor and Employment
 - b. Representative from the Public Employment Service Office (PESO)
 - c. Representative from the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO)
 - d. Representative from the Municipal Health Office
 - e. Representative from a local non-governmental organization (NGO) specializing in migrant workers
 - f. 2 Representative from overseas migrant workers' association

The Advisory Board will meet quarterly to review policies, programs, and the overall performance of the Center. The Board will also assist in strategic planning and ensuring that the Center's activities align with community goals.

SECTION 8. Administration under the Public Employment Service Office (PESO)

- a. **Integration with PESO** - The TOMRDC shall operate as a specialized unit under the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) of Tigbauan. The PESO will provide administrative support and ensure that the TOMRDC's activities align with the broader goals of employment and workforce development.
- b. **Operational Oversight** – The PESO shall oversee the administrative functions of the TOMRDC, including budget management, staffing, and operational procedures. The TOMRDC will adhere to PESO's administrative guidelines and reporting requirements.
- c. **Coordination with PESO** - The Center Director will work closely with PESO officials to ensure seamless coordination between the TOMRDC's programs and PESO's employment services. The Regular meetings will be held to discuss progress, address challenges, and align objectives.

SECTION 9. Operational Guidelines

- a. **Office Hours** - The TOMRDC shall operate during regular office hours as determined by the Municipality, with provisions for extended hours if necessary to accommodate the needs of the overseas migrant workers.

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- b. **Feedback Mechanism** - A feedback mechanism shall be established to allow overseas migrant workers and their families to provide input on the services offered by the TOMRDC. This feedback will be used to continuously improve the Center's programs and services.
- c. **Collaboration with Stakeholders** - The TOMRDC will collaborate with various stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and community groups, to enhance service delivery and address the needs of overseas migrant workers effectively.

SECTION 10. Financial Assistance to Distressed OFWs

1. Eligibility Criteria

- a. The applicant must be a resident of the Municipality of Tigbauan.
- b. The applicant must be a distressed OFW as defined in Section 3(b) of this Ordinance.
- c. The applicant must have a valid identification card and proof of residency.
- d. The applicant must provide documentation of their distressed situation, such as police reports, medical records, or other relevant documents.

2. Application Process

- a. The Distressed OFWs or their families may submit an application for financial assistance to the TOMRDC.
- b. The application form shall include the applicant's personal information, details of their distressed situation, and supporting documents.
- c. The TOMRDC shall review the application and supporting documents to verify the applicant's eligibility.

3. Assistance

The Distressed OFWs shall be eligible to receive financial assistance under Municipal Ordinance No. 2022-006 or known as *"Tigbauanon Para sa Tigbauanon Program for 2022."*

SECTION 11. Periodical Monitoring and Consultation with OFWs and their Organizations

1. **Monitoring** – The TMRDC, in coordination with the PESO, shall regularly monitor the conditions and welfare of OFWs from Tigbauan. This monitoring will include gathering data on employment conditions, health, and safety, as well as addressing any challenges faced by OFWs.
2. **Consultation with OFW Organizations** – The TOMRDC shall organize quarterly consultations with OFWs and their respective organizations to provide a platform for open discussion of issues, concerns, and proposals. This consultation process will ensure that migrant workers' voices are heard and will help in the continuous improvement of services offered by the Municipality.
3. **Feedback and Reporting** – Results of the monitoring activities and consultations shall be compiled into regular reports submitted to the Advisory Board and Sangguniang Bayan. These reports will be used to assess the effectiveness of policies and to develop action plans addressing any emerging needs of OFWs and their families.

SECTION 12. Appropriation – The PESO shall identify and include the budgetary requirements for the establishment and operation of TOMRDC in its annual budget. Thereafter, TOMRDC shall recommend to the Municipal Mayor, for approval of the Sangguniang Bayan, the annual budget necessary or incidental to the operation, administration and maintenance of the TOMRDC. The Municipal Treasurer's Office shall maintain transparent records of all expenditures related to the Center. Regular reports shall be submitted to the Office of the Municipal Mayor and made accessible to the public.

SECTION 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations - The Municipal Mayor's Office within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Ordinance, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Ordinance and the operation of the TOMRDC.

SECTION 14. Repealing Clause. All ordinances, rules, and regulations or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 15. Separability Clause. If for any reason, any part or provision of this Ordinance shall be held or declared to be invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in e

SECTION 16. Effectivity Clause. This Ordinance shall take effect after complying with the requirements as to mandatory posting as provided for under Section 59 of RA 7160.

APPROVED.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

MARLENE TAYO-NAVA
S.B. Secretary

ATTESTED:

LUGEN T. ORTILANO
Vice Mayor & Presiding Officer

APPROVED:

ATTY. VIRGILIO T. TERUEL
Municipal Mayor

(Date signed)

HON. LUGEN T. ORTILANO
Municipal Vice Mayor

Sangguniang Bayan Members:

HON. ADRIAN S. CAMPOSAGRADO
HON. NERI T. CAMIÑA
HON. REYNALDO E. TUMABOTABO

HON. JULIUS T. LEDESMA, O.D.
HON. NORBETO T. TURALBA
HON. JERRY T. TUARES, C.E.
HON. JOEL L. SAYSON

HON. ANA ROWENA ARIAS-PERERA, R.N. M.A.N.
HON. GAYLORD T. TRASPORTO, LNB President
HON. FLORENCE JOY V. CABALONGA, PPSK President