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Caraga Region XIII
PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE
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OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20-011 Series of 2020

AN ORDER STRENGTHENING PROVINCIAL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO PREVENT AND CONTROL ENTRY AND SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN THE PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) already declared that the 2019 coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is already a public health emergency on international concern having been infected thousands of people already all over the world;

WHEREAS, *Section 16 of the Local Government Code of 1991* mandated the Local Government Units, among other things, to promote health and safety of the people;

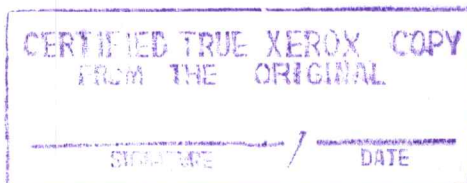
WHEREAS, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued Presidential Proclamation No. 922 on March 8, 2020, declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the entire Philippines, and prompting a whole-of-government approach addressing the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, in view of the above Presidential Proclamation, all government agencies and local government units (LGUs) are required to render full assistance and cooperation and mobilize the necessary resources to undertake critical, urgent, and appropriate response and measures in a timely manner to curtails and eliminate the threat of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the President, upon recommendation by the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Disease, raised the Code Alert Level for COVID-19 to Code Red Sublevel Two;

WHEREAS, the President issued Presidential Proclamation No. 929 on March 16, 2020, declaring the State of Calamity throughout the Philippines due to COVID-19 pursuant to R.A. No. 10121, or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 as per recommendation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), in order to afford the national government, as well as LGUs, ample latitude to utilize appropriate funds, including the Quick Response Fund, in their disaster preparedness and response efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to continue to provide basic services to the affected population;

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WHEREAS, the Regional Inter-Agency Task Force of Region XIII (Caraga) through the Regional Development Council (RDC), convened in order to adopt a harmonized guidelines of LGUs for the Regional Community Quarantine in Region XIII (Caraga) in light of foregoing provisions;

WHEREAS, the late Senator Meriam Defensor Santiago filed Senate Bill No. 1573, in the sixteenth congress, with a proposed short title "Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act;"

WHEREAS, on 25 March 2020, a group of medical doctors in our Province petitioned the undersigned to strictly implement a total provincial border closure at the soonest possible time due to several reasons but subject to certain exceptions;

NOW THEREFORE, I, ATTY. FRANCISCO T. MATUGAS, Provincial Governor of the Province of Surigao del Norte, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Creation of Provincial Medical and Disaster Response Reserve Corps. The Assistant Provincial Administrator for Health and Hospital Concerns and the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer, both of this Province, shall establish a provincial medical and disaster response reserve corps of volunteer health professionals and trained disaster responders. The provincial medical and disaster response reserve corps shall be called on duty at the soonest possible time.

SECTION 2. Checkpoints. There shall be several checkpoints to be established throughout this Province as follows:

2.1 Provincial Checkpoints. A Provincial Checkpoint shall be established in order to fortify the entrance and exit points of the province to be manned by composite teams of the Philippine National Police (PNP), Philippine Army (PA), Health Personnel, Disaster Response Personnel and representative from HEALS 911.

The Provincial Checkpoints shall cover all boundaries that provide the ingress and/or egress areas of the province to serve as the first line of defense of all that goes out and goes in the provincial boundaries.

2.2 Checkpoints at Seaports and Airports. There shall be a restriction of all commercial air flights and sea travel going in the province, except on movement of goods (food and non-food), like medicines and supplies via air and sea, provided, proper inspection procedure, disinfection, and proper handling of goods are observed.

Foreign and domestic vessels are prohibited from entering the territorial waters of the province except those carrying cargoes of basic goods and necessities, provided that all quarantine protocols are strictly followed and no crew shall be allowed to disembark the vessels. No human physical contact is allowed between the crew and the ground personnel.

Inter-island boat/vessel services going to and from Siargao (including Bucas Grande Island) and Dinagat Islands shall be temporarily suspended from 01 April 2020 to 14

April 2020, except those boat or vessel carrying food, medicines and medical supplies and equipment, provided proper inspection procedure, disinfection, and proper handling of goods are observed.

Existing protocols and guidelines by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) on managing the seaports and airports, respectively, on COVID-19 shall continue to apply.

2.3 Municipal Checkpoints within the province. All existing LGU checkpoints shall remain to serve as a second line of defense, provided that adjacent LGUs having common boundaries shall have a common or joint checkpoints between the LGUs manned by the composite teams of the adjacent LGUs. It shall be composed of PNP, AFP, Health personnel and representatives from both LGUs.

2.4 Barangay Checkpoints within the Province. All barangays within this province shall establish barangay checkpoints to serve as a third line of defense, provided that adjacent barangays having common boundaries shall have a common or joint checkpoints between the barangays manned by the composite teams of the adjacent barangays. It shall be composed of Barangay Health Emergency Responders and representatives from the barangay concerned.

2.5 Disinfection Protocols at Checkpoints. The Assistant Provincial Administrator for Health and Hospital Concerns in coordination with the Department of Health shall provide for the standard disinfection protocols for individuals and vehicles at the checkpoints.

2.6 Guidelines in Manning the Checkpoints:

a.) **Food Lane** - A Food Lane shall be provided in every checkpoint. The Department of Agriculture (DA) **together with the Provincial Agriculture Office** shall implement the "Food Lane Conduct Pass" in every checkpoint and the implementation of quarantine measures for the movement of food and other agricultural commodities.

All vehicles carrying essential food commodities, agri-fishery products and inputs, bearing government-issued stickers (provided by DA at checkpoints) must be allowed passage through the "Food Lanes."

Farm inputs - including seeds, feed ingredients and fertilizers would also be allowed access at quarantine checkpoints to ensure continuous production of staple and essential food items.

b.) **Express Lane** - An Express Lane shall be provided in every checkpoint for all Health Personnel in the public and private sector passing through, to include those personnel in the government in the frontline service and those that are identified as skeletal workforce.

c.) **Priority Lane** - A Priority Lane shall also be observed in every municipal or barangay checkpoint for the passage of senior citizens, pregnant women, persons needing medical attention, and other persons with urgent and emergency cases.

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d.) Passage of Vehicles Carrying Goods (food and non-food items that are essential commodities) - The passage of cargoes, such as food (fish, fruits, vegetables, agri-fisheries products), medicines, fuel, medical supplies and equipment, and other materials needed in agriculture and manufacturing (goods, basic commodities and other necessities) should not be hampered provided that they comply with the protocols in the established checkpoints.

Delivery trucks and any other transport of goods (food and non-food), considered as basic commodities, which are essential for the day - to - day survival of the general population, shall be allowed entrance to all LGUs, subject to disinfection and inspection protocols. The passage of vehicles carrying the goods shall be unhampered and shall not be delayed.

As per recommendation from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Region 13 (Caraga), the distributors, merchandisers, retailers and the like of the basic necessities shall present the following at the checkpoints for unhampered passage:

- Valid Identification (I.D.) Card of the driver and passenger/helper
- Vehicle Registration

The above requirements are, however, not limited. LGUs can require the following documents to ensure safety for the entry of the delivery trucks:

- Sales Invoice or Delivery Receipts
- Declaration Form (provided at checkpoints for the possible contract tracing)

e.) Limitation on Movement of Individuals. All persons allowed entry must be checked for signs and symptoms in the established checkpoints (e.g. fever, respiratory symptoms, diarrhea) and subject to questioning for travel history in accordance with the protocols and guidelines issued by the DOH.

All persons coming from a place with a confirmed local transmission shall be denied entry in the Province while this order is in effect.

Moreover, all residents of this Province may be allowed to leave but no longer allowed to go back in this province while this Order is effective.

Land, air and sea travel of uniformed and/or health personnel on official business, especially those transporting medical supplies, laboratory specimens related to COVID-19, and other humanitarian assistance, shall be allowed entry and exit at the checkpoints while observing proper disinfection protocols and presentation of the following requirements:

- Valid identification (ID) Card with the address and proof of residence
- Certification of Employment, or any proof of employment, or other similar document issued by head of agency of competent authority to show proof as part of the Skeletal Workforce and duly approved travel order/authority

However, no restriction shall be imposed on the entry and exit of the following, such as:

- Health Workers (whether public or private)
- Authorized Government officials and employees
- Persons transiting to airport for travel abroad
- Persons providing basic services and public utilities
- Those carrying basic necessities including medicines, and medical supplies and equipment

SECTION 3. Declaration of Enhanced Community Quarantine. No LGU shall declare and subsequently implement an Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) without prior consent and consultation with the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), unless, for imperative reasons following the provisions outlined in IATF Resolution No. 11, when there is already two (2) confirmed positive cases of COVID-19, within a barangay / city / municipality / province.

In any instant case, when one LGU declares an ECQ, all the other LGUs in the entire province shall also declare the same to aggressively respond to the impending danger and threat. As such, all LGUs shall then follow the specific guidelines for an ECQ.

SECTION 4. Massive Province-Wide Disinfection. The DOH shall provide the guidelines or instructions for a massive province-wide disinfection in all households, vehicles and establishments in all LGUs in the province.

SECTION 5. Unified Provincial Curfew Hours. There shall be a unified provincial curfew hour in the province from **9:00 PM to 4:00 AM**. The PNP shall conduct regular monitoring in these hours in order to ensure that no individual violates the curfew hours.

SECTION 6. Movement of Individuals within the Province. A home quarantine shall be observed in all households. Everyone is required to stay at home except those who are going to work subject to the applicable provisions of this guideline. Movement shall be limited to accessing basic necessities.

The following persons who are at high-risk in contracting the disease are advised NOT to go out (24 hours curfew):

- Senior Citizens
- Pregnant women
- Children
- Persons with pre-existing medical conditions (e.g. hypertension, cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or those who are immunocompromised or with co-morbidities)

The Punong Barangay is hereby mandatorily tasked to check the compliance of the residents.

SECTION 7. Suspension of Classes. Classes and all school activities in all levels shall continue to be suspended until further orders. All students are instructed to stay at home and are prohibited from going outside for the whole duration of this order.

SECTION 8. Work in the Government Government offices may adopt the "Alternative Work Arrangements" as per Civil Service Commission issuance.

The following workers in the government are excluded from alternative work arrangements:

- PNP, AFP, PCG, and other Uniformed Personnel
- Personnel involved in health work, border control, emergency and other mission-critical services
- Emergency frontline services

No travels/ seminars/ trainings/ events are allowed. Defer Flag ceremony and the use of biometrics.

SECTION 9. Work in the Private Sector. Only those private establishments providing basic necessities and such activities related to food and medicine production, i.e., public markets, supermarkets, groceries, convenience stores, hospitals, medical clinics, pharmacies and drug stores, food preparation and delivery services, water- refilling stations, manufacturing and processing plants of basic food products and medicines, banks, money transfer services, power, energy, water and telecommunications supplies and facilities, shall be open.

In all such open establishments, their respective management shall ensure the adoption of a compressed work week or a strict skeletal workforce to support operations, as well as, strict social distancing measures. The management may also adopt other alternative work arrangements for their employees.

Employers in the private sector should coordinate with DOLE for the cash assistance to be given to their employees.

Employers should extend financial help or assistance to their employees; may grant prorated 13th month pay and service vehicles in going to and from the workplace.

SECTION 10. Regulation on Public Utilities. All basic utilities should continue to operate:

- Water
- Electricity
- Telecommunications

Other critical services should remain open:

- Garbage collection
- Funeral services
- Internet services
- Gasoline Stations
- Water Refilling Stations
- Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Stations

SECTION 11. Regulation on the Operation of Business Establishments and Health Institutions

a.) Establishments that shall continue to operate (provided that the establishment strictly follows the procedures on social distancing)

- Groceries
- Supermarkets
- Sari Sari Stores
- Pharmacies / Drug Stores
- Convenience Stores
- Hospitals
- Medical Clinics / Laboratories
- Banks and ATMs
- Money Transfer Services
- Courier Services
- Auto-repair Services
- Laundry Shops
- Printing Press
- Private Business Offices
- Offices of doctors, dentists, optometrists, lawyers, public accountants, architects, engineers and other related professional services.

b.) Restaurants, cenderias, food chains and the like are limited to take out services only.

c.) Establishments that are required to close temporarily:

- Mining and mineral processing plants
- Casinos and gambling places (e-games / slot machines)
- Primary and secondary tourism-related establishments
- Hotels (should not accept any new bookings)
- Computer shops/ internet cafe
- Videoke bar
- Fitness gym
- Movie house
- Hardwares

SECTION 12. Regulation on Price Control. The Local Price Coordinating Councils (LPCC) should activate and monitor the prices of goods, commodities and other basic necessities, particularly in the selling of alcohols, bleaching agents, and the like. LGUs shall enforce measures to control the unreasonable rise in the prices of basic commodities and other commercial services to the detriment of the public.

The provincial representative of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) shall extend technical assistance to the LPCC to ensure that the latter shall conduct effective and efficient way of monitoring the prices of goods and commodities.

SECTION 13. Public Transportation. Passengers of all public transportation (bus, jeepney, van, taxi, tricycle, pedicab, sea crafts, ferry boats, and roll on-roll off vessels) should be regulated and must strictly observe social distancing measures. This can be done by observing the "one seat apart" policy or specific number of

passengers including the mandatory wearing of masks by the driver and passenger(s). The Guidelines issued by the Department of Transportation (DOTr) pursuant to the IATF-EID, the following shall be implemented.

SECTION 14. Prohibition on Gatherings, Events, or any kind of Mass Gathering regardless of size. The general public is prohibited to attend, participate in, and organize events that draw a huge number of attendees.

Ban on the following:

- Concerts
- Sports events
- Cockfight or “sabong”
- Fiestas
- Street gambling (all types e.g. tong-its, damang)
- Parties

SECTION 15. Activation / Reactivation of LDRRMCs. All Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils (LDRRMCs) shall be activated/ re-activated with Emergency Operations Center (EOC) that is functional and operates 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

SECTION 16. Hotlines. LGUs shall provide HOTLINE Numbers (Cellphone, Telephone Numbers) or any other Contact Details to the community for those needing assistance:

- Persons needing medical assistance (suspected with COVID-19)
- Persons needing transportation assistance, especially for those commuting from one place to another and crossing / traversing different LGU borders
- Persons needing assistance at checkpoints
- Persons needing assistance for food and other basic commodities
- Persons needing assistance on unlawful activities (may include like PUI on the run or has escaped the facility)

On the part of the Provincial Government of Surigao del Norte, hotlines are indicated at HEALS 911 Facebook Page, with the following call center agents:

Time	Agent	Hotline Number
6:01 AM to 2:00PM	Mar	0909-829-2980
	Mab	0930-685-9855
	Marn	0909-464-7924
2:01 PM to 10:00PM	Reo	0912-098-1350
	Cha	0948-115-4074
	Irine	0946-836-3137
10:01 PM to 6:00 AM	Jes	0950-639-1853
	Pet	0927-162-2234
	Kent	0909-482-8912

For any COVID-19 related concerns, the LGUs are advised to contact the DOH Caraga through their Hotline numbers:

- (085) 817-6546
- 0945-359-2632 (Globe)
- 0948-224-1857 (Smart)

SECTION 17. Social Distancing Measures. LGUs shall strictly implement Social Distancing Measures to avoid the spread of COVID-19.

Social distancing is defined as the strict maintenance of a distance of a least one meter radius between people.

DTI shall ensure that private establishments in operation strictly maintain social distancing in their businesses.

Government offices shall also observe stringent social distancing measures.

SECTION 18. Peace and Order in the Province. The Philippine National Police shall be in-charge in ensuring the maintenance of peace and order in the entire province as well as all the LGUs within the province. LGUs must implement measures to reduce public unrest which may include information, education, and communication activities

No LGU is to impose measures not otherwise sanctioned by the Province.

SECTION 19. Coordination with the Provincial Government. LGUs shall continuously coordinate primarily with the provincial Oplan Away COVID-19 Task Force.

SECTION 20. No Buffet Policy. Temporary implementation of "No Buffet Policy" in all official activities to mitigate the spread of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

For those in the frontline services:

- Meals must be served in plates and appropriately covered / wrap consistent with the local ordinances in their respective LGUs and / or packed individually in biodegradable material.
- Require the service provider(s) to wear protective clothing (face mask, hairnets, and gloves) when preparing, cooking, and serving food.

SECTION 21. Hospitals for the Consultation / Treatment of Possible COVID19 Patients

Licensed Level 2 and 3 Hospitals are equipped with isolation rooms at the Emergency and Inpatient Departments as well as the capability to manage infectious disease.

As such, all level 2 and 3 hospitals are hereby directed to attend all patients including those suspected to have the COVID-19 who are seeking consultations/treatment in these hospitals.

SECTION 22. Role of LGUs. The LGUs shall render full assistance and cooperation to affected families and members of the community by utilizing their appropriate resources.

The LGUs must be guided by their roles and responsibilities outlined in DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2020-023 dated 6 February 2020 Re: Amended Guide to Action Against the 2019 Novel Corona Virus Acute Respiratory Disease and DILG Advisory dated 10 March 2020 Re: Compliance to DOH Circulars and Advisories, particularly on the following:

For Mayors:

- Direct the Punong Barangays to identify and recommend an enclosed structure, such as empty house or building which can be used or designated as Barangay Isolation Unit (BIU) or Barangay Special Care Facility (BSCF). It is upon the sound discretion of the Mayors to decide on the number and location of the BSCF as advised by the Local Health Officer (LHO) and in close coordination with the DOH.
- Organize the BHERTS and request for training from the LHO since they will conduct visits, interviews, and caring for and managing of the PUM at the BSFC, if there is any.
- Provide BHERT members, ambulance crew, driver, health workers and PNP / BFP personnel who will potentially be exposed to or get in direct contact with a PUM, with the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and ensure adequate surface thereof.
- Direct LHO to ensure all BHERT members of the ambulance crew, other local health workers: PNP and BFP personnel who will potentially exposed to or get in contact with the DOH, on the proper donning and doffing of PPEs, including its proper disposal and the disposal of associated infectious wastes, the DOs and DONTs in conducting an interview with, and the proper and safe management of a PUM, before entering the BSCF during their stay and after completing the 14-day quarantine.
- Direct the LHO to issue a Certificate of Completion of Quarantine for the discharge of a PUM from the quarantine completing the 14 day period.

For Governor:

- Convene the COVID-19 Task Force
- Monitor the status and progress of the actions taken by their concerned LGUs and assess their capability and capacity to properly manage the situation.

- Extend assistance to LGUs in need of support, such as but not limited to, medical and emergency response teams, supplies and relief goods to the LGUs upon request.
- Prepare their respective Provincial Health Facilities in coordination with the DOH Center for Health Development to provide surge capacity in case of a high number of PUIs coming out of BUIs/BSCF
- Provide other forms of support, as necessary.

SECTION 23. Distribution of Relief Goods. The distribution of relief goods by the LGUs must be in a manner that avoids gathering of people. Barangays may deliver the relief goods to the houses of qualified beneficiaries following social distancing. As much as possible, we shall follow the pronouncement of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on the timing of the relief goods distribution, to wit:

- First wave.** This should come from the Quick Response Fund and/or 20% Development Fund of the barangay;
- Second wave.** This should come from the Quick Response Fund, 20% Development Fund of the City/Municipality, and such other funds that may be legally used by the City/Municipality in preventing and control of spread of COVID-19; and
- Third wave.** This should come from the Quick Response Fund, 20% Development Fund and such other funds that may be legally used by this Province preventing and control of spread of COVID-19.

SECTION 24. Management of the Dead: Handling and Disposal of the Remains of COVID-19 Patients. Pursuant to IATF Resolution No. 15, Series of 2020 dated March 24, 2020, the following actions are recommended for the proper handling and disposal of the remains of COVID-19 confirmed cases and PUIs:

- In handling the remains of COVID-19 cases, general infection precautions must be strictly observed to avoid further spread of the disease;
- LGUs must designate funeral service facilities to handle the remains of COVID-19 cases and to provide possible financial assistance to cover the logistics, fuel, salary, and other expenses that will be incurred in the process; and
- LGUs and the DILG shall monitor and penalize funeral homes that refuse to provide logistics and transport of COVID-19 remains, including but not limited to, refusal to pick-up the remains subjected to the policies and guidelines of the aforementioned LGUs or DILG;
- The DSWD shall allocate amounts for a funeral support fund allocated to indigent confirmed COVID-19 cases and PUIs regardless whether they are undergoing home quarantine, or admitted in a public or private facility. DSWD shall allot PhP25,000.00 per deceased for this purpose;
- The LGU may release issuances or ordinances to out a price cap or impose a price freeze on funeral services located within their jurisdiction;

- f.) To reiterate, funeral services staff and personnel are granted exemptions from the imposed enhanced community quarantine. The said individuals may freely move and travel to ensure that the remains of deceased individuals will be given proper funeral services; and
- g.) Funeral companies are directed to provide transportation and/or housing accommodations for funeral service staff.

SECTION 25. Repealing Clause. All prior orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby deemed modified or amended accordingly;

SECTION 26. Separability Clause. If any Section or part of this Order is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect; and

SECTION 27. Effectivity. This order shall be effective from **01 April 2020 until lifted**. This order may also be supplemented by the succeeding memoranda that shall be issued by the undersigned in order to address whatever developments that may happen thereafter.

Done this 28th day of March 2020 at the Kapitolyo Nan Siargao, Dapa, Surigao del Norte.



ATTY. FRANCISCO T. MATUGAS
Provincial Governor