Republic of the Philippines
Province of Laguna
Municipality of Los Baños
Special Science and Nature City
OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN
2/F, Municipal Building, National Highway, Brgy. Timugan, Los Baños, Laguna, 4030
Tel. Nos. : (049) 530 2981; 530 2952; 530 2953; 530 2818 Local: 2001

BAGONG PILIPINAS

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH (25TH) REGULAR SESSION OF THE 12TH SANGGUNIANG BAYAN HELD ON FEBRURARY 02, 2026 AT THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN SESSION HALL, NATIONAL HIGHWAY, BRGY. TIMUGAN, LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA.

PRESENT:

Hon. Marlo PJ A. Alipon	Municipal Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer
Hon. Miko C. Pelegrina	S.B. Member
Hon. Aldous Amiel B. Perez	S.B. Member
Hon. Muriel Laisa B. Dizon	S.B. Member
Hon. Leren Mae M. Bautista	S.B. Member
Hon. Benedicto S. Alborida	S.B. Member
Hon. Rand Edouard R. De Jesus	S.B. Member
Hon. Myla E. Alinsunurin	S.B. Member
Hon. Jay G. Rolusta	S.B. Member
Hon. Gaudencio P. Macatangay	Ex-Officio Member/Liga President
Hon. Samantha Nicole A. Banasihan-Ortega	Ex-Officio Member/SK Federation President

ABSENT:

None

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-2473

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE USE OF POLITICAL IMAGES, NAMES, TAGLINES, SIGNS, AND ITS ALIKE IN ALL GOVERNMENT-FUNDED PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, PROPERTIES, AND ISSUANCES, INCLUDING ONLINE AND DIGITAL PLATFORMS, IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LOS BAÑOS.

Author : Councilor Aldous Amiel B. Perez

WHEREAS, Article XI, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates that "Public office is a public trust," necessitating that public officers serve with utmost accountability, integrity, and efficiency;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 6713, otherwise known as the "Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees", under Section 4(a), provides a safeguarding provision to ensure that public officers will exhibit professionalism at all cost, therefore prohibiting them from using their position for self-vested interests;

WHEREAS, the Department of Interior and Local Government, through its landmark Memorandum Circular No. 2026-006, prohibits the display and/or affixture of the name, image, and likeness of government officials on all government projects;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Audit through Memorandum No. 2013-004 classifies the use of names and images of public officers on signages and infrastructures funded by the government as unnecessary and irregular expenditure;

WHEREAS, it is truly right and just that government-funded programs, projects, and properties must belong only to the public;

NOW THEREFORE, on motion of Councilor Aldous Amiel B. Perez duly seconded by Councilors Miko C. Pelegrina and Benedicto S. Alborida and approved by all councilors present;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN, in session assembled, that:

SECTION 1. **SHORT TITLE**. This ordinance shall be known as the "Anti-Epal Ordinance of Los Baños".

SECTION 2. **DECLARATION OF POLICY**. It is hereby declared the policy of the Municipal Government of Los Baños (MGLB) to provide just and accountable service to its people. The Municipal Government recognizes the importance of educating our people, thereby stressing that public services and the tangible outputs that are inherent to it are funded through the collective effort of our taxpayers.; thus, the delivery of such services shall be devoid of personality-based politics, placing the welfare of the constituents at the forefront of all administrative actions.

SECTION 3. **OBJECTIVES.** This ordinance is enacted to achieve the following:

(a) To prohibit the use of political images, names, taglines, signs, and its alike in all government-funded programs, projects, properties, and issuances within the municipality, including those posted through online and digital platforms;

(b) To institutionalize transparency regarding the sourcing of government funds and further educate the people on how the same works;

(c) To prevent the politicization of government-funded programs, projects, properties, and issuances, and ensure their long-term utility across successive administrations; and

(d) To establish a robust mechanism for citizen-led reporting and accountability.

SECTION 4. **PROHIBITED ACTS.** The use and display of the following elements and its alike on any government-funded programs, projects, properties, and issuances, including those published digitally or made available through online platform, is strictly prohibited under this ordinance:

(a) Images, portraits, photographic likeness, silhouettes, or any of its equivalent, of elected or appointed government officials;

(b) Names or nicknames of elected or appointed government officials;

(c) Initials, logos, signs, or colors that are uniquely associated with elected and appointed government officials; and

(d) Slogans, mottos, or brandings that are uniquely associated to elected and appointed government officials.

SECTION 5. **EXEMPTIONS.** The use of the following shall be exempted from this ordinance:

(a) For Section 4(c) of this ordinance, the colors blue and white, as the official colors of the Municipal Government, provided that its possible association to any elected or appointed public official is unintentionally politically inherent.

(b) Public places, buildings, institutions, and its alike that are made in consistent with the provisions of Republic Act 1059, including a memorial marker made in honor of a deceased official with due legislation from the Sangguniang Bayan.

SECTION 6. **PROPER NAMING.** In lieu of the prohibitions set forth under Section 4 of this ordinance, all government-funded programs, projects, properties, issuances, and its alike shall be exclusively named, tagged, and identified using the following standard formats as may be fitting:

(a) Municipal Government of Los Baños;

(b) A Project of the (name of involved unit/s);

(c) A program of the (name of involved unit/s);

(d) ...in partnership with (name of involved unit/s);

(e) Sangguniang/Pamahalaang Barangay ng (name of barangay);

(f) Any formal and non-political title with the equivalence of the five preceding subsections.

SECTION 7. **IMPLEMENTING AND OVERSEEING AGENCIES.** The following offices are hereby mandated to implement, ensure, and oversee the efficacy of this ordinance:

(a) Office of the Municipal Mayor – for the municipal-wide oversight.

(b) Municipal Local Government Operations Office – for the oversight of public programs and local governance, and issuance of formal notices.

(c) Municipal Engineering Office – for public infrastructures and all that may fall within its jurisdiction.

(d) Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office – for social grants, aids, relief efforts, and all that may fall within its jurisdiction.

(e) Local Commission on Elections – for programs and projects primarily executed during campaign and election periods, and all that may fall within its jurisdiction.

(f) Public Information Office – for the vetting and approval of publication materials for physical and digital dissemination, including the regulation of such content across electronic and online platforms, and the rest that may fall within its jurisdiction.

(g) Barangay Offices – for barangay-based programs, projects, issuances, and all its alike, and the rest that may fall within its jurisdiction.

(h) Committee on Good Governance, Public Ethics, and Accountability of the Sangguniang Bayan – for inquiry and legislative oversight of the offices enumerated from Section 8(b) to Section 8(g) of this ordinance.

(g) Other offices as may be identified by the Municipal Mayor or the Sangguniang Bayan through proper legislation.

SECTION 8. **MANDATORY COMPLIANCE AND RETROACTIVITY.** All existing and future government-funded programs, projects, properties, and issuances containing any of the elements prohibited under Section 4 of this ordinance must be taken down, removed, replaced, or amended accordingly. Such action which emanates from any given oversight shall be taken forthwith and without the necessity of prior notice to the posting unit or official.

SECTION 9. **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND REPORTING.** Any citizen of the municipality may report an alleged violation of this ordinance to any of the implementing and overseeing agencies listed under Section 7. The office who received the said report shall investigate the same within two (2) working days, with copies of the investigation results furnished to the Office of the Municipal Mayor and the Municipal Local Government Operations Office. Should the report be proven true and verified, the Municipal Local Government Operations Office, in exercise of this ordinance and the DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2026-006, shall, within one (1) working day, serve a formal notice to the identified posting official or unit, directing them to take down, replace, or amend the identified violative material within two (2) working days.

SECTION 10. **PENALTY.** In the event a posting official or unit fails to comply with the directive to take down, remove, replace, or amend the identified violative material within two (2) working days, or fails to report compliance to the Municipal Local Government Operations Office within the same period, the concerned overseeing office may, at its discretion:

(a) Exercise its authority to summarily take down or remove the violative material, whenever possible; and/or

(b) Report the violator to the Department of Interior and Local Government, through the Municipal Local Government Operations Office, for administrative and/or criminal charges and sanctions as provided under DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2026-006.

SECTION 11. **APPROPRIATION.** The budget required for the effective implementation of this ordinance, including the removal or replacement of existing non-compliant materials which are directly owned by the Municipal Government or the barangays within its jurisdiction, shall directly be attributed to that of the concerned office, or appropriated accordingly for this purpose.

SECTION 12. **NON-DIMINUTION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION.** Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed as a hindrance to the public's right to information. The concerned offices shall provide factual details regarding the affected projects, programs, and properties, including but not limited to the budget, duration, and contractor, provided that such information is presented without political branding and/or association.

SECTION 13. **FUTURE AMENDMENTS.** All future amendments, modifications, and repeals concerning this ordinance shall be made in full-compliance with the directives set forth by DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2026-006, and the non-negotiable principle that public funds are solely owned by the general public; consequently, no government official, in any elected or appointed capacity, may affix their identities to or claim credit for them.

SECTION 14. **REPEALING CLAUSE.** All prior ordinances, including but not limited to Ordinance No. 2025-2422, rules, and regulations or parts that are inconsistent with any provision of this ordinance are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 15. **SEPARABILITY CLAUSE**. If, for any reason, any part or provision of this ordinance be suspended, revoked, or declared unconstitutional and invalid by a judicial court, other parts or the provisions thereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 16. **EFFECTIVITY.** This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

ENACTED : FEBRUARY 2, 2026

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the above-quoted Ordinance.

DONA T. ALBORIDA - DIZON
Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan

CERTIFIED ENACTED:

HON. MARLO PJ A. ALIPON, MPA, REE, RMP
Municipal Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer

APPROVED:

HON. NEIL ANDREW N. NOCON
Municipal Mayor