Republic of the Philippines
QUEZON CITY COUNCIL
Quezon City
22nd City Council

PR22CC-490

35th Regular Session

RESOLUTION NO. SP-9307, S-2023

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MAYOR, HONORABLE MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE, TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT – FIELD OFFICE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A STRATEGIC HELPDESK FOR INFORMATION, EDUCATION, LIVELIHOOD, AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL INTERVENTIONS (S.H.I.E.L.D.) AGAINST CHILD LABOR IN QUEZON CITY

Introduced by Councilors EDGAR "Egay" G. YAP, KATE GALANG-COSETENG, and GELEEN "Dok G" G. LUMBAD
Co-Introduced by Councilors Tany Joe "TJ" L. Calalay, Dorothy A. Delarmente, M.D., Joseph P. Juico, Charm M. Ferrer, Fernando Miguel "Mikey" F. Belmonte, Candy A. Medina, Aly Medalla, Dave C. Valmocina, Tatay Rannie Z. Ludovica, Godofredo T. Liban II, Albert Alvin "Chuckie" L. Antonio III, Don S. De Leon, Wencerom Benedict C. Lagumbay, Atty. Anton L. Reyes, Imee A. Rillo, Raquel S. Malañgen, Irene R. Belmonte, Nanette Castelo-Daza, Marra C. Suntay, Joseph Joe Visaya, Alfred Vargas, MPA, Ram V. Medalla, Shaira "Shay" L. Liban, Aiko S. Melendez, Mutya Castelo, Maria Eleanor "Doc Ellie" R. Juan, O.D., Kristine Alexia R. Matias, Eric Z. Medina, Emmanuel Banjo A. Pilar, Vito Sotto Generoso, Victor "Vic" Bernardo, Alfredo "Freddy" Roxas and Julian Marcus D. Trono

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WHEREAS, Article 32(1) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1990, stipulates that "State parties confirm that children have the right to be protected from economic exploitation and any activities that may hinder or affect children's education or harm children's health or physical, mental, or spiritual, moral or social development work";

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a signatory to the International Labor Organization Convention No. 182 on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor. Article 7 of the said Convention No. 182 states that "Each member shall, taking into account the importance of education in eliminating child labour, take effective and time-bound measures to: a) prevent the engagement of children in the worst forms of child labour; b) provide the necessary and appropriate direct assistance for the removal of children from the worst forms of child labour and for their rehabilitation and social integration; c) ensure access to free basic education, and, wherever possible and appropriate, vocational training, for all children removed from the worst forms of child labour; d) identify and reach out to children at special risk; and e) take account of the special situation of girls";

WHEREAS, Section 13, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that it is the policy of the State to recognize the vital role of the youth in nation-building, and to promote and protect the youth's physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7610, otherwise known as the "Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act", as amended by Republic Act No. 9231, declares it the policy of the State to provide special protection to children from all forms of abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation, and discrimination and other conditions prejudicial to their development;

WHEREAS, the Philippines having signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on January 26, 1990, recognizes the right of each child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 32(2) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, State Parties shall take legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to ensure the policies against child labor. To this end, and having regard to the provisions of other international instruments, State Parties shall, in particular, provide for a minimum age or minimum ages for admission to employment, appropriate regulation of the hours and conditions of employment and appropriate penalties or other sanctions to ensure the effective enforcement of the said Article;

WHEREAS, this Ordinance is aligned with the Philippine Program Against Child Labor (PPACL) as a nationwide program for the prevention and elimination of child labor in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, there is a need to institutionalize local structures against child labor, pursuant to Section 6 of Executive Order No. 92, Series of 2019, "Institutionalizing the National Council Against Child Labor to Upscale the Implementation of the Philippine Program Against Child Labor";

WHEREAS, the National Council Against Child Labor (NCACL), created under Executive Order No. 92 issued on September 17, 2019, is tasked to amplify government efforts for the protection of the rights of vulnerable sectors, especially the children, strengthen related institutional mechanisms, and establish further measures to contribute to the prevention, reduction, and elimination of any form of child labor;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 34, Series of 2022, entitled "An Order Reorganizing the Quezon City Council for the Protection of Children, Updating its Committees, Sub-committees, and Functions," declares the need to reintegrate and synchronize policies, programs, and services for children, and to ensure their effective implementation and efficiency in the utilization of resources dedicated for the protection of children;

WHEREAS, based on the fourth State of the City's Children Report in Quezon City as of the last quarter of 2022, there are 1,029,684 children living in the City. Among the said number, the City's Public Employment Services Office (PESO) has listed 10,222 (5,449 male and 4,773 female) children who were victims of child labor;

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2022, Quezon City Mayor Ma. Josefina G. Belmonte signed Executive Order No. 41 to create the Task Force Sampaguita (TFS) in order to develop a comprehensive plan to save children from prohibited child labor and to provide viable livelihood and employment opportunities to parents and family members of child laborers;

WHEREAS, it is the declared policy and principle of the Quezon City Government to recognize the inherent rights of the children to survival, development, protection, and participation in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant Philippine laws;

WHEREAS, the Quezon City Council enacted Ordinance No. SP-2180, S-2012, otherwise known as the Quezon City Children's Code of 2012, codifying and strengthening local legislation to ensure a child-friendly Quezon City;

WHEREAS, the Quezon City Government, through the PESO, has a child labor program formed to help child laborers and their families have access to social protection, including education, child protection and decent work;

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) issued Administrative Order No. 14, Series of 2018, entitled "Omnibus Guidelines on Social Technology Development", mandating their DSWD Social Technology Bureau to formulate social welfare and development models of interventions and enhance existing programs and services to address emerging social issues;

WHEREAS, the DSWD developed, pilot-tested and evaluated a model of intervention entitled "Strategic Helpdesks for Information, Education, Livelihood, and other Developmental Interventions (S.H.I.E.L.D.) against Child Labor" to respond to the needs of the child laborers and their families;

WHEREAS, the DSWD recognizes the role of government agencies, non-government organizations, and local government units in ensuring the success of the implementation of the program, particularly through exchange of vital information, technical assistance, and provision of support services to child laborers and their families;

WHEREAS, the Quezon City Government agreed to adopt the S.H.I.E.L.D. Project against Child Labor in Quezon City to ensure protection, optimum participation, growth and development of child laborers and their families;

WHEREAS, the DSWD – Field Office National Capital Region agrees to provide the Quezon City Government with capability-building activities, technical assistance and other activities related to the implementation of the S.H.I.E.L.D. Project;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 22(c) and 455(b)(1)(vi) of the Local Government Code of 1991, prior authorization by the Sangguniang Panglungsod is necessary for purposes of passing this Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF QUEZON CITY IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED, to authorize, as it does hereby authorize, the City Mayor, Honorable Ma. Josefina G. Belmonte, to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Social Welfare and Development – Field Office National Capital Region, for the implementation of a Strategic Helpdesk for Information, Education, Livelihood, and other Developmental Interventions (S.H.I.E.L.D.) against Child Labor in Quezon City.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that a copy of the subject Memorandum of Agreement shall form an integral part of this Resolution.

ADOPTED: June 19, 2023.

BERNARD R. HERRERA
City Councilor
Acting Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:

ATTY. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS, III
City Government Department Head III
(City Council Secretary)

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this Resolution was APPROVED by the City Council on Second Reading on June 19, 2023 and was CONFIRMED under Suspended Rules on the same date.

ATTY. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS, III
City Government Department Head III
(City Council Secretary)