



Naga City
Government
PHILIPPINES

The Naga City Government and the Naga City People's Council (NCPC)

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City Mayor's Office



The Setting

- A medium-sized city with a regular population of 160,000 and a daytime population of almost 300,000.
- The recognized center of commerce, education, religion, and governance innovation.
- Strong NGO/PO sector and a history of active citizen participation in city affairs.



Why in Naga?

- A free press and a socially-aware citizenry since the 1950s.
- The presence of numerous NGOs and POs representing different sectors.
- A new breed of city leaders.
- Highly-motivated community leaders and members of academe



Empowerment – What went before

Martial Law years:

- A press which was highly-critical of the government
- Sectors formed organized groups to address their concerns



Empowerment – What went before

Post-EDSA :

- The Aquino administration's call for the creation of “people’s consultative councils” (March 2, 1986 speech).
- The Local Government Code of 1991’s provision for the promotion of NGOs and POs as active partners (Art. 62)



Empowerment – What went before

Post-EDSA :

- Late 1991 – NCC-LG (Naga City NGO-PO Council-Local Government initiated a regional seminar on local governance.
- Early 1992 – Consultation Workshop conducted for NGOs/POs regarding accreditation as provided for by LGC



Empowerment – What went before

Post-EDSA :

- July 1992 – Naga SP passed Resolution No. 55 calling on NGOs/POs for accreditation
- Early 1993 – Naga City NGO-PO Council was formed to maximize potentials of the LGC.



Empowerment – What went before

The ideals of the Naga City NGO-PO
Council:

- ✓ People empowerment
- ✓ A council that is democratic, autonomous, and independent
- ✓ Unity and solidarity among NGOs and POs
- ✓ Shared responsibility



Empowerment – What went before

Pre-empowerment ordinance:

- September 1993 – NGO-PO Council submits a position paper to the LGU suggesting mechanisms for the partnership of NGOs/POs and the LGU
- Position paper becomes springboard for discussions leading to the creation of the Empowerment Ordinance.



The Empowerment Ordinance

Ordinance No. 95-092:

“An ordinance initiating a system for a partnership in local governance between the City Government and the People of Naga”

- Authored by former City Councilor and Rep. Jaime S. Jacob



The Empowerment Ordinance

- Mandates:
 - ✓ the establishment of a structure to achieve active partnership between the City Government and the People of Naga in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of government policies, projects and activities;



The Empowerment Ordinance

- Mandates:
 - ✓ the almost full implementation of RA 7160 (Local Government Code of 1991) provisions on sectoral representation;



The Empowerment Ordinance

- Mandates:
 - ✓ the mandate to hasten the organization of the people directly through the joint efforts of the people's council and the City Government to address the people's sectoral and their collective concerns with minimal government intervention.



The Empowerment Ordinance

Declaration of Principles:

- “The will of the people can best be determined if they organize themselves to address their sectoral or common concerns.” (Sec. 2, b)



The Empowerment Ordinance

Declaration of Principles:

- “Governance is best effected if its responsibilities are shared by the people. A system of partnership shall guarantee that sovereignty effectively resides in the people.” (Sec. 2, c)



The Empowerment Ordinance

NGO/PO-LGU Partnership:

- “The City Government of Naga hereby declares itself open to a partnership with *duly accredited* Naga-based people’s organizations and non-government organizations in the conception, implementation and evaluation of all government activities and functions.”
(Sec. 3)



The Empowerment Ordinance

Creation of the NCPC:

- “All accredited NGOs and POs may organize themselves into a People’s Council...” (Sec. 8)
- “The People’s Council shall determine its own organizational structures and internal rules, but shall at all times provide for adequate consultation mechanisms for purposes of obtaining the views and suggestions of all...” (Sec. 9)



The Empowerment Ordinance

Powers and Responsibilities of the NCPC:

- “...the People’s Council may, in accordance only with its policies and internal rules, elect or appoint from among its member organizations only its representatives to all city government bodies, boards, councils, committees, task forces, special government bodies and other similar work groups...” (Sec. 11)



The Empowerment Ordinance

Role of the NCPC:

- Proposes legislation, participates and votes at the committee level of the Sanggunian Panglunsod
- Acts as the people's representatives in the exercise of their constitutional right to information.



The Empowerment Ordinance

On the Non-partisan nature of the NCPC:

“The People’s Council shall not engage in, or allow itself or its member organizations to be used for purposes of, partisan politics and shall adopt such measures to ensure that it is adequately shielded from any political partisanship or influence.” (Sec. 12)



What's next?

- Ensured autonomy for NCPC through automatic allocation of funds
- NCPC representation in the City Government's Finance Committee
- NCPC accessibility to LGPMS data
- Departmental planning and budgeting engagement



References:

- Santos, Soliman. *“Theory and Practice of People’s Councils: Focus on the Naga City Model.”* Naga City. 1998.
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DIOS MABALOS PO SAINDO GABOS!

A presentation of:



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