



**Executive Order No. 21-18-A
Series of 2021**

“AN EXECUTIVE ORDER IMPLEMENTING THE UNIFORM TRAVEL PROTOCOLS UNDER COVID-19 INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE FOR EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES (IATF-EID) RESOLUTION NO. 101, SERIES OF 2021 WITH REVISIONS”

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued Proclamation No. 929 declaring a State of Calamity throughout the Philippines due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19);

WHEREAS, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued Proclamation No. 929 series of 2020, wherein Local Government Units are enjoined to render full assistance and cooperation and mobilize necessary resources to undertake critical, urgent, appropriate response and measures in a timely manner to curtail and eliminate the threat of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160 also known as the Local Government Code provides that within their respective territorial jurisdictions, local government units shall ensure and promote health and safety, preserve the comfort and convenience of their inhabitants;

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2021, the COVID-19 IATF-EID issued Resolution No. 101, Series of 2021, approving the uniform protocols for land, air, and sea travel;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2021, the Regional IATF and Regional Task Force VI issued Joint Resolution No. 004, Series of 2021, entitled “Resolution Urging LGUs to Fully Implement the Provisions of IATF Resolution 101, Series of 2021 on the Uniform Travel Protocols for Land, Air, and Sea by March 15, 2021;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2021, the undersigned issued Executive Order No. 21-18, entitled, “An Executive Order Adopting the Salient Points of the Uniform Travel Protocols Under COVID-19 IATF-EID Resolution No. 101, Series of 2021”, in order to comply with the orders of the RIATF and IATF-EID;

WHEREAS, as a result of the implementation of Executive Order No. 21-18, series of 2021, the following negative effects were observed from March 15, 2021:

- a) Positivity Rate in Teresita L. Jalandoni Provincial Hospital (TLJPH) Molecular laboratory increased from 3.08% to 22.73%;
- b) COVID-19 active cases increased from 58 positive cases to 305 positive cases;
- c) The number of positive cases isolated in quarantine facilities increased from 22 individuals to 111 individuals;

WHEREAS, the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental feels defenseless from the onslaught of COVID-19 cases coming from other parts of the country. Furthermore, on March 19, 2021, the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental discovered a *modus operandi* of unscrupulous individuals at the ports of Manila selling fake negative RT-PCR results to travelers bound for the Province of Negros Occidental wherein eight (8) returning Kabankalan City residents admitted to paying nine hundred pesos (Php 900.00) in order to secure a negative RT-PCR test result without undergoing swab testing;

WHEREAS, the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental operates a Molecular Laboratory in TLJPH but is unable to screen, detect, and isolate as early possible, COVID-19 positive cases, before they reach their families and Local Government Units;

WHEREAS, there is a current epidemic surge in the Province and the Provincial Incident Management Team (PIMT) recommended the mandatory swabbing and quarantine upon entry of all travelers;

WHEREAS, the local chief executives of the component cities and municipalities of the Province of Negros Occidental has also requested the Provincial Government to screen travelers at the ports of entry in the Province by requiring them to submit to RT-PCR swabbing and quarantine;

WHEREAS, the Provincial Government intends to implement the provisions of IATF Resolution 101, series of 2021. However, in order to curb the recent spike in positive COVID-19 cases in the province and to protect the health and safety of Negrenses from the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a need to revise Executive Order No. 21-18, series of 2021;

NOW THEREFORE I, EUGENIO JOSE V. LACSON, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law as Governor of the Province of Negros Occidental, do hereby order the following:

SECTION 1. REVISION TO SECTION 1 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 21-18, SERIES OF 2021. The requirement for all travelers to have a negative RT PCR test result prior to travel as stated under Section 1(3) of Executive Order No. 21-18, Series of 2021 is hereby set aside. Section 1(3) of Executive Order No. 21-18, Series of 2021 is hereby revised to be read as follows:

SECTION 1. IATF-EID RESOLUTION NO. 101, SERIES OF 2021 IS HEREBY ADOPTED WITH THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC APPLICATIONS. *Travel to the Province of Negros Occidental for all purposes, including but not limited to business, essential service, leisure, and tourism, shall be open to the public, subject to the following requirements:*

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3. SUBMIT TO RT-PCR TESTING UPON ENTRY INTO THE PROVINCE

- a. *All Travelers, entering the airports and seaports of Negros Occidental, shall undergo mandatory swabbing and COVID-19 RT-PCR testing regardless of destination;*
- b. *All travelers shall be quarantined until their negative test results are released by Department of Health Accredited Molecular Laboratories*
- c. *COVID-19 swab tests and quarantine shall be for free, at the expense of the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental;*

EXCEPTION: *Government Authorized Persons Outside Their Residence (APOR) shall not be required to undergo mandatory testing and/or quarantine protocols, provided that they comply with the requirements set forth under IATF-EID Resolution No. 98-A Series of 2021. Provided further that, all Government APOR are strongly encouraged to voluntarily submit to RT-PCR testing and*

quarantine, considering that APORs are carriers of COVID-19 based on records of the PIMT.

SECTION 2. REVISION TO SECTION 2 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 21-18, SERIES OF 2021. The provisions of Section 2 of Executive Order No. 21-18, Series of 2021 allowing private vehicles to transport passengers to and from airports, seaports, and terminals are hereby set aside. Section 2 of Executive Order No. 21-18, Series of 2021 is hereby revised to be read as follows:

SECTION 2. PROCEDURE AT THE AIRPORTS, SEAPORTS, TERMINALS. Airports, Seaports and Terminals located within the Province of Negros Occidental shall be subject to the following guidelines:

a. Procedure at Airports

1. One flight per week per airline company for the Bacolod-Cebu-Bacolod flights;
2. Two flights per week per airline company for Manila-Bacolod-Manila flights;
3. Only 199 passengers allowed per flight;
4. No public transportation allowed, only the following modes of transportation shall be allowed to transport passengers to and from the airport:
 - a. APOR passengers shall only be transported by shuttle service provided by the company of the APOR
 - b. LGU of destination shall facilitate transportation for Non-APOR passengers

b. Procedure at Seaports

1. Only 150 passengers allowed per day for each shipping company;
2. No public transportation allowed, only the following modes of transportation shall be allowed to transport passengers to and from the seaport:
 - a. APOR passengers shall only be transported by shuttle service provided by the company of the APOR
 - b. LGU of destination shall facilitate transportation for Non-APOR passengers

SECTION 3. LIFTING OF TRAVEL PROTOCOLS UPON RECOMMENDATION OF PIMT. The aforementioned travel protocols shall be enforced until the current surge of infection is contained and the PIMT recommends the lifting of mandatory RT-PCR testing and quarantine.

SECTION 4. HEIGHTENED PATROL OF SEAPORTS AND BORDERS. Since a possible source of infection for COVID-19 are people illegally crossing the borders of Negros Occidental, all Local Government Units, the Philippine National Police, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and the Philippine Coast Guard are hereby enjoined to heighten the security and patrol of the seaports and borders of the Province of Negros Occidental.

SECTION 5. ADOPTION OF NATIONAL POLICIES. All orders, rules, regulations, promulgations, circulars, and/or issuances by the IATF and/or concerned national

government offices and agencies are hereby adopted. All previous issuances by the undersigned which are not in contravention of the IATF Resolutions and/or its member agencies shall be made applicable in a suppletory manner.

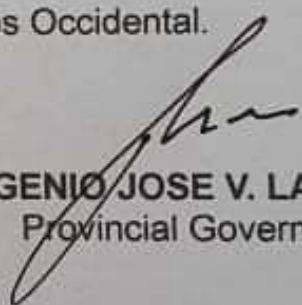
SECTION 6. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. Should any provisions of this Order be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. REPEALING CLAUSE. All orders, proclamations, rules, regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Order, under my purview as Governor, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. REVIEW CLAUSE. All the aforementioned provisions of this Executive Order may be subject to review by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the National Inter-Agency Task Force for the Emerging Infectious Disease and/or its Regional counterpart for amendment, modification or approval.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVITY. This Executive Order shall take effect at 12:00 am of April 1, 2021, without prejudice to the review by the DILG, National IATF-EID, and Regional IATF-EID.

Issued this 30th day of March, 2021 at Bacolod City, Negros Occidental.



EUGENIO JOSE V. LACSON
Provincial Governor