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Series of 2023

AN ORDER ADOPTING THE AMENDED IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 344 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "ACCESSIBILITY LAW", CREATING THE ACCESS AUDIT TASK FORCE, AND PROVIDING FUNCTIONS THEREOF.

WHEREAS, Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution mandates that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health, and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost and that there shall be a priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children;

WHEREAS, Article XIII, Section 13 of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall establish a special agency for persons with disabilities for their rehabilitation, self-reliance, and integration into the mainstream of society;

WHEREAS, Section 40 (b)(1) of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended by Republic Act No. 10070, requires the organization and establishment of a Person with Disability Affairs Office in all local government units which shall be the lead office in the enhancement of the health, physical fitness and economic and social well-being of persons with disabilities within the territorial jurisdiction of the establishing local government;

WHEREAS, Section 25, Chapter VI of Republic Act 7277 provides that the State shall ensure the attainment of a barrier-free environment that will enable disabled persons to have access in public and private buildings and establishments and such other places mentioned in Batas Pambansa Bilang 344, otherwise known as the "Accessibility Law". The national and local governments shall allocate funds for the provision of architectural facilities or structural features for disabled persons in government buildings and facilities.

WHEREAS, Section 4 of Ordinance No. SP-2085, S-2011 provides the creation of Quezon City - Person with Disability Affairs Office, its functions, duties and responsibilities. Paragraph (b) thereof further mandates the coordination of the implementation of the provisions of Batas Pambansa Blg. 344 and its implementing rules and regulations;

WHEREAS, the City Government endeavors to intensify its effort in promoting the welfare of persons with disability through the active participation of public and private establishments by requiring them to comply with the requirements herein set forth, the same shall be facilitated by an audit team

WHEREAS, Agenda Item No. 5 of the Mayor's Executive Agenda explicitly desires to empower citizens of every gender and social class. As well as the realization

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within Quezon City of United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) No. 9, to develop quality reliable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all, and SDG No. 11, to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable;

NOW THEREFORE, I, MA. JOSEFINA BELMONTE, Mayor of Quezon City, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order the following

SECTION 1. CREATION. The Access Audit Task Force (Task Force for brevity) is hereby created, organized, and established under the direct supervision of the City Mayor. The Access Audit Task Force shall carry out the following functions:

- a. Implement policies, plans, and audit systems for the inspection and auditing process in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Transportation (DOTr), and concerned City Government Departments/Offices pursuant to BP 344 and the National and Local Building Code using the audit form attached (Annex A);
- Disseminate information to public and private establishments, including institutional and government buildings, within the area of jurisdiction;
- Provide evaluation and assessment based on the requirements set forth in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of B.P. Blg. 344 for further action of the City Building Official;
- d. Ensure that compliance is being observed and maintained by the establishment owners pursuant to the Building Code through the conduct of periodic inspections and assist them to achieve 100% compliance with the standards provided under the IRR of B.P. Blg. 344;
- e. Ensure all future public buildings or infrastructure are compliant to the BP 344. The Task Force may at any moment during the project design and construction phase may summon the plans or inspect actual construction to check compliance with the BP 344;
- f. Create a database regarding the compliance of both private and public infrastructure to the BP 344;
- g. Summarize and submit the audit report to the City Mayor for review;
- h. Perform such other functions as may be instructed by the City Mayor.

SECTION 2. COMPOSITION. - The composition of the Access Audit Task Force shall be as stated below:

Chairperson

City Mayor

Vice Chairperson

Persons with Disability Affairs Office

Assistant City Administrator for Operations

Members

Representative from DOTr

DPWH 1st District Engineering Office

DPWH 2nd District Engineering Office
Department of the Interior and Local Government Quezon City
City Engineering Department
Department of Building Official
City Architect Department
Parks Development and Administration Department
City Planning and Development Department
City General Services Department
Business Permits and Licensing Department
Public Affairs and Information Services Department

At any time, the City Mayor as Task Force Chairperson may, at her discretion, change the composition of the Task Force for it to be more responsive to the goals of this Executive Order.

SECTION 3. LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE. - All establishments must comply with all facility and structural requirements set forth by the IRR of B.P. Blg. 344 as determined by the Task Force subject to penal clauses according to the PD 1096 or the Building Code of the Philippines.

SECTION 4. SECRETARIAT. The Task Force Secretariat shall comprise the Persons with Disability Affairs Office, Department of the Building Official and City Engineering Department. The secretariat shall handle the administrative, liaison, operational and technical requirements of the committee as far as practicable.

SECTION 5. RESOURCE AVAILABILITY. Funding requirements shall be sourced and drawn from the available funds of the member departments.

SECTION 6. REPEALING CLAUSE. All Ordinances, Executive Ordinance or parts thereof which are inconsistent with provisions of this Executive Order, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. DISSEMINATION. Copies of this Executive Order shall be furnished to all Departments and Offices and shall be posted in the official Quezon City website. The Office of the President and MMDA shall also be given copies pursuant to Section 455 (1)(xii) of RA 7610, as amended.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVITY. This order shall take effect immediately.

DONE, May 15 2023, Quezon City.

MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE City Mayor

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