



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 279
Series of 2023

AN ORDER PROVIDING THE GUIDELINES ON THE OPERATION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CEMETERIES/MEMORIAL PARKS DURING THE UNDAS SEASON FROM OCTOBER 31, 2023 TO NOVEMBER 3, 2023

WHEREAS, Section 15, Article 2 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the "State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them," and Section 16 of Republic Act 7160 expressly mandates the local government units to take charge with the promotion of health and safety within their respective jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, it has been a long-held tradition of Filipinos to visit their departed loved-ones at the cemeteries and memorial parks during the *Undas* Season, especially on the observance of All Saints' Day (November 1) and All Souls' Day (November 2) of every year, as it is also a time and opportunity for families to spend time together;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to still implement precautionary measures to ensure that there will be no spikes in COVID-19 cases during the *Undas* season and prescribe certain measures for families or individuals visiting cemeteries/memorial parks on October 31, 2022 to November 3, 2022;

NOW THEREFORE, I, JOSE E. RELAMPAGOS, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order the following:

SECTION 1. COVERED PERIOD. The following guidelines will be implemented in public and private cemeteries, memorial parks, including columbariums and the like from **October 31, 2023 to November 3, 2023 at 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

The public is advised to clean, repaint and renovate the graves of their departed ones earlier or until October 30, 2023 only.

SECTION 2. ENTRY TO PRIVATE AND PUBLIC CEMETERIES/MEMORIAL PARKS. All public and private cemeteries, memorial parks, including columbariums and the like, may only allow entry of individuals who shall pass the body temperature checking and the observance of minimum health protocols.

Any person exhibiting flu-like symptoms (*fever, cough and cold*), Senior Citizens, minors (12 years old and below) and persons with comorbidities are discouraged from visiting the cemeteries.

SECTION 3. PROHIBITED ITEMS AND ACTIVITIES. The following items and activities are prohibited inside the premises of cemeteries:

- a. Alcoholic beverages
- b. Flammable materials
- c. Firearms, bladed weapons and sharp objects
- d. Videoke or any sound system that will cause loud sounds
- e. Deck of cards, bingo cards or any kind of gambling
- f. Overnight staying
- g. Any type of vehicles

All visitors are responsible for the proper disposal of their wastes and apply "*Clean as you go*" or *Basura ko, linis ko*".



SECTION 4. INTERMENTS AND CREMATION SERVICES. Interments and cremation services during the said period are not allowed, except for the remains of the suspected/probable or confirmed COVID-19 cases, wherein, the burial or cremation is done within 12 hours after death.

SECTION 5. OBSERVANCE OF MINIMUM HEALTH PROTOCOLS. All individuals entering the cemeteries are mandated to observe minimum health protocols such as proper wearing of face masks, frequent hand hygiene and strict observance of social distancing.

SECTION 6. PEACE AND ORDER, ENFORCEMENT AND ASSISTANCE. The Civil Security Unit, City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, Philippine National Police, Armed Forces of the Philippines, and Bureau of Fire shall be responsible for the peace and order in all cemeteries.

The Traffic Management Unit will be responsible for ensuring the flow of traffic, assisted by barangay officials and auxiliaries having jurisdiction over the cemeteries.

The Civil Security Unit shall identify parking areas for vehicles and designated areas specifically for flower, candle, and ambulant vendors and shall regularly patrol within the cemeteries.

The City Health Office, assisted by the Barangay Health Workers, is directed to put up a health assistance desk in all cemeteries.

SECTION 7. PERSONS IN AUTHORITY. The following government officials as persons in authority and agents of persons in authority, during the covered period, are charged with the maintenance of public order and safety of the public and shall coordinate, update, and report on the situation in all cemeteries:

PMAJ JUN BAUTISTA	- Unified Commander
ROQUEOS L. CIMAFRANCA	- Deputy Unified Commander

Incident Command Post:

ALVIN YBANEZ	- IC at Public Cemetery
LENNY GARDE	- IC at Memorial Cemetery
RAMIL REVIRA	- IC at Eternal Garden Cemetery

SECTION 8. INFORMATION DISSEMINATION. The City Information Office and the Public Order and Safety Office are hereby directed to cause the widest dissemination of this order to social media and in the posting of this order in conspicuous places of the City.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVITY. This order shall take effect immediately upon signing hereof.

Issued this 26th day of October, 2023 at Panabo City, Davao del Norte, Philippines.


JOSE E. RELAMPAGOS
City Mayor