



Republic of the Philippines  
Region IX  
PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY  
Municipality of Buug  
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**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN**

Excerpt FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 17<sup>th</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN NG BUUG ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL SESSION HALL, BUUG, ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY ON MAY 5, 2025 AT 10:00 IN THE MORNING.

NAME	POSITION	PRESENT	ABSENT	LATE	OB
<b>HON. JONAM R. LAGAS</b>	Municipal Vice-Mayor <b>Presiding</b>	√			
Hon. Marvin Jessie G. Gako	SB Member	√			
Hon. Sherwin R. Quintero	SB Member	√			
Hon. Romeo L. Cerbo	SB Member	√			
Hon. Freida C. Curiba	SB Member	√			
Hon. Abdul S. Dimasagka	SB Member	√			
Hon. Julio S. Alcantara, Sr.	SB Member	√			
Hon. Eduardo F. Emorecha	SB Member	√			
Hon. Renato T. Banagan	SB Member	√			
Hon. Keith Jones B. Lagas	Liga Ng Mga Barangay		√		
Hon. Riel Laurence F. Maquiling	SKF President		√		

**MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 06-2025**

**AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING AND CRIMINALIZING THE PRACTICE OF CHILD MARRIAGE WITHIN THE LOCALITY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11596, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF.**

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Constitution, under Article II, Section 13, recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and mandates the State to promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 11596, "An Act Prohibiting the Practice of Child Marriage and Imposing Penalties for Violations Thereof," has been enacted to protect the rights of children and eliminate the harmful practice of child marriage which impedes the development and well-being of children;

**WHEREAS**, child marriage is a practice that subjects children, particularly girls, to grave violations of their human rights, including their rights to education, health, and protection from exploitation, and perpetuates cycles of abuse and poverty;

**WHEREAS**, the Local Government of Buug is committed to upholding the rights of children and women, promoting gender equality, and ensuring the protection of the youth from harmful practices such as child marriage;

**WHEREAS**, studies and reports from local and international bodies have shown that child marriage continues to be a significant challenge in some communities, with long-term negative consequences on the lives of the children involved, particularly girls;

**WHEREAS**, the Municipality of Buug has a responsibility to create a social environment where child marriage is no longer tolerated, and where the rights and welfare of children are prioritized;

**WHEREAS**, the Local Government acknowledges that education, community involvement, and comprehensive support programs are essential to preventing child marriage and empowering children, families, and communities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved and enacted** by the Sangguniang Bayan of Buug:

**SECTION 1. TITLE.** This ordinance shall be known as the "**CHILD MARRIAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF BUUG AND SHALL APPLY WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT (LGU) OF BUUG**".

**SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY.** The Local Government of Buug recognizes the fundamental rights of children to grow, develop, and participate in a society free from harm, exploitation, and abuse. In line with Republic Act No. 11596, which prohibits child marriage and upholds the rights of children and women, the LGU affirms the State's duty to protect and promote the physical, emotional, and social well-being of all children, particularly in abolishing the practice of child marriage;

Furthermore, the Municipality of is committed to promoting the empowerment of women and children by eradicating harmful practices, including child marriage, that impede their development and perpetuate gender-based violence, inequality, and discrimination.

**SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS.** For purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- 3.1 Child:** Refers to any human being under the age of eighteen (18) years old, or any person over eighteen (18) years of age but who is unable to fully protect oneself from abuse or exploitation due to a physical or mental condition;
- 3.2 Child Marriage:** refers to any marriage where one or both parties are children as defined in this Ordinance, regardless of whether the marriage is formalized in civil or religious proceedings, or through traditional or customary practices;
- 3.3 Adult Partner:** refers to any individual who engages in a relationship, marriage, or cohabitation with a child, as defined above;
- 3.4 Facilitators of Child Marriage** include individuals or entities who arrange, perform, or assist in any form of child marriage;
- 3.5 Solemnizing Officer** refers to any individual authorized by law, religion, or custom to perform a marriage ceremony.

**SECTION 4. PROHIBITED ACTS.** The following are prohibited under this Ordinance:

- 4.1 Facilitation of Child Marriage:** Any person who arranges, facilitates, or assists in the process of child marriage, including the falsification of documents (e.g., birth certificates) to misrepresent a child's age for the purpose of marriage, shall be penalized by imprisonment for a period of not exceeding six (6) months or a fine not exceeding Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (2,500.00) or both at the discretion of the court;
- 4.2 Solemnization of Child Marriage:** Any solemnizing officer, religious leader, or any individual who officiates a child marriage, whether formal or customary, shall be penalized by imprisonment for a period of not exceeding six (6) months or a fine not exceeding Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (2,500.00) or both at the discretion of the court;
- 4.3 Cohabitation of an Adult with a Child Outside of Marriage:** Any adult who cohabits with a child outside of marriage shall be penalized by imprisonment for a period of not exceeding six (6) months or a fine not exceeding Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (2,500.00) or both at the discretion of the court;
- 4.4 Penalties for Public Officials:** If the perpetrator is a public official, they shall be dismissed from service, and may be permanently disqualified from holding any public office.

**SECTION 5. LEGAL EFFECT OF A CHILD MARRIAGE.** Any child marriage solemnized or entered into within the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Buug, shall be considered void ab initio (from the beginning) and shall have no legal effect. The nullification of a child marriage shall not be subject to prescription, in accordance with the Family Code of the Philippines.

**SECTION 6. CREATION OF A LOCAL CHILD MARRIAGE PREVENTION COMMITTEE.** The Local Government of Buug, shall establish a Child Marriage Prevention Committee (CMPC), which will be tasked with:

- 6.1.** Monitoring and reporting instances of child marriage within the locality.
- 6.2.** Implementing educational campaigns in schools, barangays, and communities to raise awareness on the dangers and unacceptability of child marriage.
- 6.3.** Coordinating with national and regional government agencies such as the DSWD, DOJ, and local law enforcement agencies in preventing and addressing child marriage.
- 6.4.** Providing support services for victims of child marriage, including legal assistance, healthcare, and psychosocial services.

**SECTION 7. ENABLING PROGRAMS FOR THE PREVENTION OF CHILD MARRIAGE.** The LGU of Buug, shall implement the following programs to support the prevention and eradication of child marriage:

- 7.1** Public Awareness Campaigns on the harmful effects of child marriage, particularly for the youth and community leaders;

**7.2** Empowerment Programs for girls, including skills training, educational support, and career guidance;

**7.3** Support Services for families and children at risk, including economic and psychosocial assistance.

**SECTION 8. COORDINATION WITH RELEVANT AGENCIES.** The Municipality of Buug, shall coordinate with relevant government agencies, including the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education (DepEd), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to ensure a multi-stakeholder approach in the prevention of child marriage and the protection of vulnerable children.

**SECTION 9. REPEALING CLAUSE.** The provisions of previous local enactments, resolutions, memoranda, circulars, and other issuances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 10. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** Should any portion of this Ordinance be declared ultra vires or unconstitutional by competent authority, the remainder not so affected shall continue to be in full force and effect as it is susceptible to enforcement and application.

**SECTION 11. EFFECTIVITY.** This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval and compliance with the posting and publication requirements set forth in Republic Act No. 7160;

**ENACTED** this 5<sup>TH</sup> day of May 2025, at Buug, Zamboanga Sibugay Province.

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

  
**ROSAMEE VILLASOR-APDUHAN**  
Sangguniang Bayan Secretary

**ATTESTED:**

  
**HON. JONAM R. LAGAS**  
Municipal Vice-Mayor/Presiding

**APPROVED:**

  
**HON. DIONESIA B. LAGAS**  
Municipal Mayor

Date Approved: 06-03-25