



Governor Susan A. Yap

Province of Tarlac
Republic of the Philippines

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2
Series of 2022

AN ORDER DECLARING EVERY THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH AS TARLAC PROVINCE LUNG HEALTH DAY

WHEREAS, Section 16 of Republic Act ("R.A.") No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 ("LGC"), provides that every local government unit ("LGU") shall exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied, as well as powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare;

WHEREAS, under the same provision, the LGU is tasked to promote the peoples' health and safety. The LGU is likewise expected to be capable of responding to problems that include prioritization of health issues, monitoring of activities relative to healthcare, and adopting innovative and sustainable interventions for its constituents;

WHEREAS, R.A. No. 10767, otherwise known as the "*Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Plan Act*" ("TB Law"), mandates the State to support and expand efforts to eliminate tuberculosis by 2035 by increasing investments for its prevention, treatment, and control;

WHEREAS, based on the report of the World Health Organization ("WHO") and as confirmed by the Department of Health ("DOH"), the Philippines is ranked number one (1) in Southeast Asia and fourth in the world with the highest TB incidence rate and the Province of Tarlac remain steadfast in ensuring the active participation of all stakeholders from the public and private health sectors to respond to the increasing number of TB cases. Efforts also need to be intensified on case-finding and case-holding to deter the rising cases of both drug-susceptible TB ("DSTB") and drug-resistant TB ("DRTB");

WHEREAS, during the 2018 United Nations High-Level Meeting ("UNHLM"), the Philippines committed to find and treat 2.5 Million Filipinos with TB by 2022 using a "business-not-as-usual" approach, where strong sustained political commitment was underscored as the primordial element of TB eradication in the Philippines;

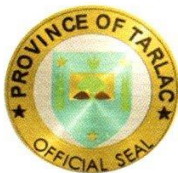
WHEREAS, Goal number three (3) of the Sustainable Development Goals ("SDGs") seeks to address infectious diseases like tuberculosis ("TB"), that remains the leading cause of death among people living with HIV ("PLHIV"), accounting for around 1 in 3 Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)-related deaths;

WHEREAS, TB remains to be one of the major public health problem in the Province of Tarlac, and is one of the leading causes of death and illness adversely affecting productivity and negatively impacting socio-economic progress and development;

WHEREAS, the Province of Tarlac aims to do its share for the country to achieve the Philippine Strategic TB Elimination Plan ("PhilSTEP") targets in 2023 to reduce TB incidence by 12% and mortality rate by 15%, reduce catastrophic cost from 35% to 0, and ensure responsive delivery of TB services;

WHEREAS, in the practice of sustainable health detection, care, treatment, and governance, the Province of Tarlac commits to support the national government's efforts to adopt local measures, sustain, and institutionalize the efficient and effective program implementation of the National TB program ("NTP") by espousing a multi-sectoral approach with the involvement of





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all stakeholders that include, but not limited to: non-government organizations (“NGOs”); private sector, hospitals and health facilities, schools, and community-based organizations (“CBOs”); transport groups represented by the tricycle operators and drivers’ associations (“TODA”) and jeepney operators drivers’ associations (“JODA”); senior citizens (“SC”); workers in the formal and informal sector; workers exposed to hazardous and unsafe working conditions; people deprived of liberty; barangay leaders; Barangay Health Workers (“BHWs”) and Community Health Volunteers (“CHVs”); and the marginalized sectors, like the urban/rural poor, particularly the qualified beneficiaries of the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program* (“4Ps”), informal settlers, and communities in resettlement and relocation sites. These groups will be involved in ensuring that the cascade of TB care is adhered to;

WHEREAS, while the DOH, District Hospitals, Rural Health Units (“RHUs”) and other health facilities shall provide TB drugs, commodities, and other supplies essential for program implementation, the Province of Tarlac will allocate funds thereof to ensure continuity of quality TB services and address stockout concerns; and

WHEREAS, the enactment of a local TB ordinance will help ensure the adoption and implementation of effective, efficient, innovative, and recommended strategies to eliminate TB.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, HON. SUSAN A. YAP, Provincial Governor of Tarlac, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the law and the sovereign will of the electorate, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Title - This Executive Order shall be known as “**AN ORDER DECLARING EVERY THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH AS TARLAC PROVINCE LUNG HEALTH DAY.**”

SECTION 2. Objectives - This Executive Order aims to institute, establish, and localize a comprehensive and sustainable LGU response and commitment towards TB elimination as espoused in the TB law and help the country achieve the PhilSTEP targets.

SECTION 3. Declaration of Policy - The Province of Tarlac joins the National Government in instituting health reforms to eliminate TB anchored on the mandates and provisions and recommendations of the NTP, TB Law, and Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the “*Universal Health Care Act (“UHC”).*” Necessary measures to be undertaken by the Province of Tarlac further scale up TB elimination efforts include the following, to wit:

- a. Promote better public awareness and intensify community education on TB which shall delve on, but not limited to: (i) TB as the top infectious disease worldwide; (ii) leading cause of death for people infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (“HIV”); (iii) a major cause of death related to antimicrobial resistance; (iv) 70 Filipinos die of TB every day; (v) the modes of TB transmission; (vi) people considered high-risk groups; (vii) consequences of self-medication, non-adherence to Directly Observed Treatment, Short Course (“DOTS”) and/or failure to complete treatment; (viii) TB control and prevention; and (ix) socio-economic impact of TB as a disease.
- b. Organize and mobilize multi-sectoral stakeholders from the public and private sectors and development partners to support and actively participate in implementing the TB program through the municipal TB Council.
- c. Adopt and implement the *Find TB cases Actively, Separate safely and Treat effectively* (“FAST Strategy”) in the RHU and Barangay Health Stations (“BHS”), and public hospitals, and its expanded implementation in private hospitals and facilities as deemed





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necessary, to intensify case-finding efforts and ensure that infection prevention control is observed.

SECTION 4. National Tuberculosis Control Program and Policies - The Revised Manual of Procedures ("MOP") 6th Edition for the National Tuberculosis Control Program provides essential guidelines for the effective and efficient implementation of the TB program. Therefore, all health care providers must abide by and comply with all provisions embodied in the MOP, as follows:

- a. Systematic screening shall be implemented in all health facilities. Cough of two (2) weeks shall be the primary screening tool for systematic screening, while Chest X-ray shall be done in targeted high-risk groups.
- b. Active case finding shall be implemented in congregate settings, targeted communities, and workplaces using Chest X-ray as the primary screening tool.
- c. All health facilities should set up a robust TB surveillance amongst all employees and healthcare workers by providing free annual x-ray.
- d. All diagnosed TB cases shall be provided with free, adequate drugs and standard treatment for either drug-susceptible or drug-resistant TB regimen within seven (7) days from collection of sputum for diagnosis.
- e. Adherence counseling shall be done for every patient before treatment.

SECTION 5: Multi-sectoral Collaboration - A multi-sectoral collaboration and approach shall be executed to implement this Executive Order and other national policies related to TB programs. The Province of Tarlac, shall encourage the participation of the different sectors to provide more comprehensive and sustainable strategies for TB elimination. The Municipal Health Office shall be the lead agency of the Local Government in ensuring the proper implementation of the TB program.

All public and private health facilities, hospitals, laboratories, pharmacies, private diagnostic clinics/centers, workplaces, transport groups, daycare centers, schools, universities, and jail facilities in the Province of Tarlac shall follow and be engaged in TB control and prevention, including the mandatory reporting and notification, and proper referral of TB cases. The mentioned facilities shall be required to notify and report any TB cases that were diagnosed or made known to it; it shall also ensure that persons with TB are referred to the appropriate facilities for the provision of health services. Facilities who fail to comply with the mandatory notification and reporting shall be imposed the relevant sanctions under national or local law, including those that may be set by the Office of Municipal Mayor in the exercise of its administrative and executive powers, such as closure orders, non-renewal of business permit, and other penalties that the Office of the Municipal Mayor may deem necessary.

All public and private physicians and allied health personnel in the places enumerated above shall comply with TB control and prevention, mandatory reporting and notification, and proper referral of TB cases to help prevent catastrophic costs in patients.





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All medical and allied health professionals and other public health workers dealing with or working on TB in the Province of Tarlac, shall update TB to ensure their participation in TB control and prevention and the proper coordination and referral of TB cases.

SECTION 6: TB Awareness and Campaigns -

6.1 A continuous promotion of TB awareness shall be conducted in barangays, highlighted during annual events like World TB Day (March 24) and Lung Month (August 19).

6.2 Case-finding activities and campaigns shall be conducted in the locality based on the prevailing data and evidence. Activities and campaigns may be in the form of Active Case Finding, *Usapang Dibdiban* Caravan, or other similar activities sanctioned under the existing laws, rules, or the Manual of Procedures.

6.3. The Province of Tarlac, concerned LGUs, and barangays shall provide logistical counterpart and support to all TB awareness activities and campaigns. Chest X-ray services and Xpert MTB/RIF test cartridges shall be allocated and provided.

SECTION 7: Repealing Clause - All other executive orders, ordinances, local rules, and regulations, or resolutions inconsistent with the provisions of this executive order are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 8: Separability Clause - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or declared unconstitutional, the other provisions which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 9: Effectivity Clause - This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon its approval by law.

APPROVED, this 15th day of March 2022 at Provincial Capitol, Tarlac City, Tarlac.


HON. SUSAN A. YAP
Provincial Governor

