REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

PROVINCE OF BULACAN

CITY OF BALIWAG

SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

ORDINANCE NO. _____

Series of 2026

AN ORDINANCE URGING AND ESTABLISHING THE ADOPTION OF ROUTINE BAG INSPECTION IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN THE CITY OF BALIWAG, IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING LAWS AND DEPED POLICIES ON SCHOOL SAFETY, TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF STUDENTS, TEACHERS, SCHOOL PERSONNEL, AND OTHER PERSONS WITHIN SCHOOL PREMISES, PROVIDING IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Authored by:
HON. RON "BATA" CRUZ
City Councilor

WHEREAS CLAUSES

WHEREAS, The 1987 Constitution recognizes the right of every Filipino to quality education in an environment conducive to learning and development.

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code authorizes local governments to promote the general welfare, peace, order and safety of their inhabitants.

WHEREAS, The City Government of Baliwag recognizes that schools must remain safe spaces for learning.

WHEREAS, Recent incidents involving weapons and prohibited items in schools demonstrate the need for preventive measures.

WHEREAS, DepEd Order No. 006, s. 2026 provides guidance on ensuring a safe and motivating learning environment through rights-based safety measures.

WHEREAS, Routine bag inspection is intended solely as a preventive security measure and not as punishment.

WHEREAS, The City Government supports the continuing commitment of Mayor Mommy and Vice Mayor Ferdie in protecting the youth of Baliwag.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of Baliwag:

SECTION 1. Short Title

This Ordinance shall be known as the 'Baliwag Routine School Bag Inspection Ordinance of 2026'.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy

It is hereby declared the policy of the City Government of Baliwag to promote a safe, secure, child-friendly and violence-free learning environment by encouraging and institutionalizing routine bag inspection conducted in a lawful, respectful, child-sensitive and non-discriminatory manner.

SECTION 3. Objectives

To prevent entry of dangerous items; strengthen school safety; protect students, teachers and personnel; support DepEd policies; encourage cooperation among stakeholders.

SECTION 4. Coverage

This Ordinance shall apply to all public and private elementary, secondary, technical-vocational, colleges and universities operating within Baliwag.

SECTION 5. Definition of Terms

Defines Bag Inspection, Prohibited Items, School Personnel, Security Personnel, Authorized Personnel and School Premises.

SECTION 6. General Principles

Inspection shall be preventive, uniformly applied, respectful of privacy, visual whenever practicable, and consistent with law.

SECTION 7. Duties of Schools

Schools shall adopt SOPs, orient stakeholders, designate inspection areas, train personnel, maintain records and coordinate with authorities when necessary.

PART II – BALIWAG ROUTINE SCHOOL BAG INSPECTION ORDINANCE OF 2026

SECTION 8. Routine Bag Inspection Procedures

Routine bag inspections shall be conducted at designated school entry points in a respectful, child-sensitive, non-discriminatory and uniform manner. Inspections shall, whenever practicable, be limited to visual examination of bags in the presence of the owner. Body searches shall not be conducted except when authorized by law.

SECTION 9. Rights of Students, Teachers and Visitors

All persons shall be treated with dignity and respect. No inspection shall be based solely on gender, religion, disability, economic status or any protected characteristic. Privacy shall be respected throughout the inspection process.

SECTION 10. Prohibited Items

Schools shall prohibit the entry of firearms, bladed weapons, explosives, illegal drugs, flammable materials and other dangerous items prohibited by law or school policy.

SECTION 11. Temporary Manpower Assistance

Upon written request or concurrence of the school, the City Government may coordinate with government agencies, barangays, accredited civic organizations, accredited volunteer groups, duly recognized offices, accredited security service providers and other organizations duly recognized by the City Government to provide temporary manpower assistance while schools are hiring security personnel or experiencing manpower shortages. Such personnel shall remain under the supervision of the School Head, undergo orientation on child protection and privacy, and shall not exercise police powers.

SECTION 12. Responsibilities of the City Government

The City Government shall provide technical assistance, capacity building, orientation seminars, coordination with law enforcement and support for implementation subject to available resources.

SECTION 13. Coordination

The City Government shall coordinate with the Schools Division Office, private school associations, barangays, parents' associations, the Philippine National Police and other stakeholders.

SECTION 14. Documentation

Schools shall maintain records of confiscated prohibited items and incidents while ensuring confidentiality and compliance with applicable privacy laws.

SECTION 15. Information Campaign

Schools and the City Government shall conduct information campaigns to ensure awareness among students, parents and employees.

SECTION 16. Implementing Rules and Regulations

Within sixty (60) days from effectivity, the City Government, in coordination with the Schools Division Office and representatives of private schools, shall formulate the IRR.

SECTION 17. Funding

Implementation shall be funded from available appropriations and other lawful sources.

SECTION 18. Monitoring and Evaluation

The City Government shall periodically evaluate implementation and recommend improvements.

SECTION 19. Separability Clause

If any provision is declared invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in force.

SECTION 20. Repealing Clause

All ordinances or issuances inconsistent herewith are modified or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 21. Effectivity

This Ordinance shall take effect after compliance with publication and posting requirements as provided by law.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This measure institutionalizes routine bag inspection as a preventive safety measure consistent with the General Welfare Clause of the Local Government Code and DepEd Order No. 006, s. 2026. It seeks to protect learners, teachers and school personnel while respecting constitutional rights, child protection standards and due process. It also authorizes the City Government to coordinate with accredited organizations to provide temporary manpower assistance upon the request of schools.

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