

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7720, May 05, 1994]

AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF SANTIAGO INTO AN INDEPENDENT COMPONENT CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF SANTIAGO

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

Article I. General Provisions

SECTION 1. *Title.* — This Act shall be known as the Charter of the City of Santiago.

SEC. 2. *The City of Santiago.* — The Municipality of Santiago shall be converted into an independent component city to be known as the City of Santiago, hereinafter referred to as the City, which shall comprise of the present territory of the Municipality of Santiago, Isabela. The territorial jurisdiction of the City shall be within the present metes and bounds of the Municipality of Santiago.

SEC. 3. *Corporate Powers of the City.* — The City constitutes a political body corporate and as such is endowed with the attributes of perpetual succession and possessed of the powers which pertain to a municipal corporation to be exercised in conformity with the provisions of this Charter. The City shall have the following corporate powers:

1. To have a continuous succession in its corporate name;
2. To sue and be sued;
3. To have and use a corporate seal;
4. To acquire and convey real or personal property;
5. To enter into contracts; and
6. To exercise such other powers as are granted to corporations, subject to the limitations provided in this Act and other laws.

SEC. 4. *General Powers of the City.* — The City shall have a common seal and may alter the same at pleasure. It shall exercise the powers to levy taxes and close roads, streets, alleys, parks or squares. It may take, purchase, receive, hold, lease, convey and dispose of real and personal property for the general interest of the City, condemn private property for public use, contract and be contracted with, sue and be sued, prosecute and defend to final judgment and execution suits wherein said City is a party and exercise all the powers as are granted to corporations and/or hereinafter conferred.

SEC. 5. *Liability of Damages.* — The City and its officials shall not be exempt from liability for death or injury to persons or damage to property.

SEC. 6. *Jurisdiction of the City.* — The jurisdiction of the City of Santiago, for police

purposes only, shall be coextensive with its territorial jurisdiction and for the purpose of protecting and insuring the purity of the water supply of the City, such police jurisdiction shall also extend over all territory within the drainage area of such water supply, or within one hundred meters of any reservoir, conduit, canal, aqueduct or pumping station used in connection with the city water service. The city court of the City shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the city or municipal courts of adjoining municipalities or cities, to try crimes and misdemeanors committed within said drainage area, or within said spaces of one hundred meters. The court first taking cognizance of such an offense shall have jurisdiction to try said cases to the exclusion of others. The police force of the several municipalities and cities concerned shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the police force of the City for the maintenance of good order and the enforcement of ordinances throughout said zone, area and spaces. But any license that may be issued within said zone, area or spaces shall be granted by the proper authorities of the city or municipality concerned, and the fees arising therefrom shall accrue to the treasury of the said city or municipality.

Article II. City Officials in General

SEC. 7. *The Officials of the City of Santiago.* — There shall be in the City of Santiago a city mayor, a vice-mayor, sangguniang panlungsod members, a secretary to the sangguniang panlungsod, a city treasurer and an assistant city treasurer, a city assessor and an assistant city assessor, a city accountant, a city budget officer, a city planning and development coordinator, a city engineer, a city health officer, a city civil registrar, a city administrator, a city legal officer, a city veterinarian, a city social welfare and development officer, and a city general services officer.

(b) In addition thereto, the city mayor may appoint a city architect, a city information officer, a city population officer, a city environment and natural resources officer, and a city cooperatives officer.

(c) The City of Santiago shall establish a city fire station to be headed by a city fire marshal and a city jail to be headed by a city jail warden.

(d) The City of Santiago may:

1. Maintain existing offices not mentioned in subsections (a) and (b) hereof;
2. Create such other offices as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the City; or
3. Consolidate the functions of any office with those of another in the interest of efficiency and economy.

(e) Unless otherwise provided herein, all appointive city officials of the City shall be appointed by the city mayor with the concurrence of the majority of all the sangguniang panlungsod members, subject to civil service law, rules and regulations. The sangguniang panlungsod shall act on the appointments within fifteen (15) days from the date of its submission, otherwise the same shall be deemed confirmed.

Article III. The City Mayor and Vice-Mayor

Sec. 8. *The City Mayor.* —

- a. The city mayor shall be the chief executive of the City. He shall be elected at large by the qualified voters of the City.

No person shall be eligible for the position of city mayor unless at the time of the election:

1. He is at least twenty-three (23) years of age;
2. An actual resident of the City for at least one (1) year prior to his election; and
3. A qualified voter therein.

He shall hold office for three (3) years, unless sooner removed, and shall receive a minimum monthly compensation corresponding to salary grade thirty (30) as prescribed under Republic Act No. 6758 and the implementing guidelines issued pursuant thereto.

- b. The city mayor, as the chief executive of the city government, shall exercise such powers and perform such duties and functions as provided herein:

1. Exercise those powers expressly granted to him by law, those necessarily implied therefrom, as well as powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for the efficient and effective governance of the City and those which are essential to the promotion of general welfare:

- a. Determine the guidelines of city policies and be responsible to the sangguniang panlungsod for the program of government;
- b. Direct the formulation of the city development plan with the assistance of the city development council and, upon approval thereof by the sangguniang panlungsod, implement the same;
- c. Present the program of government and propose policies and projects for the consideration of the sangguniang panlungsod every calendar year and as often as may be deemed necessary as the general welfare of the inhabitants and the needs of the city government may require;
- d. Initiate and propose legislative measures to the sangguniang panlungsod and, as often as may be deemed necessary, provide such information and data needed or requested by said sanggunian in the performance of its legislative functions;
- e. Appoint all officials and employees whose salaries and wages are wholly or mainly paid out of city funds and whose appointments are not otherwise provided for in this Act as well as those he may be authorized by law to appoint;
- f. Represent the City in all its business transactions and sign in its behalf all bonds, contracts, and obligations, and such other documents upon authority of the sangguniang panlungsod or pursuant to existing laws or ordinances;
- g. Carry out such emergency measures as may be necessary during and in the aftermath of man-made and natural disasters and calamities;
- h. Determine the time, manner and place of payment of salaries or wages of the officials and employees of the City, in accordance with law or ordinance;

- i. Allocate and assign office space to the City and other officials and employees who, by law or ordinance, are entitled to such space in the city hall and other buildings owned or leased by the city government;
- j. Ensure that all executive officials and employees of the City faithfully discharge their duties and functions as provided by law and this Act and cause to be instituted administrative or judicial proceedings against any official or employee of the City who may have committed an offense in the performance of his official duties;
- k. Examine the books, records and other documents of all offices, officials, agents or employees of the City and, in aid of his executive powers and authority, require all national officials and employees stationed in or assigned to the City to make available to him such books, records, and other documents in their custody, except those classified by law as confidential;
- l. Furnish copies of executive orders issued by him to the respective council chairman within seventy-two (72) hours after their issuance;
- m. Visit component barangays of the City at least once every six (6) months to deepen his understanding of problems and conditions, listen and give appropriate counsel to local officials and inhabitants of general laws and ordinances which especially concern them and otherwise conduct visits and inspections to ensure that the governance of the City will improve the quality of life of the inhabitants;
- n. Act on leave applications of officials and employees appointed by him and the commutation of the monetary value of their leave credits in accordance with law;
- o. Authorize official trips of city officials and employees outside of the City for a period not exceeding thirty (30) days;
- p. Call upon any national official or employee stationed in or assigned to the City to advise him on matters affecting the City and to make recommendations thereon; coordinate with said officials or employees in the formulation and implementation of plans, programs and projects; and, when appropriate, initiate any administrative or judicial action against a national government official or employee who may have committed an offense in the performance of his official duties while stationed in or assigned to the City;
- q. Authorize payment for medical care, necessary transportation, subsistence, hospital or medical fees of city officials and employees who are injured while in the performance of their official duties and functions, subject to the availability of funds;
- r. Solemnize marriages, any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding;
- s. Conduct an annual palaring panlungsod, which shall feature traditional sports and disciplines included in national and international games, in coordination with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports; and
- t. Submit to the respective metropolitan authority council chairman and to the Office of the President the following reports: an annual report containing a summary of all matters pertinent to the

management, administration and development of the City and all information and data relative to its political, social and economic conditions; and supplemental reports when unexpected events and situations arise at any time during the year, particularly when man-made or natural disasters or calamities affect the general welfare of the City;

2. Enforce all laws and ordinances relative to the governance of the City and in the exercise of its appropriate corporate powers as well as implement all approved policies, programs, projects, services, and activities of the City;
 - a. Ensure that the acts of the City's component barangays are within the scope of their prescribed powers, duties and functions;
 - b. Call conventions, conferences, seminars, or meetings of elective and appointive officials of the City, including national officials and employees stationed in or assigned to the City, at such time and place and on such subject as he may deem important for the promotion of the general welfare of the local government unit and its inhabitants;
 - c. Issue such executive orders for the faithful and appropriate enforcement and execution of laws and ordinances;
 - d. Be entitled to carry the necessary firearm within his territorial jurisdiction;
 - e. Act as the deputized representative of the National Police Commission, formulate the peace and order plan of the City and upon its approval, implement the same as such exercise general and operational control and supervision over the local police forces in the City, in accordance with Republic Act No. 6975;
 - f. Call upon the appropriate law enforcement agencies to suppress disorder, riot, lawless violence, rebellion or sedition, or to apprehend violators of the law when public interest so requires and the city police forces are inadequate to cope with the situation or the violators;
3. Initiate and maximize the generation of resources and revenues and apply the same in the implementation of development plans, program objectives and priorities, particularly those resources and revenues programmed for agro-industrial development and countryside growth and progress;
 - a. Require each head of an office or department to prepare and submit an estimate of appropriations for the ensuing calendar year, in accordance with the budget preparation process in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Code;
 - b. Prepare and submit to the sanggunian, for approval, the executive and supplemental budgets of the City for the ensuing calendar year in the manner provided for under the Local Government Code;
 - c. Ensure that all taxes and other revenues of the City are collected and that city funds are applied to the payment of expenses and settlement of obligations of the City in accordance with law or ordinance;
 - d. Issue licenses and permits and suspend or revoke the same for any violation of the conditions upon which said licenses or permits had been issued pursuant to law or ordinance;