



Office of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 123rd REGULAR SESSION OF THE 11th SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF ISABELA HELD AT PROVINCIAL CAPITOL, ILAGAN CITY, ISABELA ON MARCH 24, 2025.

PRESENT:

FAUSTINO G. DY III	Vice-Governor & Presiding Officer
DELFINITO EMMANUEL L. ALBANO	Member (1st District) & Floor Leader
EMMANUEL JOSELITO B. AÑES	Member (1st District)
ED CHRISTIAN S. GO	Member (2nd District)
EDGAR R. CAPUCHINO	Member (2nd District)
MARY GRACE D. ARREOLA	Member (3rd District)
RAMON JUAN N. REYES, JR.	Member (3rd District)
CLIFFORD R. RASPADO	Member (4th District)
VICTOR G. DY	Member (4th District)
MANUEL FAUSTINO U. DY	Member (5th District)
EDWARD S. ISIDRO	Member (5th District)
MARCO PAOLO A. MERIS	Member (6th District)
AMADOR A. GAFFUD, JR.	Member (6th District)
ANTONIO S. HUI	Member, PCL Federation President
MARIA KATRINA JESSICA G. DY	Member, LnB Federation President
CATHERINE JOY L. LEGASPI	Member, SK Federation President

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-10-01

Series of 2025

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE OPERATION OF PHILIPPINE OFFSHORE GAMING OPERATIONS (POGOs), INTERNET GAMING LICENSEES (IGLs), AND OTHER ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING ACTIVITIES AND SCAM HUBS IN THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Sponsor: HON. VICTOR G. DY

Chairperson, Committee on Public Order and Public Safety

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The rise of **Philippine Offshore Gaming Operations (POGOs)** and **Internet Gaming Licensees (IGLs)** in the country has been marred by widespread controversy due to their association with illicit activities, including cyber fraud, financial scams, human trafficking, and other criminal enterprises. In response to these alarming concerns, the **National Government, through Executive Order No. 74, Series of 2024, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Memorandum Circular No. 2025-025**, has mandated the immediate cessation and banning of all POGO and IGL operations nationwide.

Nagkaisa para sa Isabela



AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE OPERATION OF PHILIPPINE OFFSHORE GAMING OPERATIONS (POGOs), INTERNET GAMING LICENSEES (IGLs), AND OTHER ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING ACTIVITIES AND SCAM HUBS IN THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The Province of Isabela recognizes the **serious risks posed by illegal online gambling and scam hubs**, which have been found to operate under the guise of legitimate offshore gaming establishments. These activities **threaten the economic stability, security, and overall welfare of the Isabeleños** by fostering criminal enterprises that prey on vulnerable individuals through deceptive online schemes, including **phishing, vishing, love scams, and online extortion**.

This Ordinance is enacted to:

1. **Strictly enforce the ban** on POGOs, IGLs, and other illegal online gambling activities within the Province of Isabela;
2. **Prevent the re-emergence of scam hubs** that engage in cyber financial fraud and other illicit online activities;
3. **Dismantle networks of online scammers** who exploit digital platforms to commit fraudulent schemes;
4. **Ensure law enforcement coordination** between local government units (LGUs) and national law enforcement agencies to effectively suppress cyber-related crimes;
5. **Provide incentives to informants** and concerned citizens who report illegal gaming activities, thereby fostering public participation in crime prevention; and
6. **Hold accountable property owners and businesses** that knowingly allow their premises to be used for illegal gambling or cyber fraud operations.

With the continued **expansion of digital technology**, it is imperative for the Provincial Government of Isabela to establish **proactive measures that will curb cyber-enabled financial crimes and illegal gambling schemes**. This Ordinance seeks to protect our communities from the **devastating economic and social impact of online fraud, scams, and illicit gaming operations**, reinforcing Isabela's commitment to **good governance, public safety, and economic integrity**.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this **Anti-Illegal Online Gambling and Scam Hub Prohibition Ordinance** is earnestly sought.

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE OPERATION OF PHILIPPINE OFFSHORE GAMING OPERATIONS (POGOs), INTERNET GAMING LICENSEES (IGLs), AND OTHER ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING ACTIVITIES AND SCAM HUBS IN THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

SECTION 1. TITLE. This Ordinance shall be known as the **"Anti-Illegal Online Gambling and Scam Hub Prohibition Ordinance of Isabela."**

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. It is hereby declared the policy of the Provincial Government of Isabela to uphold public welfare, security, and economic stability by prohibiting the operation of Philippine Offshore Gaming Operations (POGOs), Internet Gaming Licensees (IGLs), and all forms of illegal online gambling and scam hubs within its jurisdiction. Recognizing the adverse social and economic consequences of these activities, the Province of Isabela shall implement stringent measures to prevent their proliferation, safeguard residents from cyber fraud and related crimes, and ensure the effective enforcement of national directives banning such operations.

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The Provincial Government commits to working in close coordination with national law enforcement agencies, local government units, and other stakeholders to suppress illicit gambling operations, dismantle scam hubs, and protect Isabeleños from the threats posed by cybercriminal enterprises.

SECTION 3. SCOPE AND COVERAGE. This Ordinance shall apply to all individuals, entities, and business establishments operating within the territorial jurisdiction of the Province of Isabela. It shall cover all activities related to Philippine Offshore Gaming Operations (POGOs), Internet Gaming Licensees (IGLs), and similar illegal online gambling activities, including scam hubs engaged in cyber fraud, phishing, vishing, love scams, online extortion, and other fraudulent schemes.

SECTION 4. DEFINITION OF TERMS. For purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms shall mean:

- a. **Philippine Offshore Gaming Operations (POGOs).** Entities engaged in online gambling activities that cater to foreign-based clients, including offshore betting platforms operating within Philippine territory. These operations have been linked to illicit activities, including financial fraud, human trafficking, and other criminal enterprises.
- b. **Internet Gaming Licensees (IGLs).** Companies or organizations granted licenses to operate online gambling platforms, offering betting services and gaming activities over the internet. These entities are now classified as illegal under national government directives.
- c. **Illegal Online Gambling Activities.** Any form of gambling conducted through the internet that does not have legal authorization from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) or other relevant regulatory bodies. This includes, but is not limited to, online casinos, sports betting sites, and lottery schemes that function outside the scope of Philippine law.
- d. **Scam Hubs.** Facilities, offices, or locations used for conducting fraudulent online schemes, including cybercrimes, identity theft, and investment scams. These establishments often replace former POGO and IGL hubs after their closure.
- e. **Cyber Fraud.** Any deceitful or dishonest act committed using digital technology, including online banking fraud, identity theft, and unauthorized electronic transactions designed to defraud individuals or businesses.
- f. **Phishing.** A cybercrime method wherein fraudulent emails, messages, or websites are used to trick individuals into revealing sensitive personal or financial information.
- g. **Vishing (Voice Phishing).** The act of deceiving individuals over phone calls to obtain sensitive data, such as banking details, social security numbers, or login credentials, for fraudulent purposes.

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- h. **Love Scams.** A form of online fraud in which criminals establish romantic relationships with victims through dating platforms or social media to manipulate them into sending money or personal information.
- i. **Online Extortion.** A cybercrime involving threats, blackmail, or coercion through digital platforms to force victims to pay money or perform specific actions under duress.
- j. **Other Fraudulent Schemes.** Any other forms of cybercrime or financial fraud conducted through online platforms, including fake job offers, Ponzi schemes, and fraudulent travel or accommodation services.

SECTION 5. PROHIBITED ACTS. The following acts are hereby prohibited within the Province of Isabela:

- a. Operating, managing, or facilitating Philippine Offshore Gaming Operations (POGOs) or Internet Gaming Licensees (IGLs);
- b. Establishing or maintaining scam hubs, cyber fraud centers, or other facilities linked to illicit online gambling activities;
- c. Granting business permits, licenses, or authorizations to individuals or entities involved in POGO, IGL, and related operations;
- d. Leasing, renting, or allowing any property to be used for illegal online gambling or cyber fraud operations;
- e. Failure of property owners, landlords, or managers to report suspected POGO, IGL, or scam hub operations within their premises;
- f. Any other act that directly or indirectly supports the continued existence or proliferation of illegal offshore gaming activities within the province.

SECTION 4. PREVENTIVE MEASURES. To effectively enforce this Ordinance, the following preventive measures shall be implemented:

- a. **Inventory and Monitoring** – The Provincial Government, in coordination with all cities and municipalities, shall conduct an inventory of former POGO and IGL hubs to ensure their compliance with the national directive on cessation;
- b. **Law Enforcement Coordination** – The Provincial Government shall coordinate with the Philippine National Police (PNP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and other law enforcement agencies to intensify intelligence gathering and enforcement actions;
- c. **Community Awareness** – Information campaigns shall be conducted to educate the public about the risks of engaging in illegal online gambling activities and cyber fraud schemes;

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- d. **Reporting Mechanism** – A user-friendly platform shall be established to allow the public to report suspected POGO, IGL, or scam hub operations within the province.

SECTION 5. PENALTIES. Any person, entity, or establishment found violating this Ordinance shall be subject to the following penalties:

- a. **First Offense** – A fine of **THREE THOUSAND PESOS (PHP3,000.00)** and the initiation of appropriate proceedings for the revocation of any existing business permit;
- b. **Second Offense** – A fine of **FOUR THOUSAND PESOS (PHP4,000.00)** and perpetual disqualification from securing any business permit in the Province of Isabela;
- c. **Third and Subsequent Offenses** – A fine of **FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (PHP5,000.00)**, confiscation of all equipment used in illegal gambling operations, and imprisonment of **six (6) months to one (1) year** upon conviction.

For non-individual violators (corporations, partnerships, or other business entities), the responsible officers, such as the President, General Manager, or similar officials, shall be held liable.

SECTION 6. INCENTIVE SCHEME FOR REPORTING VIOLATORS. To encourage public participation in the enforcement of this Ordinance, the Provincial Government of Isabela shall establish an **Incentive Scheme** for individuals who provide credible and material information leading to the identification, investigation, and successful closure of establishments or individuals engaged in Philippine Offshore Gaming Operations (POGOs), Internet Gaming Licensees (IGLs), illegal online gambling activities, and scam hubs within the province.

A. Eligibility for Incentives. Any person, except law enforcement officers, local government officials, or individuals directly involved in the illegal activity, shall be eligible for an incentive if they:

- i. Provide verifiable and material information that leads to the apprehension or prosecution of individuals or entities violating this Ordinance.
- ii. Assist in uncovering clandestine operations and scam hubs linked to illegal online gambling, cyber fraud, phishing, vishing, love scams, or other fraudulent schemes.
- iii. Submit reports through official government reporting channels, ensuring the confidentiality of their identity.

B. Incentive Amount and Distribution

- i. **Successful Closure of an Illegal Establishment.** A monetary reward, the amount of which shall be determined by the Provincial Government based on the gravity and impact of the operation, shall be granted to an informant whose report directly results in the closure of a POGO, IGL, scam hub, or any similar illegal operation.
- ii. **Arrest and Conviction of Key Operators.** An additional incentive, commensurate with the significance of the information provided and the successful prosecution of key individuals, shall be awarded to the informant whose report leads to the conviction of persons proven to be major operators of illegal online gambling or scam-related enterprises.

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- iii. **Discretionary Reward.** The Provincial Government may allocate additional incentives for reports leading to major operations dismantling large-scale scam networks.

C. Confidentiality and Protection of Informants

- i. The identity of informants shall be kept strictly confidential, and they may opt to submit reports anonymously through secure government communication channels.
- ii. The Provincial Government, in coordination with law enforcement agencies, shall implement measures to ensure the protection and safety of informants against retaliation.

D. Mechanism for Reporting

- i. Reports shall be submitted through an **official reporting hotline, email, or walk-in complaint center** managed by the Provincial Legal Office and the Isabela PNP Cybercrime Division.
- ii. A **Verification and Evaluation Committee**, composed of representatives from the Provincial Government, PNP, and concerned agencies, shall assess the validity of reports and determine the corresponding incentive.
- iii. Incentives shall only be released upon confirmation of successful enforcement actions resulting from the report.

SECTION 7. ENFORCEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION. The Provincial Government of Isabela, through the Office of the Governor, shall oversee the enforcement of this Ordinance. The Provincial Legal Office, in coordination with local law enforcement agencies, shall ensure compliance with the directives herein.

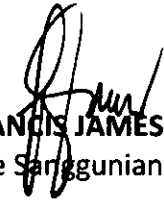
SECTION 8. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. If any provision of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall not be affected and shall continue to be in full force and effect.


SECTION 9. REPEALING CLAUSE. All prior ordinances, resolutions, or regulations inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.


SECTION 10. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval and compliance with the required posting and publication requirements.

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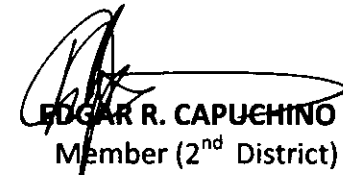
I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was duly enacted by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Isabela during its 121st Regular Session on March 04, 2025.



ATTY. FRANCIS JAMES E. MEER
Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan



DELFINITO EMMANUEL L. ALBANO
Member (1st District)



EMMANUEL JOSELITO B. ANES
Member (1st District)



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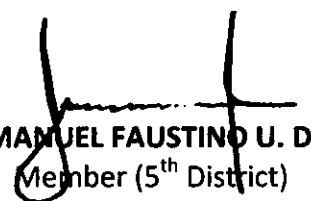

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FAUSTINO G. DY III
Vice-Governor

APPROVED:



RODOLFO T. ALBANO III
Governor