

1 Republic of the Philippines
2 PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE
3 LAOAG CITY
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5
6 **OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN**
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8
9 DRAFT PROVINCIAL ORDINANCE NO. 2008-64-047
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12 Sponsored by Kristian R. Ablan, Rudys Ceasar G. Farinas I
13 and the Committee on Youth and Sports Development

14 **AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE OPERATION OF**
15 **INTERNET CAFÉS AND COMPUTER GAME SHOPS IN**
16 **THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE.**

17 **WHEREAS**, the province recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation building and
18 shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being;

19 **WHEREAS**, numerous young students are lured into computer games because of their
20 addictive appeal and are easily tempted to skip school so they could go to internet cafes and
21 computer game shops and, instead of doing research, play internet games or chat;

22 **WHEREAS**, a big part of our young students' weekly allowance go to internet cafes and
23 computer game shops;

24 **WHEREAS**, several of these internet cafes and computer game shops are found
25 operating near educational institutions;

26 **WHEREAS**, there is a need to enact an ordinance that will regulate the operation of
27 internet cafés and computer game shops that has attracted many young students;

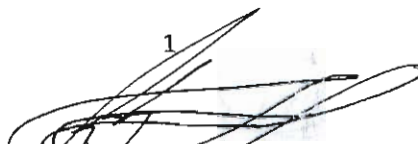
28 **NOW, THEREFORE**, Be it ordained, that:
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30 **SECTION 1. DEFINITION OF TERMS.**

- 31 a) **"Internet Cafés / Computer Game Shops"** – any establishment maintaining or
32 operating computer games for a fee, irrespective of the number of unit(s), whether
33 licensed or not.
- 34 b) **"Educational Institution"** – All institutions of learning, whether public or private.
- 35 c) **"Operator"** – shall include the owner, manager, administrator, or any person who
36 operates and is responsible for the operation of any internet café or computer game
37 shop.
- 38 d) **"School Hours"** – shall mean the time spent in school by a student during and
39 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00p.m.
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1 **SECTION 2. REGULATIONS.**

- 2 a) Internet cafés and computer game shops should not allow elementary and high school
3 students, below 18 years of age, during school hours, except on Saturdays, Sundays
4 and Holidays, unless for specific educational or study purposes such as research and
5 data-gathering, *Provided*, that this provision shall not apply to minors playing
6 computer games in the presence and under the supervision of their parents, or legal
7 guardians, as the case may be.
- 8 b) It shall be the duty of the parents, guardians, teachers in all levels, and school
9 authorities to supervise, and monitor the activities of their minor
10 children/pupils/students, extending to them the benefits of moral guidance, self
11 discipline and advising them the proper time when to indulge in on-line computer
12 games and on any matter affecting their development and well being.
- 13 c) Internet cafés and computer game shop operators are required to post on their
14 premises warning signs to keep students out of their establishments during school
15 hours.
- 16 d) Entrance doors and windows of internet cafés and computer game shops should be
17 transparent and must not be tinted or covered with blinds.
- 18 e) Internet cafés should install filtering software blocking internet websites displaying
19 obscene and violent materials.
- 20 f) The operator shall set up monitor filters to safeguard radioactivity.
- 21 g) The operator should lock websites and other sources of games in the computers
22 during school hours.
- 23 h) The owners shall disallow the use, consumption as well as trade of prohibited drugs,
24 intoxicating beverages and tobacco products within premises of their establishments.
- 25 i) Downloading of movies or television shows, which is a form of piracy, is prohibited.
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27 **SECTION 3. EXEMPTION.** – Any educational institution, private home and corporate
28 entity using the Internet through an Internet Service Provider (ISP) for purposes other than
29 computer rental business shall not be covered by this ordinance.

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31 **SECTION 4. PENALTIES.** – Any person or establishment caught violating this
32 ordinance shall be imposed with the following penalties, upon the discretion of the court.

33 **1st Offense** – A fine of not less than P 500.00, but not more than P 1,000.00;

34 **2nd Offense** – A fine of not less than P 1,000.00, but not more than P 2,500.00;

35 **3rd Offense** – A fine of not less than P 2,500.00, but not more than P 5,000.00 and the
36 cancellation of Governor's Permit.



1 **SECTION 5. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** – If any part, section or provision of this
2 ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain
3 in force and effect.

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5 **SECTION 6. REPEALING CLAUSE.** – All other ordinances, orders, issuances, rules
6 and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed,
7 amended or modified accordingly.

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9 **SECTION 7. EFFECTIVITY.** – This ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
10 publication.

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12 Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurtis J. ...".A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. ...".