WHEREAS, based on record, dengue cases continue to increase causing an alarming public health problem;

WHEREAS, dengue is a community based problem and that there is a need to intensify community awareness and participation to successfully minimize or eradicate the vector and the disease;

WHEREAS, dengue remains a cause of mortality and morbidity in the country. All regions, cities and municipalities are endemic for dengue and General Santos City, despite its being a highly progressive city, is not spared from experiencing such an outbreak or epidemic;

WHEREAS, considering that dengue is a vector-borne disease transmitted by an infected mosquito, produced in any artificial containers that hold clear stagnant water, dengue will spread easily;

WHEREAS, at present, the only method of controlling or preventing dengue virus transmission is to combat the vector mosquitoes;

WHEREAS, vector control can be effectively and efficiently implemented using environmental management and chemical methods as well as proper solid waste disposal and improved water storage practices, including covering containers to prevent access by egg-laying female mosquitoes.

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion of City Councilor ____________________, duly seconded by City Councilor/s __________________ , be it –

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved to enact this Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PREVENTION, CONTROL, REDUCTION AND MITIGATION OF THE MOSQUITO VECTOR OF DENGUE IN THE CITY OF GENERAL SANTOS, PENALIZING VIOLATORS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Section 1. Title. - This Ordinance shall be known as the “Anti-Dengue Vector Ordinance of General Santos City.”

Section 2. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Ordinance, the following terms are hereby defined as follows:

2.1 Dengue - an acute infectious disease caused by a flavivirus (species Dengue virus of the genus Flavivirus), transmitted by aedes mosquitoes, and characterized by headache, severe joint pain, and a rash – also called breakbone fever, dengue fever.
2.2 Stagnant Water - motionless water, not flowing in a stream or current. Also known as standing water.

2.3 Public Places/Estabishments - hotels, motels, dormitories, commercial buildings, lodging and boarding houses, apartments, hospitals, libraries, museums, offices, malls, markets, supermarkets, movie houses, schools, colleges and universities and other similar institutions.

2.4 Vector - an organism that can carry a particular disease-causing agent (like a virus) without actually developing the disease.

2.5 Place - land, building, residence, pier, watercraft, or any means of conveyance.

2.6 Public Places - parks, plazas, picnic grounds, camps, roads, cemeteries and memorial parks, terminals, rest areas, and other open fields and enclosed areas of public assembly.

2.7 Integrated Control - controlling pests through the use of several different methods and procedures which are used to complement each other. These procedures may include the use of pesticides, environmental sanitation measures, natural as well as mechanical and biological control methods.

2.8 Pesticides - any substance or product, or mixture intended to control, prevent, destroy, repel or mitigate, directly or indirectly any pest.

2.9 Urban Pest Control - pest control activities in all habitable areas but not to include agricultural pest control activities.

2.10 Urban Pest Control Applicator - any individual who uses or supervises the use of pesticides or any methods or services for urban pest control or implementation of a vermin reduction and mitigation program.

2.11 Fumigation - the act of applying, releasing or dispensing a toxic chemical so that it reaches the target organism primarily or wholly in gaseous state.

2.12 Misting - a fine spray of approved chemicals to control or eradicate the vector of the disease.

2.13 Urban Pest Control Operator - refers to establishment or entities engaged in the application of pesticides or any other methods or services for urban pest control or implementation of a vermin reduction and mitigation program.

Section 3. Vector Breeding Grounds Control. - Buildings/structures under construction must not accumulate stagnant water and solid wastes. All owners, managers, administrators and/or caretakers of households, schools, vacant lots, abandoned houses, tire trading/merchandiser business, and all other buildings/establishments within General Santos City are mandated to get rid of vectors breeding ground, particularly stagnant water, to avoid mosquito larvae (kiti-kiti), otherwise they are presumed to have violated this ordinance.

Section 4. Minimum requirements for compliance of the constituents of the City.

a. Water drums, pails, similar containers must be covered at all times.
b. Old or discarded tires should be punctured or cut.
c. Unused tin cans, jars, bottles, pots, and the like should be properly collected, stored, or disposed.
d. Gutters of roof must be maintained free from accumulation of rain water.
e. Abandoned swimming pools must be treated with larvicides or other means of controlling the vectors. - Uninhabited structures/buildings must be free from all kinds of waste and stagnant waters.
f. All plant vases and pots, open bamboo poles, free holes, leaf plant axils, other natural or artificial containers that may accumulate water, should always be checked as the potential breeding place of aedes aegypti mosquitoes.

Section 5. Prevention and Control.

5.1 All other interventions especially the use of chemicals other than for research purposes shall secure clearance from the City Health Office (CHO) prior to its conduct.

5.2 Pest Control Operators shall be accredited by the CHO prior to the render of services within the jurisdiction of Gen. Santos City.

5.3 All new technologies, approaches and processes that may be developed in the future which will help in the prevention and control of dengue shall be adopted for implementation upon recommendation by the CHO.

Section 6. Information Education Campaign (IEC). - The City Health Office with the cooperation of the City Environment Office, Liga ng mga Barangay and the barangay concerned shall conduct a massive public awareness campaign – which include but not limited to, health education including the organization/coordination and lectures, Ovi-Larvitrapping, manner of destroying breeding sites, and participation in the “Oplan Linis” Activities – as well as disseminate all information relative to the implementation of this ordinance.

Section 7. Rules and Regulations. - The City Health Office shall, in coordination with the City Environment Office (Cenro) and Liga ng mga Barangay, promulgate rules and regulations necessary to prevent, control and abate the mosquito vector of dengue, subject to the approval of the Mayor. Such rule and regulations shall take effect upon publication.

Section 8. Penalties. - All owners, managers, administrators who fail or refuse to comply with the provisions of this ordinance shall be punished in accordance with the following penalties:

1st Offense - Stern written warning by the City Health Office;

2nd Offense – A fine of One Thousand Pesos (₱1,000.00) or imprisonment of two (2) days at the discretion of the court;

3rd Offense – A fine of Three Thousand Pesos (₱3,000.00) and imprisonment of three (3) days at the discretion of the court;

Where the violator of this Ordinance does not contest his/her apprehension and elect to pay the fine imposed under the preceding paragraph, the enforcement officer shall forthwith issue citation ticket to the person apprehended without resort to the Court. The citation ticket shall state or contain (a.) the name, signature, age and address of the person apprehended; (b.) the material facts obtaining in the commission or omission of the crime defined and penalized under this Ordinance; (c.) the amount of fine which is payable in favor of the City Government of General Santos; and (d.) notice requiring the person apprehended for extra-judicial
settlement of his/her violation by paying the prescribed amount of fine at the Office of the City Treasurer within seventy-two (72) hours from issuance thereof, otherwise, appropriate complaint shall be filed against him/her before the Court of law.

Section 9. Creation of Anti-Dengue Task Force and Deputation of Enforcers. - An Anti-Dengue Task Force shall be created and organized which shall formulate comprehensive policies, programs and guidelines on the prevention and control of dengue. Likewise, it shall monitor the implementation and enforcement of this ordinance; oversee and enforce strict implementation of the clean-up drive; coordinate with agencies or offices concerned relative to the information and awareness campaign against dengue; and create Dengue Monitoring and Prevention Team which shall be primarily responsible for the monitoring of the incidence of dengue in 26 barangays in Gen. Santos City and submission of a monthly report anent data collected on dengue cases in the barangays to the Anti-Dengue Task Force and City Health Office.

An orientation shall be conducted by the City Health Office and Legal Department for the enforcers of this ordinance and their names shall later be endorsed by the City Health Office to the City Mayor for deputation.

Section 10. Fines for violation of this ordinance shall accrue in favor of the following: -

1. 60% to the City Government;
2. 30% to fund Dengue Prevention Projects/Programs of the City;
3. 10% to the deputized enforcers who apprehended the violator of this Ordinance.

This Ordinance shall comply with Ordinance 17, Series of 2003 otherwise known as An Ordinance Commissioning all Barangay Officials of the Different Barangays of the City of General Santos to issue the citation ticket prescribed under Ordinance No. 12, Series of 2003, within their respective barangay, and, further allotting fifty percent (50%) of the gross proceeds of such citation ticket in favor of such concerned barangay, and for other purposes

Section 11. Separability Clause. - If any provision or part of this ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions thereof shall remain valid and effective.

Section 12. Repealing Clause. - All ordinances, orders, or rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 13. Effectivity. - This Ordinance shall take effect after 15 days following the completion of its full publication in any newspaper of general circulation within General Santos City.

Prepared by:

Cheryl C. Combatir
LLSO II