



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD
CITY OF ZAMBOANGA

ORDINANCE NO. 2009-152

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A SEPTAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN
THE CITY OF ZAMBOANGA**

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

WHEREAS, several Philippine laws provide the legal basis for the establishment of Septage Management Program;

WHEREAS, R.A. 9275 otherwise known as the "Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004" requires water utilities to provide sewerage or septage management services within five years from the passage of the law;

WHEREAS, the National Building Code of the Philippines (R.A. 6541) and the Revised National Plumbing Code have also provided the proper designs of operations and maintenance of septic tanks;

WHEREAS, to implement the provisions of the above-mentioned laws, the Chief Executive issued Executive Order No. CL-166-2007 creating the Executive Committee for the Clean Water Act;

WHEREAS, sewage is currently collected through the sewage system built by the Americans in 1935, and the same is dumped into the sea without treatment, approximately, 982 households in the city are using this sewage system;

WHEREAS, majority of the residents, businesses and other institutions in Zamboanga City use septic tanks for wastewater treatment and disposal;

WHEREAS, most of the septic tanks in the city are not desludged every three to five years;

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WHEREAS, surface water is the city's primary source of water but ground water is also utilized;

WHEREAS, the improvement, maintenance, conservation and protection of the ecosystem from pollution and degradation vis-à-vis the protection of public health are the primordial concerns of the city.

NOW THEREFORE, Be it ordained by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Zamboanga, that:

SECTION 1 - TITLE – This Ordinance shall be known as the “**Septage Management System Ordinance.**”

SECTION 2. SCOPE AND COVERAGE – This Ordinance shall apply to all buildings, facilities and structures whether public or private, residential or commercial, industrial, institutional, recreational, proposed/planned or existing, or any activity/endeavor that shall use water and produce wastewater with permanent or prolonged effect to environment. However, buildings, structures or businesses that have on-site wastewater treatment facilities approved by the City Government and the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) shall be exempted from this Ordinance.

SECTION 3. DECLARATION OF POLICY – In consonance with the Clean Water Act of 2004 that pursues a policy of economic growth in a manner consistent with the protection, preservation and revival of the quality of our water, and other related laws, particularly Section XVII of the Code on Sanitation of the Philippines (P.D. 856); the Local Government Code (R.A. 7160 – Section on Environmental Services); and the Water District Law (P.D. 198), the City Government of Zamboanga is committed to improve or enhance health, environment and the economic conditions in the city. Towards this end, it is hereby declared the policy of the City to require all households, public and commercial establishments to have proper sewage treatment or septage management.

The City shall declare its policy for any use of water and its discharge of any wastewater that no “spent water” shall be reintroduced to the environment without any proper treatment, and that as a matter of policy, the user of any water shall be held responsible to treat the same.

Lastly, as a matter of policy, all water users using and discharging from 0-40m³ of sewage shall have at least a two-closed chamber septic tank; 41 -500m³ of sewage at least three-closed chamber septic tank, 501- 1,000m³ at least five-closed chamber with pond. Any discharge of industrial or institutional or commercial waste or even from residential that produces more than 1,000m³ sewage shall either have a wastewater treatment facility or shall have an existing contract of service with any duly accredited wastewater treatment facility server.

SECTION 4. DEFINITION OF TERMS – As used in this Ordinance, the following terms and phrases shall mean:

4.1 **Anaerobic ponds** – refer to deep stabilization ponds used to treat high strength organic wastewater that also contains high concentration of solids. Anaerobic treatment does not require the presence and use of oxygen and encourages the growth of bacteria, which breaks down the waste material, releasing methane and carbon dioxide.



4.2 **Baffle** – refers to a device (as a wall or screen) to deflect, check or regulate the flow of sewage and septage. It promotes preliminary and primary treatment of the incoming sewage by allowing the physical separation of solid and liquid components in the sewage.

4.3 **CENRO** – refers to the City Environment and Natural Resources Office.

4.4 **Chamber** – refers to an enclosed space, cavity or compartment of a septic tank.

4.5 **Communal Excreta Disposal System** – refers to an excreta disposal system serving a subdivision or urban group of dwelling units.

4.6 **Desludging** – refers to the process of removing the accumulated sludge or septage from the septic tank.

4.7 **Digestion** – refers to a microbiological process that converts the chemically complex organic sludge to methane, carbon dioxide, and inoffensive humus-like material.

4.8 **Disposal Field or Leaching Bed** – refers to a soil-based effluent disposal system composed of pipes and shallow trenches leading from the outlet of the septic tank, consisting of open jointed or perforated pipes so distributed that effluent from a septic tank is oxidized and absorbed by the soil. The surrounding bedding material of the network of pipes should be of high enough permeability to effect treatment by seepage.

4.9 **Domestic Sewage** – refers to a sewage containing human excrement and liquid household waste. Also called sanitary sewage.

4.10 **Domestic Sludge** – refers to the solid particle of domestic sewage, which settle at the bottom of the sedimentation tank and is digested by anaerobic, bacteria purely from domestic sources, exclusive of industrial and hazardous wastes.

4.11 **Effluent** – refers to a general term denoting any wastewater, partially or completely treated, or in its natural state, flowing out of a drainage canal, septic tank, building, manufacturing plant, industrial plant, treatment plant, etc.


4.12 **Facultative Ponds** – refer to the shallow rectangular ponds that stabilize wastes using a combination of anaerobic, aerobic, and facultative (aerobic-anaerobic) process.

4.13 **Freeboard or Airspace of a Septic Tank** – refers to the distance as measured from the maximum liquid level line to the underside of the septic tank slab or cover.

4.14 **Individual Excreta Disposal System** – refers to an excreta disposal system serving a dwelling unit.

4.15 **Maturation Ponds** – refer to a low-rate stabilization ponds that are designed to provide for secondary effluent polishing and seasonal nitrification.

4.16 **“P” Traps** – refer to the traps used on plumbing fixtures, such as toilets and drains, to prevent sewage gases from entering the plumbing system or the atmosphere.

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4.17 **Scum** – refers to a slimy or filmy covering on the surface of the liquid in the septic tank.

4.18 **Seepage Pit** – refers to a loosely lined excavation in the ground that receives the discharge of a septic tank and designed to permit the effluent from the septic tank to seep through pit bottom and sides.

4.19 **Septage** – refers to thickened and partially treated sewage that is removed from a septic tank.

4.20 **Septic Tank** – refers to a watertight receptacle, which receives the discharge of a sanitary plumbing system or part thereof, and is designed and constructed to accomplish the sedimentation and digestion of the organic matter in the sewage within the period of detention/retention and to allow the liquid to discharge to a leaching field, sewer lines, a combined sewerage network or directly to a secondary wastewater treatment facility in accordance with the standards set forth by the Revised National Plumbing Code of the Philippines.

4.21 **Sewage** – refers to any wastewater containing human, animal or vegetable waste matter in suspension or solution including human excreta and urine and may possibly contain liquids consisting of chemicals in solution.

4.22 **Sewer** – refers to an artificial pipe or conduit for carrying sewage and wastewater.

4.23 **Sewerage** – refers to a comprehensive term, including all construction for collecting, transporting, and pumping of sewage. Usually refers to a buried system of underground pipes.

4.24 **Sewage Works** – refer to a comprehensive term for pumping, treating and final disposal of effluent via a centralized treatment plant.

4.25 **Sludge** – refers to the precipitated solid matter with highly mineralized content produced by water and sewage treatment processes.

4.26 **Stabilization Pond** – refers to an artificial pond designed to treat wastewater in general using solely naturally occurring biological treatment processes, and without the need for an electro-mechanical energy input.

4.27 **Subsurface Absorption Bed or Drain Field** – also called leaching bed, leaching field, or soaked-away. An underground system of pipes embedded in a suitably porous soil medium leading from the outlet of the septic tank, consisting of open jointed or perforated pipes so distributed that the effluent from a septic tank is oxidized and absorbed by the soil. Must be located far from environmentally critical/waterways or groundwater wells.

4.28 **Spent or Used Water** – refers to sewage and other wastewater discharge or used water resulting from any human, commercial, institutional activity, facility or endeavor regardless whether pollutive or not.

SECTION 5. SEPTAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM – For purposes of this Ordinance, septage management refers to the comprehensive programs for managing septic tanks and the procedures for the desludging, transporting, treating and disposing of



septic tank contents. As such, a Septage Management System is hereby established which includes but not limited to the following:

5.1 Excreta Disposal System. All houses and/or residential buildings shall be required to have an approved excreta disposal system for treatment of domestic sewage.

5.2 Desludging and Transfer of Septage to the Septage Treatment Facility. Liquid and/or solid materials removed from septic tanks shall be transported by a septage hauler/pumper to the approved septage treatment facilities following Department of Health regulations on desludging and transport of sludge. No septage hauler/pumper can unload or dispose of septage in other places, including bodies of water, agricultural fields, and the drainage system within the city until the implementing rules and regulations for proper land application have been issued by the authorized government agencies such as the Office of the City Environment and Natural Resources, Environmental Management Bureau-Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Health and Office of the City Health.

5.3 Septage Treatment Facility. Sludge/Septage shall be processed and treated before disposal and shall be disposed of only in approved and licensed septage treatment facilities such as but not limited to lagoon or stabilization ponds and other approved or integrated technologies. Each approved septage facility shall have an operations and maintenance plan that will include provisions for reducing system upset, including immediate actions to prevent the occurrence of foul smells and release of partially treated effluent from the system.

SECTION 6. DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS OF SEPTIC TANKS OR WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY –

6.1 Construction of New Buildings or Structures

6.1.1 No building plan for residential dwelling units or commercial, industrial, institutional, or recreational structures shall be approved unless the design of the sanitary plumbing and septic tank or wastewater treatment facility conforms to the specifications as provided under Section 3 and Section 7 herein and other pertinent regulations.

Alternative wastewater treatment systems shall be duly approved and endorsed by the City Government. Further, as governed by DENR regulations, all malls, restaurants, hotels, apartelles and other residential buildings, subdivisions, hospitals and similar establishments are required to utilize sewage treatment facilities as a condition to granting of Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECCs) and permits to operate.

6.1.2 It shall be the duty of the owner, administrator or contractor to inform the City Engineer's Office that the newly constructed septic tank, sewage treatment facility or alternative treatment system, with prior plan approval, is ready for inspection. The new system shall not be covered or used until inspected and approved by the City Engineer's Office.

6.2 Existing Residential Buildings or Structures

6.2.1 Owners of existing septic tanks that are not accessible for desludging are required to repair or upgrade their tank so it can be desludged. If repairs are not possible, such owners are required to build a new septic tank that will comply with the provisions set herein.



6.2.2 The cost of repair and upgrading shall be borne by the owners.

6.2.3 Communal or shared septic tanks can be used alternatively whenever feasible, particularly for existing clustered structures that are highly dense and characterized by lack of or inadequate land space. The design and the manifest of ownership and joint maintenance shall go through an approval process as determined by the City.

6.3 Owners of Commercial, Industrial and Institutional Buildings of Facilities shall have an operational wastewater treatment facility, either on-site or by service off-site. The said facility shall conform with the standards of EMB-DENR and DOH.

SECTION 7. SPECIFICATIONS - Septic tanks shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the standards set forth by the National Building Code, particularly Chapter IX, Sections 901 and 903 thereof, and as prescribed by the Revised National Plumbing Code of the Philippines, and Chapter XVII of the Code on Sanitation of the Philippines, including proper sizing and layout, and the criteria set forth below:

- 7.1 It shall be designed to produce an effluent consistent with approved engineering and environmental standards.
- 7.2 It shall be built of solid durable materials and shall be watertight. Materials shall conform to applicable Philippine material standards.
- 7.3 It shall not be constructed under any building and not within twenty-five (25) meters from any existing source of water supply.
- 7.4 It shall be divided into a minimum of two compartments.
- 7.5 Where more than one tank is used to accommodate the required liquid volume in a given minimum retention time of 2 days, the tank should be conjoined.
- 7.6 Adequate venting shall be provided in each compartment with the use of ventilating pipes not less than 50 mm in diameter. For buildings where plumbing fixtures have appropriate "p" traps, venting should occur through the plumbing stack in the building, not from the septic tank. For buildings where toilets and sinks are not protected with "p" traps, traps should be installed, or vent directly from the septic tank.
- 7.7 There shall be at least one maintenance hole for each compartment, with a minimum side dimension of 500 mm. All maintenance hole shall extend through the tank cover and shall extend to finished grade. Manhole covers shall be designed with durable and fully coated or non corrosive handles for easy lifting. Septic tank access covers should be secured from unauthorized entry, either through safety screws, locks or a tank lid that weighs 15 kg or more.
- 7.8 Outlet from the septic tank: The design, construction and location of structures receiving effluent from septic tanks shall conform to the Revised Plumbing Code of the Philippines. Effluent treatment is further required but will be covered by a separate ordinance and other infrastructure projects.



7.9 For clustered structures or houses that are highly dense and characterized by lack of or inadequate land space, there shall be designed a communal septic tank consistent with approved engineering and environmental standards.

SECTION 8. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT - The administration and enforcement of this Ordinance for all buildings, facilities and plants are hereby vested in the City Government of Zamboanga.

Upon the approval of this Ordinance, the City Government shall immediately institute and implement this Ordinance in all buildings and institutions along Senator R.T. Lim Boulevard.

SECTION 9. CREATION OF A SEPTAGE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL - There shall be created a City Septage Management Council (CSMC) which shall be composed of the following:

ChairmanCity Mayor or his duly
authorized representative
Secretariat Office of the City Environment and
Natural Resources (OCENR)
(Lead Agency)

Members:

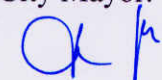
SP Chairperson, Com. On Health &
Sanitation
SP Chairperson, Com. On Environment
& Natural Resources
City Health Officer
City Planning and Development Coordinator
City Engineer
City Treasurer
City Licensing Officer
Zamboanga City Water District
Environmental Management Bureau, (EMB-DENR)
Representative, DOH - Center for Health
& Development
Representative, Pollution Control Officer Association
of the Philippines-Zamboanga City Chapter
Representative from the Barangay
Representative from the Industrial Sector

SECTION 10. FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL - The City Septage Management Council shall have the following functions:

10.1 The City Septage Management Council shall oversee the conduct of a survey of all properties and premises in coordination with barangay officials to determine if a septic tank is present, and if it is accessible for desludging.

10.2 To accredit and license private septage or desludging service providers or waste water treatment facilities.

10.3 To review and approve application for service providers and to recommend the same for approval of the Sangguniang Panlungsod thru the Office of the City Mayor.



10.4 To receive and hear complaints from residential owners and issue decisions.

10.5 If a septic tank is not present or it is inaccessible for desludging, the City Septage Management Council shall serve notices of non-conformance to the provisions of this Ordinance to the owners/administrators, or occupants. At this time, information on proper methods of complying with this Ordinance will be disseminated.

10.6 The City Septage Management Council, or its authorized representatives in coordination with the deputized barangay official shall be permitted to visit properties for the purpose of inspection, observation, measurement, sampling and testing. A prior notice shall be given property-owners to facilitate inspection and provide assistance to the City Septage Management Council or barangay representatives.

10.7 For those property owners, administrators or occupants served with notices of non-conformance, a compliance period shall be set by the property owners, administrators or occupants and the City Septage Management Council. The compliance period shall be based on the proper installation of an acceptable septic tank of which design is specified in this Ordinance and by national law.

10.8 For new developments, the occupancy permit issued by the building officials shall serve as certificate of compliance until the City Septage Management Council conducts another round of inspection.

10.9 The City Septage Management Council shall plan and implement an information and education program on wastewater management and the city's septage management system.

SECTION 11. MONITORING AND EVALUATION. Close monitoring of all activities in the treatment facilities shall be conducted by the OCENR as per their mandate. Should it be determined by OCENR that there is non-compliance, a compliance schedule shall be agreed upon with the City Septage Management Council. Continued non-compliance past the agreed upon compliance schedule, the facility will be closed from accepting septage from this program.

SECTION 12. DESLUDGING. Septic tanks require desludging when the tank is half filled or once every five (5) years, whichever comes first, and the next desludging if done within the five (5) year period, will be an add-on cost to the household.

12.1 The City Septage Management Council shall keep a record of all owners/administrators of buildings, facilities and structures who have desludged their septic tanks, those that are inaccessible, those that do not have septic tanks, and those that do not have water-sealed toilets, and other data that may be deemed necessary by the City Septage Management Council.

12.2 The City Septage Management Council shall implement and adhere to the rules and regulations set forth by the Department of Health and EMB-DENR in handling, transporting, treatment and disposal of septage.

12.3 The City Septage Management Council shall strictly implement an accreditation system and operational guidelines for private desludging service providers that would like to operate in the city, including but not limited to securing an environmental sanitation clearance (ESC) which is discussed more thoroughly in the rules and regulations set forth by the Department of Health in handling, transporting, treatment and disposal of septage.



The City Health Office in conjunction with the City Septage Management Council shall issue Sanitary Permits for all treatment and collection facilities and develop their own procedures for periodic inspections of facilities and equipment, and training programs for septage workers.

SECTION 13. SERVICE PROVIDER. The City Government of Zamboanga may operate a wastewater or treatment facility and/or desludging services and in the absence of service facilities may contract with Private Service Providers, either desludging, transporting or wastewater treatment facility, provided that they shall have the necessary funds to support capital expenditures and operating and maintenance expenses of their septage management systems.

SECTION 14. USER FEE. All residential and commercial/institutional building or structure owners shall pay an amount for the desludging of their septic tanks and treatment of the septage equivalent to the following:

14.1 The amount of P1.75 per cubic meter of water consumed per month will be collected from all residents, government offices and other agencies, and added to the Zamboanga City Water District (ZCWD) monthly water bill. (Refer to Annex "A")

14.2. Commercial establishments that have their own water source shall be required to install a production meter. The quantity of water produced shall be the basis for computing the cost of desludging the septic tank.

14.3 Users who have their own onsite wastewater treatment system, certified by the City Government as functioning and compliant and those who are connected to the existing ZCWD sewerage pipe shall be exempt from paying the required user fee.

14.4 Residential houses without any water connection or temporary facilities sharing communal septic tank shall be charged with the corresponding fee of P1.75 per cubic meter of water consumed per month.

SECTION 15. COLLECTION OF USER'S FEES - The Zamboanga City Water District is hereby authorized to collect the user's fees and shall remit the same to the City Treasurer and shall accrue to the General Fund.

SECTION 16. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.-

16.1. **Issuance of Non-Conformity.** The City Septage Management Council shall issue a notice of non-conformity to property owners, administrators or occupants who do not have a septic tank, whose septic tank is not designed properly, or is inaccessible for desludging unless they have an alternative system approved by the City Government.

16.2. **Penalties.** The violator or owner of a non-complying establishment or household, who fails to comply with the provisions of this Ordinance within one (1) year as provided under Paragraph 1.3, Section 458 of the Local Government Code, must pay the fines per violation set herein in lieu of prosecution:

a. For private residential
buildings P1,000.00



Zamboanga City Septage Management Program
Schedule of Fees

Category (cu.m.)	Services	Consumption (cu.m.)	Ave. consumption	Fee/cu.m.	Service Fee	
					Ave. fee/service	Monthly Total
Residential						
0 to 10	6,077	42,849	7.05	P 1.75	P 12.34	P 74,985.75
11 to 20	11,925	185,815	15.58	1.75	27.27	325,176.25
21 to 30	9,754	245,710	25.19	1.75	44.08	429,992.50
31 to 40	6,283	220,130	35.04	1.75	61.31	385,227.50
41 to 50	3,695	166,573	45.08	1.75	78.89	291,502.75
51 up	5,821	452,071	77.66	1.75	135.91	791,124.25
<i>Sub-total</i>	43,555	1,313,148	30.15			P 2,298,009.00
Commercial						
0 to 10	860	5,089	5.92	P 1.75	P 10.36	P 8,905.75
11 to 20	498	7,435	14.93	1.75	26.13	13,011.25
21 to 30	288	7,268	25.24	1.75	44.16	12,719.00
31 to 40	180	6,332	35.18	1.75	61.56	11,081.00
41 to 50	119	5,324	44.74	1.75	78.29	9,317.00
51 up	552	117,278	212.46	1.75	371.81	205,236.50
<i>Sub-total</i>	2,497	148,726	59.56			P 260,270.50
Semi						
0 to 10	74	472	6.38	P 1.75	P 11.16	P 826.00
11 to 20	114	1,777	15.59	1.75	27.28	3,109.75
21 to 30	109	2,786	25.56	1.75	44.73	4,875.50
31 to 40	89	3,134	35.21	1.75	61.62	5,484.50
41 to 50	68	3,153	46.37	1.75	81.14	5,517.75
51 up	155	28,403	183.25	1.75	320.68	49,705.25
<i>Sub-total</i>	609	39,725	65.23			P 69,518.75
Government						
0 to 10	56	365	6.52	P 1.75	P 11.41	P 638.75
11 to 20	37	554	14.97	1.75	26.20	969.50
21 to 30	29	756	26.07	1.75	45.62	1,323.00
31 to 40	26	933	35.88	1.75	62.80	1,632.75
41 to 50	15	678	45.20	1.75	79.10	1,186.50
51 up	198	101,084	510.53	1.75	893.42	176,897.00
<i>Sub-total</i>	361	104,370	289.11			P 182,647.50
Grand Total	47,022	1,605,969				P 2,810,446.00

- b. For hotels, apartments, banks, offices, shops, lodging houses, malls, restaurants, and other commercial establishments P2,000.00
- c. For hospitals, funeral parlors and similar operation P3,000.00

Failure to comply with the provisions herein shall result in the cancellation of business permits for commercial establishments.

SECTION 17. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE -If for any reason or reasons any provision of this Ordinance be declared illegal by a competent court, other provisions which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

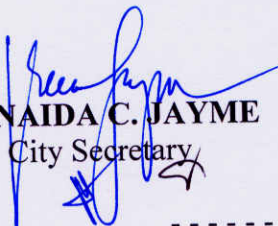
SECTION 18. REPEALING CLAUSE - All Ordinances, resolutions, executive issuances, or rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which provisions are inconsistent with or contrary to the provision of this Ordinance, the same are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION. 19 EFFECTIVITY - This Ordinance shall take effect 15 days after its approval and publication and after the operationalization of the water treatment facility and/or contract of desludging by service providers.


ENACTED: July 8, 2009 as an emergency measure.


CHARLIE M. MARIANO
 Temporary Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:


ZENAIDA C. JAYME
 City Secretary

APPROVED:


CELSO L. LOBREGAT
 City Mayor 7/17/09