



MAYOR ZAMORA HOLDS MEDIA BRIEFING ON FINAL ARRANGEMENTS AND AMENDED GUIDELINES FOR THE 2025 WATTAH WATTAH FESTIVAL

San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora conducted a media briefing to announce the final preparations and amended guidelines for the 2025 Wattah Wattah Festival, pursuant to City Ordinance No. 14, Series of 2025.

During the briefing, Mayor Zamora highlighted the key provisions of the ordinance, which aim to ensure a safer, more organized, and more meaningful celebration of the Feast of St. John the Baptist—locally known as the Wattah Wattah Festival—on June 24, 2025, and in future years.

“Ito po ay ang revised guidelines ng ating Wattah Wattah San Juan Festival na ipagdiriwang sa June 24. Ilang araw na lang po ‘yan kung kaya’t gusto po natin na malaman ng publiko kung anong mga pagbabagong ating gagawin. Ang gusto po natin ay makapagdiwang tayo ng kapistahan ng tahimik, payapa, at walang anumang kaguluhan. Itong bagong ordinansa natin na ipapaliwanag ko ngayon ay magbibigay-daan upang ito ay ating maisakatuparan. Kung sakaling may mga lalabag po sa mga panuntunan na nakasaad sa mga ordinansa, meron po itong mga karampatang multa at pagkulong na kaakibat” said Mayor Zamora.

Designated Basaan Zone and Time Restrictions

Water-drenching activities will be allowed strictly only from 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM, and only within the designated Water-Drenching Zone or "Basaan Zone". This includes areas along Pinaglaban Road, between N. Domingo and P. Guevarra Streets, and the vicinity of the Pinaglaban Shrine. Water-drenching outside this zone is absolutely prohibited.

“Ito lang po ang lugar kung saan puwedeng magbasaan. Everything outside the Basaan Zone, bawal po ang basaan. So, magiging maliwanag sa lahat na kung wala kayo sa Basaan Zone, bawal mangbasa. Kung gusto ninyong makiisa sa ating kapistahan sa pamamagitan ng basaan, dito niyo lang puwedeng gawin ‘yan sa Basaan Zone,” he added.

Prohibited Acts

The ordinance enumerates the following prohibited acts:

- Use of dirty water, or water/ice placed in plastic (e.g., water bombs), bottles, or containers that may cause injury.
- Opening car doors or entering vehicles to splash water.
- Inflicting harm or issuing threats.
- Climbing, shaking, or rocking vehicles.



- Splashing water outside the Basaan Zone.
- Use of unauthorized vehicles or fire trucks for drenching without a permit from the city government.
- Use of high-pressure water sprayers, except those operated by authorized fire trucks.

Liquor Ban

A liquor ban will also be enforced from 12:01 AM to 2:00 PM on June 24. During this period, the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages in public places—including groceries, supermarkets, restaurants, and sari-sari stores—will be strictly prohibited all over San Juan City.

Penalties and Enforcement

Violators will be fined ₱5,000 and may be subject to imprisonment of up to 10 days. Minors caught violating the ordinance will be turned over to the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO), as stated in City Ordinance No. 58, Series of 2018. Parents or guardians of minors will be fined ₱5,000, and the minor will be referred to the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) or the CSWDO for appropriate intervention.

Business establishments found violating the liquor ban will likewise be fined ₱5,000.

To maintain peace and order, hundreds of police officers will be deployed throughout the city.

“Asahan po ninyo na sa loob at labas ng Basaan Zone ay marami po kayong pulis na makikita. Ako po ay makikipagpulong kay Chief PNP Gen. Nicolas Torre upang ikonsulta ang posibleng dagdag pang kapulisan mula sa Eastern Police District at NCRPO,” stated Mayor Zamora.

Mayor Zamora assured the public that the city is determined to avoid a repeat of last year's incidents.

“Sa totoo lang, gusto kong siguraduhin na pagkatapos nung nangyari nung nakaraang taon, gusto ko pong siguraduhin na itong kapistahan natin ngayon ay magiging tahimik, payapa at maayos. Asahan po ninyo na inyong makikita ang ating mga pulis sa ating lansangan, ganun din po ang ating Task Force Disiplina, Public Order and Safety Office, maging ang mga tanods po, sapagkat kung meron man pong mahuli ang ating mga kawani ng pamahalaang lungsod at barangay, puwede po silang i-turn over sa mga kapulisan at agad po silang kakasuhan. Ganyan po tayo kaseryoso sa ating selebrasyon ngayong taong ito sapagkat ayaw ko na pong mangyari muli yung nangyari noong nakaraang taon.”



He also reassured the public that people who do not want to participate in water activities will remain dry as long as they stay out of the Basaan Zone.

“Kung kayo naman po ay magpupunta ng San Juan upang makipagbasaan, welcome na welcome po kayo,” he said.

June 24 Declared a Special Holiday

Under Proclamation No. 929 issued by the Office of the President, June 24, 2025 has been declared a special (non-working) holiday in San Juan City to give residents the opportunity to fully participate in the celebration.

“Yung nangyari last year, ito po ay nagsilbing hudyat din ng mga pagbabagong isasagawa natin ngayong taon. Nitong mga nakaraang dekada, tuwing kapistahan ng San Juan ay nasasanay po ang mga tao na nagbabasaan. Ngunit ang nagiging problema ay nadadamay po ang ibang mga tao na pumapasok sa trabaho, paaralan, mga nananahimik. Sila po ay nasasaktan, nababasa, nasisira ang mga gamit—at ito po ay hindi dapat mangyari. Itong mga pagbabago po ay ating ginagawa upang masigurong maging tahimik, payapa, at maayos ang ating selebrasyon sa taong ito at sa mga susunod pang taon,” the mayor concluded.