

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3459

Introduced by Representative Arrel R. Olaño
1st District – Davao del Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The role of the barangay is explicitly defined under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code. As the basic political unit, the barangay serves as the primary planning and implementing unit of government policies, programs, projects and activities in the community. It also serves as a forum where the collective views of the people are expressed and crystallized, and where disputes may also be settled amicably. Apparently, due to the various functions and responsibilities reposed on barangays, the Code, aside from the punong barangay, seven (7) Sangguniang Barangay members, the Sangguniang Kabataan chairman, a secretary, a treasurer and members of the lupong tagapamayapa, empowers the sangguniang barangay to form community brigades and such other positions to carry out the purposes of the barangay government in accordance with the needs of public service.

In pursuance of this legal mandate, practically, all barangays nationwide have organized the puroks composed of a purok leader and seven (7) purok kagawads. These puroks assume, within their respective jurisdiction, the role of barangay. However, it is quite unfair to them that while they are doing their tasks to make the duties and responsibilities of barangay officials or even as persons in authority.

It is therefore the foremost objective of this measure to recognize the existence of the puroks by considering them as barangay officials within the contemplation of the Local Government Code in order for them to receive the rights, benefits and privileges accorded to barangay officials. This is the most fair and logical thing for Congress to do in order for them to work doubly hard for the good of the people living in the smallest political unit called the barangay.

In view of the foregoing reasons, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ARREL R. OLAÑO

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AN ACT
RECOGNIZING THE EXISTENCE OF BARANGAY PUROKS NATIONWIDE,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF
1991.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. Sections 387, 388 and 393 of Republic Act 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, are hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 387. Chief Officials and Offices. – (a) There shall be in each barangay, seven (7) sangguniang barangay members, the sangguniang kabataan chairman, a barangay secretary, and a treasurer.

(b) There shall be in every barangay a lupong tagapamayapa AND SUCH NUMBER OF PUROKS AS MAY BE NECESSARY, WHICH SHALL BE PROPORTIONATE TO THE NUMBER OF INHABITANTS. PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE SHALL BE ORGANIZED A PUROK FOR AT LEAST EVERY FIVE HUNDRED INHABITANTS, EXCEPT IN CITIES, WHERE SUCH NUMBER SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD. PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT, THE PROVISION OF THE LAW TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING, ALL PUROKS BEFORE THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT ARE HEREBY RECOGNIZED AND SHALL NOT BE COVERED BY THE LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY THIS SECTION. The sangguniang barangay may form community brigades and create such other positions or offices as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the barangay government in accordance with the needs of public service, subject to the budgetary limitations on personal services prescribed under Title Five, Book II of this Code.”

“SEC. 388. Persons in Authority. – For purposes of the revised Penal Code, the punong barangay, sangguniang barangay members, PUROK OFFICIALS and members of the lupong tagapamayapa in each barangay shall be deemed as persons in authority in their jurisdictions, while other barangay officials and members who may be designated by law or ordinance and charged with the maintenance of public order, protection and security of life and property, or the maintenance of a desirable and balanced environment, and any barangay member who comes to the aid of persons in authority, shall be deemed agents of persons in authority.”

“SEC. 393. Benefits of Barangay Officials. – (a) Barangay Officials, including barangay tanods, PUROK OFFICIALS, and members of the lupong tagapamayapa, shall receive honoraria, allowances, and such other emoluments as may be authorized by law or barangay, municipal or city ordinance in accordance with the provisions of this Code, but in no case shall it be less than [One] THREE thousand pesos per month for the punong barangay and ONE THOUSAND FIVE [SIX] hundred (P1,500.00) [P1,600.00] per month for the sangguniang barangay members, barangay treasurer, and barangay secretary: Provided, however, That the annual appropriations for personal services shall be subject to the budgetary limitations under Title Five, Book II of this Code.

(b) The punong barangay, the sangguniang barangay members, THE PUROK OFFICIALS, the barangay treasurers, and the barangay secretary shall also:

(1) xxx xxx xxx

Section 2. The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall issue rules and regulations within sixty (60) days upon the approval of this Act.

Section 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,