

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 198



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ARTHUR C. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the Local Government Code, the Barangay is the country's basic political unit. It serves as the primary planning and implementing unit of government policies, plans, programs, projects, and activities in the community. It is the forum wherein the collective views of the people is expressed, crystallized and considered. It is the level where small disputes may be amicably settled.

The Barangay is headed by the Punong Barangay. He is the front liner in securing the general welfare of the Barangay and its inhabitants. His position is quite unique for he is the only government official vested with the three governmental powers. These are the executive, legislative and "quasi" judicial powers.

The Punong Barangay is the Chief Executive, or little president, in charge of enforcing all laws and ordinances and maintaining public order within the Barangay. He has primary responsibility over legislation, calling and presiding over the sessions of the Sangguniang Barangay. He is the head of the Barangay justice system as he administers the operation of the Katarungang Pambarangay.

The Punong Barangay is duly assisted by members of the Sangguniang Barangay. It is the legislative body of the Barangay tasked with enacting ordinances to promote the general welfare of their inhabitants. Aside from this, the Sanggunian members, or the Kagawads, assist the Punong Barangay in the discharge of his duties and functions. They also act as peace officers in the maintenance of public order and safety.

Completing the cast of Barangay officials are the Barangay Treasurer and Secretary. These two officials are appointed by the Punong Barangay.

Unlike most public officials, these Barangay officials perform not just full time, but "24-7" work. Their constituencies expect them to attend to their needs, all of the time. There is no observance of holidays or rest days. There is no regard for after office hours and overtime work is not with additional pay. There is even no "nightshift" differential for midnight patrol duty.

With such heavy work load, most Barangay officials can no longer afford to take any other job or even small enterprise. Thus, their source of income or livelihood is the honoraria, allowances and other emoluments they receive as Barangay officials.

Unfortunately, the Local Government Code, which was enacted in 1991 or two (2) decades ago, prescribes only a minimum of P1,000 and P600 monthly honoraria, respectively, for Punong Barangay and the other Barangay officials. By any regional standard, such prescription is way below the minimum wage level.

This bill proposes to peg the honoraria or allowances of Barangay officials at minimum wage levels. For the Punong Barangay, it seeks to place it at minimum wage plus 20% premium.

Hopefully, the approval of this proposed measure would trigger the commencement of ways and means of ameliorating the economic condition of our Barangay officials. This is to properly compensate them for the services they render to their constituencies.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of the bill is earnestly sought.



ARTHUR C. YAP
Representative

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AN ACT
PRESCRIBING THE HONORARIA OR ALLOWANCES OF
BARANGAY OFFICIALS AT MINIMUM WAGE LEVELS,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 393 PARAGRAPH (a)
OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7610, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Minimum Wage for
2 Barangay Officials Act of 2013”.

3 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It hereby declared the policy of the State
4 to ameliorate the economic condition of Barangay officials and to properly compensate
5 them for the services they render to their constituencies.

6 **SECTION 3. *Amendment of Section 423 of the Local Government Code.*** –
7 Section 393 Paragraph (a) of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local
8 Government code of 1991, is hereby amended to read as follows:

9 "SECTION 393. Benefits of Barangay Officials. — (a)
10 Barangay Officials, including barangay tanods and members of the lupong
11 tagapamayapa, shall receive honoraria, allowances, and such other
12 emoluments as may be authorized by law or barangay, municipal, or city
13 ordinance in accordance with the provisions of this Code, but in no case
14 shall it be less than THE PRESCRIBED MINIMUM WAGE IN THE

1 REGION per month for the sangguniang barangay members, barangay
2 treasurer, and barangay secretary AND ONE HUNDRED TWENTY
3 PERCENT (120%) OF THE PRESCRIBED MINIMUM WAGE IN THE
4 REGION PER MONTH EQUIVALENT FOR THE PUNONG
5 BARANGAY: xxx;

6 xxx

7 **SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act, or any part
8 thereof, is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity
9 of the other portions.

10 **SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, executive orders, presidential
11 decrees, proclamations, rules, regulations, issuances and enactments of parts thereof
12 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

13 **SECTION 7. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its
14 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in
15 the Philippines, whichever comes earlier.

APPROVED.