

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6703



Introduced by Representative Richard I. Gomez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The implementation of good governance is often more difficult than policy creation. This is even more pronounced in cases involving a trailblazing process; something that has never been done in the country before. Because there has been no precedent, what is usually an uphill climb is made even more daunting. Such is the case for the barangay mergers of the City of Ormoc.

On October 8, 2022, the LGU of Ormoc held a plebiscite, conducted by the COMELEC, for the residents of 28 barangays to vote for or against the mergers of said barangays into three (3) super barangays, namely Barangays West, East and South. The plebiscite results demonstrated overwhelming support for the mergers, with 90% of votes cast in favor of the merger.

Although the statistics present a scenario of swift, unencumbered success, the reality was far from an easy win. The road leading to the country's very first successful plebiscite favoring the merger of barangays was long, winding and rocky, to say the least. However, what made the process lengthy and elaborate also proved to be the key to the program's overall success. The LGU attributed its triumph to its efforts in diligently gaining genuine buy in from the barangay residents themselves.

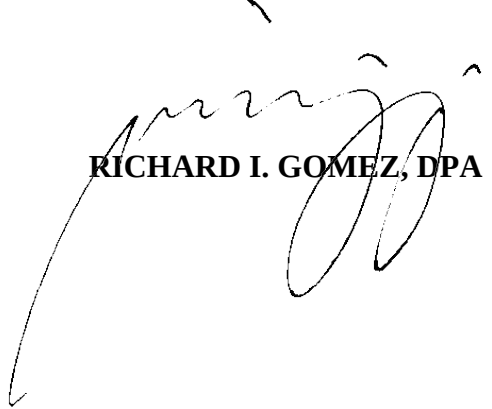
A third-party survey conducted asked barangay residents what their "ideal barangay" would look like in five years. The response largely centered on a barangay that is fully equipped with basic facilities such as a permanent barangay hall, health center, reading and learning center, daycare center and evacuation center. They further indicated the desire for other social activity facilities, such as, a playground, basketball court and barangay plaza. Other key facilities pointed out included materials recovery, street lighting and CCTV security.

One of the reasons why the barangays targeted for the merger program fall short of the said facilities is that most have very low populations ranging from 14 to 1,763 per 2020 population census. This means that all of the 28 barangays fell short of the minimum population required (2,000 residents) to form a barangay, according to Section 386, of the Local Government Code.

With the clear mandate from the barangay residents, as demonstrated in the plebiscite results, the next steps are for the merged barangays: (a) to commence their corporate existence and (b) to be entitled to a consolidated national tax allotment (NTA). Since Section 14 of the Local Government Code mandates the election and qualification of newly elected barangay officials as requirement for the merged barangays' corporate existence, the merged barangays will have to wait until the next barangay elections, which has been postponed to the last Monday of October 2023.

This house bill addresses the other vital step for the merged barangays to be able to fulfill the desires of its residents, which is their entitlement to the consolidated NTA. By establishing the merged barangays through a Republic Act, the merged barangays would be fully compliant with the requirements of RA 7160, for barangays to be automatically be granted its fair share of the NTA.

In view of the foregoing, I pray that this bill – creating Barangay East in the City of Ormoc, be approved and ratified at the soonest time possible.



RICHARD I. GOMEZ, DPA

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**AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY EAST IN THE
CITY OF ORMOC, PROVINCE OF LEYTE**

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

SECTION 1. *Creation of Barangay East.* - There is hereby created a barangay to be known as Barangay East in the City of Ormoc, Province of Leyte, resulting from the merger of the following existing contiguous barangays:

- a) Barangay District 9, with a 2020 population of 100 and land area of 1.302 hectares (HAs);
 - b) Barangay District 10, with a 2020 population of 401 and land area of 2.325 HAs;
 - c) Barangay District 11, with a 2020 population of 319 and land area of 2.142 HAs;
 - d) Barangay District 16, with a 2020 population of 143 and land area of 1.230 HAs;
 - e) Barangay District 18, with a 2020 population of 86 and land area of 7.224 HAs;
 - f) Barangay District 25, with a 2020 population of 443 and land area of 1.660 HAs;
and
 - g) Barangay District 28, with a 2020 population of 952 and land area of 4.376 HAs;
- pursuant to Sections 7, 8, 9, 10, 14 and 386 of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991."

SEC. 2. *Territorial Boundaries.* -The territorial boundaries of Barangay East shall be identified as follows:

Boundaries:

<u>Line</u>	<u>Direction</u>	<u>Adjoining Lots/Features</u>
<u>1 - 6</u>	E	Barangay Alta Vista, Ormoc City
<u>6 - 10</u>	E	Barangay Can-adieng, Ormoc City
<u>10 - 24</u>	SW	District South, Ormoc City
<u>24 - 1</u>	NW	District West, Ormoc City

Tie Point: Corner “1” is B.B.M. No. 12, Cad-256 Ormoc Cadastre.

Lot Description:

<u>LINE</u>	<u>BEARING</u>	<u>DISTANCE</u>
1 – 2	S 02° - 23‘ E	478.66 M.
2 – 3	S 03° - 46‘ E	50.07 M.
3 – 4	S 09° - 20‘ E	58.62 M.
4 – 5	S 11° - 45‘ E	32.43 M.
5 – 6	S 00° - 34‘ E	43.47 M.
6 – 7	S 00° - 34‘ E	18.01 M.
7 – 8	S 06° - 30‘ E	61.74 M.
8 – 9	S 19° - 43‘ E	61.08 M.
9 – 10	S 33° - 09‘ E	40.56 M.
10 – 11	S 56° - 51‘ W	25.77 M.
11 – 12	S 86° - 19‘ W	54.77 M.
12 – 13	N 00° - 26‘ W	27.49 M.
13 – 14	N 05° - 45‘ W	17.19 M.
14 – 15	N 07° - 57‘ W	43.37 M.

15 – 16	N 28° - 53' W	40.96 M.
16 – 17	N 67° - 49' W	3.30 M.
17 – 18	N 69° - 53' W	111.81 M.
18 – 19	S 22° - 57' W	102.42 M.
19 – 20	N 68° - 37' W	144.68 M.
20 – 21	N 68° - 55' W	58.77 M.
21 – 22	N 67° - 56' W	82.28 M.
22 – 23	N 22° - 43' E	103.42 M.
23 – 24	N 22° - 17' E	71.73 M.
24 – 25	N 22° - 07' E	255.28 M.
25 – 26	N 21° - 41' E	101.08 M.
26 – 27	N 68° - 45' E	102.57 M.
27 – 28	N 11° - 36' W	117.73 M.
28 – 1	N 78° - 35' E	158.60 M.

AREA: TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVEN THOUSAND FOURTEEN (227,014) square meters, more or less.

SEC. 3. *Conduct and Supervision of Plebiscite.* - The plebiscite conducted and supervised by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) pursuant to City Ordinance No. 052, s. of 2021, of the Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of Ormoc, which ratified the creation of Barangay East as proclaimed by the Plebiscite Board of Canvassers on October 8, 2022, shall serve as substantial compliance to the plebiscite requirement under Section 10 of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991".

SEC. 4. *Barangay Officials and Commencement of Barangay Corporate Existence.* - The incumbent elected barangay officials of the seven (7) barangays merged in Section 1 of this Act, shall continue to hold office until the next barangay elections and the subsequent assumption of offices of newly elected barangay officials. The newly merged barangay shall commence its corporate existence thereafter.

SEC. 5. *Public Infrastructure and Facilities.* - All public infrastructure and facilities for public use existing within the seven (7) barangays merged in Section 1, at the time of the approval of this Act, are hereby transferred without cost or compensation to the new barangay and shall be administered by the same.

SEC. 6. *National Tax Allotment.* - Barangay East shall be entitled to National Tax Allotment (NTA) shares pursuant to Section 285 of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991," beginning fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,