

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2200**



Introduced by Representative Richard I. Gomez, DPA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This house bill mirrors the third reading substitute bill of the same bill filed in the 19th Congress.

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.

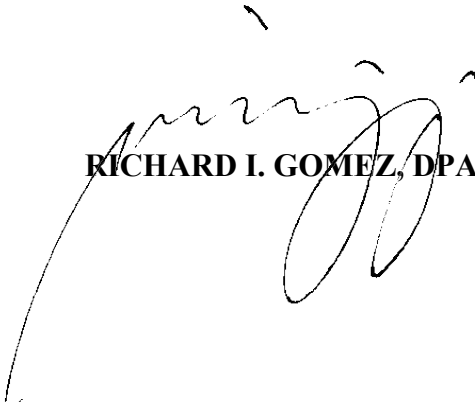
A third-party survey conducted asked barangay residents what their "ideal barangay" would look like in five years. The response largely centered on a barangay that is fully equipped with basic facilities such as a permanent barangay hall, health center, reading and learning center, daycare center and 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 fell 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 a 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 automatically be granted its fair share of the NTA.

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



RICHARD I. GOMEZ, DPA

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AN ACT
MERGING BARANGAYS 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, AND 26 IN THE CITY OF ORMOC,
PROVINCE OF LEYTE, AND CONSTITUTING THEM INTO A DISTINCT AND
INDEPENDENT BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY WEST

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

SECTION 1. *Creation of Barangay West.* – Barangays 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, and 26 in the City of Ormoc, Province of Leyte, are hereby merged and constituted into a distinct and independent barangay to be known as Barangay West.

SEC. 2. *Territorial Boundaries.* - The territorial boundaries of Barangay West are hereby described as follows:

Boundaries:

<u>Line</u>	<u>Direction</u>	<u>Adjoining Lots/Features</u>
<u>2 - 3 - 4</u>	W	Barangay Don Felipe Larrazabal, Ormoc City
<u>4 - 5</u>	NW	Barangay Cogon Combado, Ormoc City
<u>5 - 6 - 7</u>	N	District North, Ormoc City
<u>7 - 12</u>	SE	District East, Ormoc City
<u>12 - 2</u>	S	District South, Ormoc City

Tie Point: Corner “1” is B.B.M. No. 93, Cad-256 Ormoc Cadastre.

Lot Description:

<u>LINE</u>	<u>BEARING</u>	<u>DISTANCE</u>
1 – 2	N 62° - 49' W	34.95 M.
2 – 3	N 26° - 37' E	168.98 M.
3 – 4	N 24° - 21' E	253.76 M.
4 – 5	N 17° - 51' E	262.97 M.
5 – 6	S 77° - 58' E	145.23 M.
6 – 7	S 51° - 17' E	335.01 M.
7 – 8	S 78° - 35' W	158.60 M.
8 – 9	S 11° - 36' E	117.73 M.
9 – 10	S 68° - 45' W	102.58 M.
10 – 11	S 21° - 41' W	101.08 M.
11 – 12	S 22° - 07' W	255.28 M.
12 – 13	N 68° - 03' W	81.75 M.
13 – 14	N 67° - 48' W	84.90 M.
14 – 15	N 69° - 59' W	53.72 M.
15 – 1	N 70° - 18' W	71.85 M.

containing an area of TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SIXTY (231,960) 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, Series of 2021 of the Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of Ormoc, which ratified the creation of Barangay West as proclaimed by the Plebiscite Board of Canvassers on October 8, 2022 shall serve as substantial compliance with the plebiscite requirement under Section 10 of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended.

SEC. 4. *Incumbent Barangay Officials.* – The incumbent elected barangay officials of Barangays 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, and 26 in the City of Ormoc, Province of Leyte shall continue to hold office until such time that their successors have been duly elected and qualified.

SEC. 5. *Public Infrastructure and Facilities.* – All public infrastructure and facilities existing therein at the time of the approval of this Act are hereby transferred without cost or compensation to and shall be administered by Barangay West.

SEC. 6. *National Tax Allotment Shares.* – Barangay West shall be entitled to National Tax Allotment (NTA) shares pursuant to Section 285 of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,