

TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



House Bill No. 2405

Introduced by Representative ROMMEL RICO T. ANGARA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 384 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991," provides:

"SEC. 384. *Role of the Barangay.* – As the basic political unit, the barangay serves as the primary planning and implementing unit of government policies, plans, programs, projects, and activities in the community, and as a forum wherein the collective views of the people may be expressed, crystallized and considered, and where disputes may be amicably settled."

Recognizing the vital role that the barangay plays as the basic political unit, this proposed measure—referred to as the *Magna Carta for Barangays*—aims to strengthen their capacity to fulfill their mandate of providing essential services and facilities to their communities in a more efficient, responsive, and sustainable way.

To enable barangays to carry out their crucial responsibilities more effectively and efficiently, the *Magna Carta for Barangays* also proposes to grant barangay officials the status of regular government employees. This includes providing them with fixed salaries, allowances, insurance, medical and dental benefits, retirement packages, and other fringe benefits typically afforded to regular employees—instead of merely receiving honoraria.

In addition, this proposed measure seeks to enhance the welfare of barangays by ensuring they are equipped with essential services and facilities, including a reliable supply of clean and potable water, accessible public transportation, schools, health centers, and properly functioning barangay halls to meet the needs of their constituents.

It also outlines key provisions to guarantee genuine and meaningful local autonomy and support the full development of barangays. These include: the automated release of their share in national taxes; direct transfer of funds for the maintenance of local roads and bridges; a mandated share in taxes, fees, and other local revenues; and the prioritization of barangay residents in employment opportunities.

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


ROMMEL RICO T. ANGARA

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**AN ACT
TO ESTABLISH THE MAGNA CARTA FOR BARANGAYS**

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

TITLE I

TITLE, DECLARATION OF POLICY, AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as “*The Magna Carta for Barangays.*”

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to promote, develop and improve the general welfare of barangay residents, raise the economic and social status of barangay officials, grant every barangay, the basic facilities for decent, healthy and comfortable living therein and provide new measures that will insure its enjoyment of local autonomy to ensure the effective performance of its role as the primary planning and implementing unit of government programs, projects and activities, and as a forum in which the collective views of the people in the community may be crystallized and considered.

Sec. 3. *General Principles.* – The following are the general principles of this Act:

- a. The national government shall give more attention to the development of the barangay, as it is the base of this country’s economy.
- b. Every barangay shall be given the authority and capability to solve its problems on its level.
- c. Self-help or people power shall be the guiding principle in all barangay development projects.

TITLE II

BARANGAY OFFICIALS AS REGULAR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Sec. 4. *The Barangay Officials as Regular Government Employees.* – The punong barangay, sangguniang barangay members, the sangguniang kabataan (SK) chairperson, the barangay secretary and barangay treasure in all barangays are hereby

1 declared regular employees, and as such are entitled to fixed salaries, allowances,
2 insurance, medical and dental coverage, retirement benefits and such other fringe
3 benefits to which a regular government employee may be entitled to.

4 **Sec. 5. *Salaries of Barangay Officials.*** – As soon as the appropriate steps and
5 measures are undertaken by each city or municipality in coordination with the individual
6 barangay involved on matters relating to the sources of fund and the corresponding
7 appropriation ordinance, which in no case shall be later than six (6) months from the
8 approval hereof, all barangay officials mentioned in paragraph 4 hereof shall be entitled
9 to the following fixed salaries:

- 10 a) Punong Barangay – An amount equivalent to the salary of a sangguniang bayan
11 member of his municipality;
- 12 b) Six Sangguniang Barangay Members – An amount equivalent to eighty percent
13 (80%) of the salary of a sangguniang bayan member of his municipality;
- 14 c) SK Chairperson, Barangay Secretary, Barangay Treasurer – For each, an
15 amount equivalent to seventy-five percent (75%) of the salary of a
16 sangguniang bayan member of his municipality.

17 **TITLE III**

18 **BASIC PRIORITIES IN THE BARANGAY**

19 **Sec. 6. *Drinking Water for Every Barangay.*** – It is the right of every barangay
20 to have a regular supply of clean and potable drinking water. To attain this goal, every
21 city and municipality, as the case may be, is hereby required to construct and/or maintain
22 at least one deep well with pumping device for drawing drinking water to supply the
23 needs of every one thousand residents for each barangay within its jurisdiction.

24 **Sec. 7. *Transportation for Every Barangay.*** – It is also the right of every
25 barangay to have public transportation available at least once a day. For this purpose,
26 every municipality or city, as the case may be, should make such necessary
27 representations before the appropriate government agencies to require public utility
28 companies operating within its jurisdiction to provide the minimum means of
29 transportation in every barangay.

30 **Sec. 8. *Schools, Health Centers and Barangay Halls for the Barangays.*** –
31 Every barangay is entitled to have at least one elementary school: *Provided,* That there
32 shall be at least one high school for every five (5) kilometers from the barangay center.
33 It shall also be the right of every barangay to have one health center and one barangay
34 hall.

35 **TITLE IV**

36 **MEASURES TO ASSURE THE ENJOYMENT OF LOCAL AUTONOMY**

1 mandatory and continuing training programs for barangay officials.

2 **TITLE VI**

3 **SUNDRY MATTERS**

4 **Sec. 14. *Scholarship Grant.*** – Every barangay shall sponsor at least one
5 scholarship grant every year leading to any bachelor degree to be awarded by a
6 committee of five persons appointed by the Sangguniang Barangay with the approval of
7 the Punong Barangay after competitive examinations are given to applicants who should
8 be bona fide residents of the barangay. The grant shall include tuition fees and all other
9 school fees, reasonable allowances for school books, supplies and transportation and
10 other expenses as the barangay may deem appropriate.

11 **Sec. 15. *Priority in Employment.*** – Residents in every barangay shall have the
12 priority in the hiring of workers and laborers to be needed in any government construction
13 or development projects within the barangay.

14 **Sec. 16. *Cooperative Enterprise.*** – Cooperative enterprises in the barangay
15 shall be encouraged and every barangay is directed to give full assistance for the
16 establishment and organization of said enterprises and to take every possible effort to
17 make cooperative undertakings a way of life in the barangay.

18 **TITLE VII**

19 **ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

20 **Sec. 17. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Secretary of the
21 Department of Interior and Local Government shall promulgate such rules and regulations
22 as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this Act. Rules and regulations issued
23 pursuant to this Section shall take effect thirty (30) days after publication in a national
24 newspaper of general circulation and by such other means as the Secretary of Local
25 Government deems reasonably sufficient to give interested parties general notice of such
26 issuance.

27 **Sec. 18. *Budgetary Estimates.*** – The Secretary of Department of Interior and
28 Local Government shall submit to the Congress the necessary budgetary estimates to
29 implement the provisions of this Act concerning the allowances, insurance, medical,
30 dental and retirement benefits and other fringe benefits of barangay officials, the basic
31 priorities in the barangays, capacity building for barangay officials and, the barangay
32 scholarship grant.

33 **Sec. 19. *Penal Provision.*** – Any person who shall willfully interfere with, restrain
34 or coerce any barangay official or barangay resident in the exercise of his or their rights
35 guaranteed by this Act or who shall in any other manner commit any act to defeat any of
36 the provisions of this Act shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than

1 five hundred pesos nor more than two thousand pesos, or by imprisonment of six months
2 and one day, or both, subject to the discretion of the court.

3 If the offender is a public official, the court shall order his dismissal from the
4 government service.

5 **Sec. 20. Repealing Clause.** – All Acts and decrees, executive orders,
6 implementing rules and regulations or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of
7 this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

8 **Sec. 21. Separability Clause.** – If any provisions of this Act are declared invalid,
9 the remainder or any provisions thereof not affected thereby shall remain in force and
10 effect.

11 **Sec. 22. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication
12 in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,