

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4625



Introduced by
Rep. Gil "Kabarangay Jr" A. Acosta and Rep. Jose C. Alvarez

AN ACT
DECLARING A MAGNA CARTA FOR BARANGAYS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This legislative proposal has a long history in both chambers of Congress. It was first filed in the House of Representatives during the 12th Congress on November 20, 2001 by then Representative Corazon N. Malanyaon. Since then, the measure has been repeatedly refiled in succeeding Congresses, reflecting consistent advocacy for the welfare of barangay officials.

Similarly, in the Senate, a counterpart measure was first introduced during the 13th Congress on June 30, 2004 by then Senators Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr. and Edgardo J. Angara, both of whom were known champions of local government empowerment. Over the years, similar bills have been reintroduced in both the House and the Senate, underscoring the persistent demand for legislative action.

The barangay is the foundation of Philippine democracy—closest to the people and vital to national governance. Across the country, barangays serve as frontliners in delivering services, maintaining order, dispensing justice, and driving local development. Yet despite their crucial role, barangays remain marginalized, with officials often working under limited resources, inadequate compensation, and weak institutional support. This hinders their ability to fully carry out their duties and unlock their potential as engines of grassroots development.

This proposed measure, the "Magna Carta for Barangays," seeks to address this longstanding inequity by enshrining into law a comprehensive framework that recognizes, empowers, and invests in the barangay as an essential pillar of our national government and pursues the following principal objectives:

First, the bill professionalizes barangay service by granting regular government employee status to key officials, entitling them to fair pay, benefits, and retirement. This recognizes their vital role and encourages capable leadership.

Second, it ensures every barangay has access to essential infrastructure—clean water, health centers, schools, digital hubs, and transport—so no community is left behind.

Third, the bill promotes fiscal autonomy by ensuring automatic release of national tax shares, greater local revenue participation, and a fair share from natural resource use.

Fourth, it institutionalizes training and education for barangay officials, raising governance standards in partnership with key institutions like the DILG and DAP.

Fifth, the bill supports inclusive development by ensuring representation of marginalized groups and empowering youth through SK support and access to scholarships and jobs.

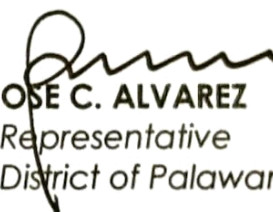
Sixth, it enhances barangay resilience through information systems, stronger local justice mechanisms, and a dedicated calamity and emergency fund.

In sum, the Magna Carta envisions a just, inclusive, and community-driven society—strengthening barangays to build a stronger Republic.

In light of the foregoing, the immediate enactment of this measure is fervently sought.



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Representative
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JOSE C. ALVAREZ
Representative
2nd District of Palawan

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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 strengthen the barangay as the basic political unit, promote the welfare of barangay residents and officials, institutionalize adequate compensation, improve access to basic services, enhance local governance capabilities, and empower barangays through genuine local autonomy and equitable resource allocation.

Sec. 3. *General Principles.* — Implementation of this Act shall be guided by the following:

(a) Barangays shall be recognized as indispensable agents of local and national development;

(b) Barangays shall be empowered to address their local concerns, consistent with national laws;

(c) People participation, accountability, and self-reliance shall be the foundation of all barangay development efforts.

TITLE II

BARANGAY OFFICIALS AS REGULAR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Sec. 4. *Status as Government Employees.* — The Punong Barangay, Sangguniang Barangay members, Sangguniang Kabataan Chairperson, Barangay Secretary, and Barangay Treasurer shall be recognized as regular government employees and shall receive salaries, insurance coverage, retirement benefits, and other entitlements under civil service and budgetary laws.

Sec. 5. *Compensation.* — Within six (6) months of this Act's effectivity, cities and municipalities, in coordination with barangays, shall provide:

(a) Punong Barangay – Salary equivalent to a Sangguniang Bayan Member;

(b) Sangguniang Barangay Members – 80% of the salary of a Sangguniang Bayan Member;

(c) SK Chairperson, Barangay Secretary, and Treasurer – 75% of the salary of a Sangguniang Bayan Member.

TITLE III
BASIC BARANGAY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Sec. 6. *Access to Potable Water.* — Cities and municipalities shall ensure clean drinking water through appropriate systems for every barangay, aligned with local geography and population size.

Sec. 7. Minimum Public Transportation. — Every barangay shall be served by at least one daily mode of public transport. LGUs shall coordinate with transport providers and regulatory agencies to ensure compliance.

Sec. 8. *Barangay Facilities.* — To ensure equitable access to basic public services at the community level, every barangay shall be provided with the following:

(a) At least one (1) public elementary school to guarantee foundational education for all children residing in the barangay;

(b) Access to a public high school located within or reasonably near the barangay center to promote universal secondary education. In cases where the establishment of a high school within the barangay is not feasible due to geographic or demographic constraints, the Department of Education, in coordination with the concerned local government units, shall implement appropriate interventions—including transportation assistance, educational subsidies, or alternative learning facilities—to ensure that no student is deprived of access to secondary education;

(c) One (1) health center to provide essential medical and preventive services to barangay residents;

(d) One (1) standard barangay hall to serve as the administrative and civic center of the community.

(e) One (1) Barangay Digital Access Center, established in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and the Department of Education (DepEd), equipped with internet connectivity, computer terminals, and access to digital libraries, online learning platforms, and e-Government services. The Center shall serve as a community hub for digital literacy, remote education, public service transactions, and economic participation.

TITLE IV FISCAL AUTONOMY AND EQUITABLE SHARING

Sec. 9. Automatic Release of Barangay Share. — The National Treasury shall release barangay shares from national taxes in full and on time, consistent with existing laws.

Sec. 10. Transfer of Infrastructure Maintenance Funds. — All national funds for barangay infrastructure shall be transferred directly to the barangay general fund, subject to Commission on Audit (COA) rules.

Sec. 11. Share in Local Taxes and Fees. — Twenty-five percent (25%) of all taxes collected on real property located within the barangay shall be considered barangay funds. Each barangay shall also be entitled to ten percent (10%) of all other forms of taxes, fees, penalties, compromises, or other charges collected from persons residing in the barangay or from entities whose offices and/or manufacturing plants are located within the barangay.

Sec. 12. Equitable Share of the Barangay from the Proceeds of the Utilization and Development of National Wealth. — Every barangay shall be entitled to an equitable share of the proceeds derived from the exploitation, development, and utilization of natural wealth within its territory. The amount shall be determined by the city or municipality concerned after consultations with concessionaires, municipal/city officials, and barangay officials, taking into account the extent of exposure of residents to pollution, food shortages, and ecological imbalance. This equitable sharing rate shall be resolved by all parties concerned not later than six (6) months from the approval of this Act. Revenues derived from this source shall form part of the barangay's general fund.

TITLE V CAPACITY BUILDING OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS

Sec. 13. Mandatory and Continuing Training. — Prior to assuming office, newly elected barangay officials and appointed barangay personnel shall undertake mandatory training programs to develop their skills in governance, public policy, administration, and leadership. The Department of the Interior

1 and Local Government, with the assistance of the Development Academy of
2 the Philippines (DAP), the Local Government Academy (LGA), and the
3 University of the Philippines–National College of Public Administration and
4 Governance (UP-NCPAG), shall jointly design and implement mandatory and
5 continuing training programs for barangay officials.

6 7 **TITLE VI** 8 **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS** 9

10 Sec. 14. *Barangay Scholarship Program*. — Each barangay shall provide
11 at least one annual scholarship for tertiary education. Beneficiaries must pass
12 a merit-based selection process and be bona fide residents. The grant shall
13 include tuition fees, all other school fees, reasonable allowances for books,
14 supplies, transportation, and other expenses as deemed appropriate by the
15 barangay.

16 Sec. 15. *Employment Priority*. — Barangay residents shall be prioritized in
17 hiring for labor in government-funded local projects, subject to labor laws and
18 qualifications.

19 Sec. 16. *Promotion of Cooperatives*. — Barangays shall support the
20 creation and sustainability of cooperatives in partnership with the Cooperative
21 Development Authority (CDA).

22 23 **TITLE VII** 24 **ADDITIONAL BARANGAY REFORMS** 25

26 SEC. 17. *Barangay Personnel Standards*. — The DILG and the Civil Service
27 Commission (CSC) shall establish qualifications, guidelines, and training for
28 appointed barangay personnel to professionalize local staffing.

29 SEC. 18. *Barangay Information Systems*. — The DICT, with DILG, shall
30 deploy a standard management information system (MIS) system for
31 barangays, including digital tools for records, transactions, and reporting.

32 SEC. 19. *Strengthening the Barangay Justice System*. — The Department
33 of Justice (DOJ) and DILG shall ensure the training, support, and monitoring of
34 the *Katarungang Pambarangay* to improve local dispute resolution.

35 SEC. 20. *Boundary Dispute Mechanism*. — Each province or highly
36 urbanized city (HUC) shall establish a Barangay Boundary Review Board under
37 the DILG to resolve jurisdictional disputes administratively.

38 SEC. 21. *Support for National Program Implementation*. — Agencies shall
39 provide funds, training, and logistical support for all programs implemented at
40 the barangay level.

SEC. 22. *Institutional SK Support.* — The National Youth Commission (NYC) and DILG shall develop programs to strengthen Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) councils, protect their budgets, and provide youth leadership development.

SEC. 23. *Sectoral Inclusion.* — Barangay Development Councils shall include at least 30% representation from women, PWDs, senior citizens, and other sectors.

SEC. 24. *Barangay Calamity and Emergency Fund.* — Every barangay shall allocate no less than 5% of its general fund annually for disaster risk reduction and emergency response.

TITLE VIII

IMPLEMENTATION, FUNDING, AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 25. *Appropriations.* — The funds necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 26. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — The Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, in coordination with the CSC, DepEd, DOJ, DAP, LGA, UP-NCPAG, DICT, NYC and the Department of Finance (DOF), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act. Such rules shall take effect thirty (30) days after publication in a national newspaper of general circulation and by other means deemed sufficient to give public notice.

Sec. 27. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 28. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, memoranda, circulars, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 29. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,