

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5232



Introduced by **Representative AGATHA PAULA "AGAY" A. CRUZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The barangay is the government's first line of defense and front line of service. It is where governance meets Filipinos at the most personal level—first recourse during calamities, venue of dispute settlement, access point for health and social services, and home base for initiatives that nurture community life. Despite its critical role, the barangay has historically carried more responsibility than resources, more mandates than means, and more expectations than recognition.

This bill seeks to correct that imbalance by enacting a Magna Carta for Barangays that affirms their dignity, strengthens their autonomy, and equips them to serve as effective, accountable, and resilient partners in governance. It professionalizes barangay officials by recognizing them as regular government employees, ensuring they receive just compensation, benefits, and retirement security. In doing so, it dignifies public service at the grassroots, while fostering continuity and capacity within local institutions.

This long-overdue charter lays down the essentials of community life: clean and potable water, reliable transportation, schools within reach, functional health centers, and barangay halls that are not only seats of governance but also hubs of citizen engagement. Modern concerns are also addressed through provisions on internet connectivity, digital governance, disaster resilience, and climate adaptation. This ensures that no barangay is left behind in the march of technology or in the face of calamities.

Inclusivity is likewise embedded in the measure: scholarships for the youth, social services for vulnerable groups, priority in local employment, encouragement of cooperative enterprises, and gender and development mainstreaming. Transparency and accountability are institutionalized through public reporting, regular assemblies, and access to records.

More than a grant of rights, this Magna Carta is a grant of trust. A trust that our smallest unit of governance, empowered with resources and recognized with respect, will rise to the challenge of building communities that are self-reliant, inclusive, and future-

ready. After all, the barangay is where nation building begins.

In light of the foregoing, and with the conviction that empowered barangays empower the entire nation, the immediate enactment of this bill is earnestly sought.


AGATHA PAULA "AGAY" AGUILAR CRUZ
Representative, Fifth Legislative District of Bulacan



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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA FOR BARANGAYS

Be it enacted by the Senate and the 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.”

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to strengthen the barangay as the basic political unit of Philippine society. Towards this end, the State shall promote the general welfare of barangay residents, enhance the economic and social status of barangay officials, provide every barangay with basic facilities necessary for decent and dignified living, and introduce measures that uphold local autonomy. The barangay shall be empowered to effectively discharge its mandate as the primary planning and implementing unit of government programs, projects, and services, and as the principal forum for expressing and crystallizing the collective views of the people in the community.

Section 3. *General Principles.* – This Act shall be guided by the following principles:

- (a) The development of the barangay is central to national progress, as it is the foundation of community life and the base of the country’s economy.
- (b) Every barangay shall be vested with authority, capacity, and resources to address its own local problems at the community level.
- (c) People’s participation and collective self-help shall serve as the guiding

principles of barangay development initiatives.

- (d) Barangay officials shall be recognized as regular government employees to professionalize grassroots governance.

TITLE II BARANGAY OFFICIALS

Section 4. *Status and Benefits of Barangay Officials.* – The Punong Barangay, members of the Sangguniang Barangay, Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Chairperson, Barangay Secretary, and Barangay Treasurer shall, for purposes of compensation, insurance, medical and dental coverage, retirement benefits, and other entitlements, be deemed regular government employees. As such, they shall be entitled to fixed honoraria or salaries, allowances, insurance, retirement and terminal leave benefits, and other fringe benefits, consistent with applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

Section 5. *Salaries of Barangay Officials.* – As soon as the appropriate measures are undertaken by each city or municipality, in coordination with the concerned barangay, and upon passage of the corresponding appropriation ordinance, which in no case shall be later than six (6) months from the approval of this Act, all barangay officials mentioned in Section 4 shall be entitled to the following fixed salaries:

- (a) The Punong Barangay shall receive an amount equivalent to the salary of a member of the Sangguniang Bayan or Sangguniang Panlungsod of the concerned city or municipality;
- (b) Each Sangguniang Barangay member shall receive an amount equivalent to eighty percent (80%) of the salary of a member of the Sangguniang Bayan or Sangguniang Panlungsod of the concerned city or municipality;
- (c) The SK Chairperson, Barangay Secretary, and Barangay Treasurer shall each receive an amount equivalent to seventy-five percent (75%) of the salary of a member of the Sangguniang Bayan or Sangguniang Panlungsod of the concerned city or municipality.

TITLE III BASIC PRIORITIES IN THE BARANGAY

Section 6. *Access to Potable Water.* – Every barangay shall have the right to a safe, reliable, and regular supply of clean and potable drinking water as a matter of public health and welfare. To ensure this right, each city or municipality shall provide for the construction, installation, and maintenance of at least one deep well with a functional pumping device for every one thousand (1,000) residents in each barangay within its jurisdiction. Whenever feasible, the local government unit concerned shall pursue more

sustainable and long-term solutions, such as piped water systems, in coordination with water districts and relevant government agencies.

Section 7. Access to Public Transportation. – Every barangay shall have the right to accessible and affordable public transportation that enables residents to travel to markets, schools, health facilities, and government centers. To uphold this right, each city or municipality shall coordinate with the appropriate government agencies to require public utility operators to provide regular and reliable transportation services to every barangay. The service shall be adequate to meet the minimum needs of the community and shall be scheduled at least once daily, subject to regulation by the appropriate authorities to ensure safety, efficiency, and affordability.

Section 8. Access to Education, Health, and Governance Facilities. – Every barangay shall be entitled to adequate and accessible basic facilities essential to the welfare of its residents. To this end, the following shall be ensured:

- (a) Every barangay shall have at least one elementary school, appropriately staffed and equipped, to guarantee universal access to basic education within the community. In addition, there shall be at least one high school within every five (5) kilometers from the barangay center to ensure continuity of learning and reduce barriers to secondary education.
- (b) Each barangay shall likewise have the right to a health center that is properly manned by qualified health personnel and supplied with essential medicines and equipment sufficient for primary health care services.
- (c) Every barangay shall maintain its own barangay hall, which shall serve as the official seat of local governance and a community center for public services, planning, and civic participation.

Section 9. Access to Digital Governance and Connectivity. – Every barangay shall be entitled to adequate internet connectivity and digital infrastructure to support public service delivery, access to information, and citizen participation. The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) shall assist barangays in establishing digital governance systems, including barangay websites, e-governance platforms, and digital record-keeping.

TITLE IV MEASURES TO ASSURE LOCAL AUTONOMY

Section 10. Automatic Release of Barangay Share from National Taxes. – It shall be the duty of the National Treasury to remit automatically to the barangays, at the end of each calendar year, their just share of national taxes, in accordance with the Constitution and relevant laws.

Section 11. *Direct Transfer of Funds for Local Infrastructure.* – All public funds appropriated from the National Treasury for the maintenance of barangay roads, bridges, and other similar constructions shall be directly transferred to the general fund of every barangay for proper disposition by the barangay officials, subject to auditing and accountability rules.

Section 12. *Barangays in Local Taxes, Fees, and Charges.* – Twenty-five percent (25%) of all real property taxes collected in property located within the barangay shall accrue to the barangay, to be allocated in accordance with existing laws. In addition thereto, each barangay shall be entitled to ten percent (10%) from all other forms of taxes, fees, penalties, compromises, or charges collected from persons residing in the barangay or entities whose offices or manufacturing plants are located therein.

Section 13. *Equitable Share in 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 share of the barangay shall be determined by the city or municipality concerned after consultations with concessionaires, municipal or city officials, and barangay officials, taking into account the exposure of residents to pollution, food insecurity, and ecological imbalance. This sharing rate shall be resolved not later than six (6) months from the approval of this Act. Revenues derived from this source shall form part of the barangays general fund.

Section 14. *Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Resilience.* – Every barangay shall be entitled to technical assistance, equipment, and dedicated funds for disaster resilience and environmental protection, in coordination with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

Section 15. *Barangay Justice and Peacekeeping.* – To strengthen grassroots justice, mediation, and community-based peacekeeping, every barangay shall be entitled to technical assistance and training support from the DILG and the Department of Justice in maintaining a functional Katarungang Pambarangay system and a Barangay Peace and Order Committee.

TITLE V
CAPACITY BUILDING OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS

Section 16. *Mandatory Training and Professional Development.* – Newly elected barangay officials and appointed barangay personnel shall undergo mandatory training prior to assumption of office to equip them with skills in governance, public policy, administration, leadership, fiscal management, digital systems, and disaster preparedness. Continuing education and professional development programs shall also be undertaken during their tenure. The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), with the assistance of the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP), the

1 Local Government Academy (LGA), and the University of the Philippines–National
2 College of Public Administration and Governance (UP-NCPAG), shall jointly design and
3 implement these training programs.

4
5 **Section 17. *Gender and Development Mainstreaming.*** – Barangays shall integrate
6 gender and development concerns into their annual plans and budgets, consistent with
7 the Magna Carta of Women. Barangay officials shall undergo regular gender sensitivity
8 training as part of capacity building.

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10 **TITLE VI**
11 **SUPPORTIVE MEASURES**
12

13 **Section 18. *Scholarship Grants.*** – Every barangay shall sponsor at least one
14 scholarship grant annually leading to a bachelor’s degree, to be awarded by a committee
15 of five (5) persons appointed by the Sangguniang Barangay with the approval of the
16 Punong Barangay. The scholarship shall be awarded through a competitive examination
17 to bona fide residents of the barangay and shall cover tuition fees, other school fees, and
18 reasonable allowances for books, supplies, transportation, and other expenses as
19 determined by the barangay.

20
21 **Section 19. *Priority in Employment.*** – Residents in every barangay shall be given
22 priority in the hiring of workers and laborers for any government construction or
23 development project implemented within the barangay.

24
25 **Section 20. *Promotion of Cooperative Enterprises.*** – Cooperative enterprises
26 within the barangay shall be encouraged. Each barangay shall provide full assistance in
27 their establishment and organization and shall exert efforts to promote cooperative
28 undertakings as a sustainable model for community development and livelihood.

29
30 **Section 21. *Barangay Development Fund for Social Services.*** – A portion of each
31 barangay’s general fund shall be earmarked for social services, including programs for
32 indigent residents, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, solo parents, and other
33 vulnerable groups, consistent with national policies on social protection.

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36 **TITLE VII**
37 **ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT**
38

39 **Section 22. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Secretary of the DILG shall
40 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act. Such rules shall
41 take effect thirty (30) days after publication in the Official Gazette and in a newspaper of
42 general circulation.

43
44 **Section 23. *Budgetary Estimates.*** – The Secretary of DILG shall submit to the

1 Congress the necessary budgetary estimates to implement this Act, particularly those
2 relating to the allowances, insurance, medical, dental, and retirement benefits and other
3 fringe benefits of barangay officials, the provision of basic facilities, capacity building
4 programs, and scholarship grants.
5

6 **Section 24. *Transparency and Accountability Mechanisms.*** – Every barangay shall
7 institutionalize measures for transparency, including the posting of financial reports in
8 public places and online platforms, conduct of quarterly barangay assemblies, and
9 compliance with Freedom of Information policies.
10

11 **Section 25. *Penal Provision.*** – Any person who willfully interferes with, restrains,
12 or coerces any barangay official or barangay resident in the exercise of their rights
13 guaranteed by this Act, or who otherwise commits any act to defeat its provisions, shall
14 be punished by a fine of not less than Five Hundred Pesos (PhP 500.00) but not more than
15 Two Thousand Pesos (PhP 2,000.00), or by imprisonment of not less than six (6) months
16 and one (1) day, or both, at the discretion of the court. If the offender is a public official,
17 dismissal from service shall also be imposed.
18

19 **Section 26. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this Act is held
20 unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in
21 full force and effect.
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23 **Section 27. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and
24 regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
25 repealed or modified accordingly.
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27 **Section 28. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the
28 completion of its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.
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30 *Approved,*