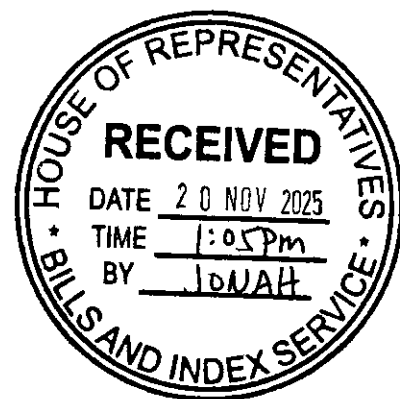


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6239



Introduced by **Representative RAYMOND ADRIAN SALCEDA**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE MAGNA CARTA FOR BARANGAYS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The barangay is the foundation of our democracy. It is the smallest political unit in our system of governance, yet it carries the heaviest load: maintaining peace and order, delivering basic services, ensuring local development, resolving day-to-day conflicts, and serving as the government's first responders in times of crisis. From natural disasters, to social protection programs, to public health emergencies—our barangays absorb the first impact and mount the earliest response. Despite this, barangays and their officials remain the most under-resourced, under-compensated, and overburdened units of government. The current legal framework, while recognizing the authority of barangays, does not sufficiently provide the financial, administrative, and institutional support necessary for them to perform their mandated responsibilities effectively. This gap results in inconsistent service delivery, limited autonomy, and a chronic lack of basic facilities in many communities.

This bill seeks to establish a Magna Carta for Barangays, a long-overdue measure that affirms the central role of the barangay in national development. It aims to provide the salary structure, benefits, and support systems needed by barangay officials to perform their duties with competence and dignity. It also ensures that basic facilities such as potable water, transportation, schools, health centers, and barangay halls are guaranteed to every barangay as a matter of right—not privilege.

A key feature of this bill is the declaration of barangay officials as regular government employees, entitled to fixed salaries, insurance, retirement benefits, and the full complement of employee welfare provisions. This adjustment acknowledges the reality that barangay governance is full-time work that requires professional commitment, technical capacity, and continuity. The measure

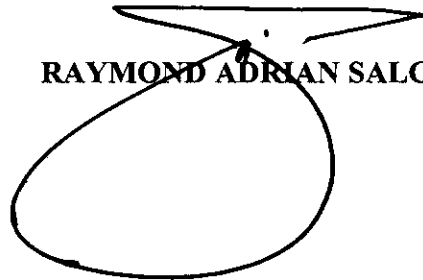
also strengthens the fiscal autonomy of barangays by mandating the automatic release of their share in national taxes, the direct remittance of funds for the maintenance of roads and bridges, and guaranteed shares in taxes, fees, and revenues arising from natural resource utilization. With these reforms, barangays can plan and implement programs more efficiently, sustainably, and independently.

Beyond administrative matters, the bill promotes human capital development by requiring each barangay to sponsor at least one scholarship grant every year. It further strengthens community empowerment by encouraging cooperative enterprises and prioritizing barangay residents in government employment for public works within their locality. Ultimately, this Magna Carta champions the principle that governance begins at home. If the barangay fails, the nation feels it. If the barangay succeeds, the entire local government system becomes stronger, more resilient, and more responsive.

By providing the compensation, facilities, authority and resources that barangays rightfully deserve, we are laying the groundwork for a government that is truly close to the people it serves. This bill therefore invests in the most practical and most immediate instrument of good governance: the barangay and its officials.

In the interest of promoting grassroots empowerment, dignifying public service, and strengthening local autonomy, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

RAYMOND ADRIAN SALCEDA

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RAYMOND ADRIAN SALCEDA', written over the printed name.

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

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as "*The Magna Carta for Barangays.*"

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is hereby declared 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, provide measures that will ensure the local autonomy of barangays for the effective performance of their 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 provide more attention to the development of the barangay, as it is the base of this country's economy.
- (b) Every barangay shall be granted the authority and capability to solve its problems at its level.
- (c) Self-help or people power shall be the guiding principle in all barangay development projects.

II. COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS

SEC. 4. *The Barangay Officials as Regular Government Employees.* – The Punong Barangay, Sangguniang Barangay Members, the Barangay Secretary and the Barangay Treasurer are hereby declared regular government employees, and as such be entitled to fixed salaries, allowances, insurance, medical and dental coverage, retirement benefits and such other fringe benefits to which a regular government employee may be entitled to.

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

1. *Punong Barangay* – An amount equivalent to the salary of a sangguniang bayan member of his municipality or city.
2. *Members of the Sangguniang Barangay* – An amount equivalent to eighty percent (80%) of the salary of a sangguniang bayan member of his municipality or city.
3. *Barangay Secretary, Barangay Treasurer* – An amount equivalent to seventy-five (75%) of the salary of a sangguniang bayan member of his municipality or city.

III. BASIC PRIORITIES IN THE BARANGAY

SEC. 6. *Drinking Water for Every Barangay.* – It is the right of every barangay to have a regular supply of clean and potable drinking water. To attain this goal, every city or municipality, as the case may be, is hereby required to construct and/or maintain at least one (1) deep well with a pumping device for drawing drinking water for every one thousand (1,000) residents of each barangay within its jurisdiction.

SEC. 7. *Transportation for Every Barangay.* – It is also the right of every barangay to have public transportation available at least once a day. For this purpose, every municipality or city, as the case may be, should make such necessary representation before the appropriate government agencies to require public utility companies operating within their jurisdictions to provide the minimum means of public transportation in every barangay.

SEC. 8. *Schools, Health Centers and Barangay Halls for the Barangays.* – Every barangay is entitled to have at least one (1) elementary school, provided that there shall be at least one (1) high school every five (5) kilometers from the barangay center. It shall also be the right of every barangay to have one (1) health center and one (1) barangay hall.

IV. MEASURES TO ASSURE THE ENJOYMENT OF LOCAL AUTONOMY

SEC. 9. *Automatic Release of Share from National Taxes.* – It shall be the duty of the National Treasury to automatically remit to the barangays their just share from the national taxes every end of the calendar year.

SEC. 10. *Transfer of Funds to Barangays for the Maintenance of Roads and Bridges.* – All public funds appropriated from the national treasury for the maintenance of barangay roads and bridges and other similar constructions shall be transferred or remitted directly to the general fund of every barangay for proper disposition by their respective barangay officials, subject to auditing laws, rules, and regulations.

SEC. 11. *Mandatory Share of Barangay in All Taxes, Fees or Other Charges.* – Twenty-five percent (25%) of all taxes collected on real properties located within the barangay shall be considered barangay funds and shall be allocated in accordance with existing laws. In addition thereto, each barangay shall 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 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, utilization and development of natural resources within its territory. The amount of the barangay share shall be determined by the municipality or city concerned after consultations with the concessionaires, the municipal or city officials and barangay officials, taking into account the extent of the exposure of the barangay residents to pollution, floods, and other ecological imbalances: *Provided, however,* That the equitable sharing rate for each barangay shall be resolved by all concerned parties not later than six (6) months from the approval of this Act. Revenues derived from this source shall form part of the general fund of the barangay concerned.

V. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

SEC. 13. *Scholarship Grant.* – Every barangay shall sponsor at least one (1) scholarship grant every year leading to any bachelor degree, to be awarded by a committee of five (5) persons appointed by the Sangguniang Barangay, with the approval of the Punong Barangay, after competitive examinations are given to applicants who should be bona fide residents of the barangay. The grant shall include tuition fees and all other school fees, reasonable allowances for school books, supplies and transportation and other expenses as the barangay may deem necessary and appropriate.

SEC. 14. *Priority in Employment.* – Residents of every barangay shall receive priority in the hiring of workers and laborers for any government construction or development project within their respective barangays.

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

VI. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

SEC. 16. *Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this Act. Rules and regulations issued pursuant to this Section shall take effect thirty (30) days after publication in a national newspaper of general circulation and by such other means as the Secretary of the DILG shall deem reasonably sufficient to provide interested parties general notice of such issuance.

SEC. 17. *Budgetary Estimates.* – The Secretary of the DILG and the Secretary of the DBM shall submit to Congress the necessary budgetary estimates to implement the provisions of this Act concerning the salaries, allowances, insurance, medical, dental, and retirement benefits and other fringe benefits of barangay officials, the basic priorities in the barangays, and the barangay scholarship grant.

SEC. 18. *Penal Provision.* – Any person who shall willfully interfere with, restrain or coerce any barangay official or barangay resident in relation to the exercise of his or their rights guaranteed by this Act, or who shall in any other manner commit any act to defeat any of the provisions thereof, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00) nor more than Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00), or by imprisonment of up to six (6) months, or both, subject to the discretion of the court. If the offender is a public official, the court shall order his dismissal from the government service.

SEC. 19. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid, the remainder or any provisions thereof not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

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

SEC. 21. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,