

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8692



Introduced by Hon. Kenneth T. Gatchalian

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Barangays, as the smallest political units, serve as the primary planning and implementing arm of the government and the most accessible level of governance for the Filipino people. Under the Local Government Code of 1991, barangays were envisioned to exercise local autonomy and deliver basic services at the grassroots level. However, despite this mandate, many barangays continue to face structural limitations, including inadequate resources, limited institutional support, and insufficient compensation for barangay officials.

This bill seeks to establish a Magna Carta for Barangays to complement and strengthen the existing framework under the Local Government Code. It aims to professionalize barangay governance by recognizing barangay officials as regular government personnel entitled to appropriate compensation and benefits, while also ensuring the provision of essential services such as potable water, transportation access, education, and primary healthcare in every community.

Furthermore, the measure reinforces the principle of local autonomy by guaranteeing a more equitable and predictable share in national and local revenues, ensuring the timely release of funds, and empowering barangays to

manage resources for their own development. It also promotes community-based initiatives such as scholarship programs, employment prioritization, and cooperative enterprise development to stimulate inclusive growth at the grassroots level.

By strengthening institutional capacity and aligning with the decentralization framework established under the Local Government Code, this proposed Magna Carta aims to enable barangays to more effectively perform their vital role in governance and public service delivery.

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



KENNETH T. GATCHALIAN

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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:

I. TITLE, DECLARATION OF POLICY, AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES

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

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

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

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

7 **II. BARANGAY OFFICIALS AS REGULAR GOVERNMENT**
8 **EMPLOYEES**

9 **SEC. 4.** *The Barangay Officials as Regular Government Employees.* – The
10 Punong Barangay, Sangguniang Barangay Members, the Sangguniang Kabataang
11 Barangay Chairman, the Barangay Secretary and Barangay Treasurer in all
12 barangays are hereby declared regular employees, and as such are entitled to fixed
13 salaries, allowances, insurance, medical and dental coverage, retirement benefits
14 and such other fringe benefits to which a regular government employee may be
15 entitled to.

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

- 22 a) Punong Barangay – An amount equivalent to the salary of a Sangguniang
23 Bayan member of his municipality
- 24 b) Six Sangguniang Barangay Members – An amount equivalent to eighty
25 percent (80%) of the salary of a Sangguniang Bayan member of his
26 municipality;

1 c) Sangguniang Kabataan Barangay Chairman, Barangay Secretary,
2 Barangay Treasurer – For each, an amount equivalent to seventy-five
3 percent (75%) of the salary of a Sangguniang Bayan member of his
4 municipality.

5 **III. BASIC PRIORITIES IN THE BARANGAY**

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

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

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

1 **IV. MEASURES TO ASSURE THE ENJOYMENT OF LOCAL**
2 **AUTONOMY**

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

6 **SEC. 10.** *Transfer of Fund to Barangay for the Maintenance of Roads and*
7 *Bridges.* – All public funds appropriated from the national treasury for the
8 maintenance of barangay roads and bridges and other similar constructions shall be
9 transferred or remitted directly to the general fund of every barangay for their proper
10 disposition by the barangay officials.

11 **SEC. 11.** *Mandatory Share of Barangays in All Taxes, Fees, or Other*
12 *Charges.* – Twenty-five percent (25%) of all taxes collected on real property located
13 within the barangay shall be considered barangay funds and shall be allocated in
14 accordance with existing laws. In addition, each barangay shall be entitled to ten
15 percent (10%) from all other forms of taxes, fees, penalties, compromises or other
16 charges collected from persons residing in the barangay or entities whose offices
17 and/or manufacturing plant is located within the barangay.

18 **SEC. 12.** *Equitable Share of the Barangay from the Proceeds of the*
19 *Utilization and Development of National Wealth.* – Every barangay shall be entitled
20 to an equitable share of the proceeds derived from the exploitation, development and
21 utilization of natural wealth within its territory. The amount of barangay share shall
22 be determined by the city or municipality concerned after consultations with the
23 concessionaires, the municipal or city officials and barangay officials, taking into
24 account the extent of the exposure of the barangay residents to pollution, food and
25 ecological imbalance: *Provided, however,* that this equitable sharing rate for each
26 barangay shall be resolved by all parties concerned not later than six (6) months

1 from the approval of this Act. Revenues derived from this source shall also from
2 part of the general fund of the barangay.

3 **V. SUNDRY MATTERS**

4 **SEC. 13. *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
7 approval of the Punong Barangay after competitive examinations are given to
8 applicants who should be bona fide residents of the barangay. The grant shall include
9 tuition fees and all other school fees, reasonable allowances for schoolbooks,
10 supplies and transportation and other expenses as the barangay may deem
11 appropriate.

12 **SEC. 14. *Priority in Employment.*** – Residents in every barangay shall have
13 the priority in the hiring of workers and laborers to be needed in any government
14 construction or development projects within the barangay.

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

19 **VI. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

20 **SEC. 16. *Rules and Regulations.*** – The Secretary of Department of Interior
21 and Local Government shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may be
22 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
24 national newspaper of general circulation and by such other means as the Secretary
25 of Local Government deems reasonably sufficient to give interested parties general
26 notice of such issuance.

1 **SEC. 17. *Budgetary Estimates.*** – The Secretary of Department of Interior
2 and Local Government shall submit to the Congress the necessary budgetary
3 estimates to implement the provisions of this Act concerning the allowances,
4 insurance, medical, dental and retirement benefits and other fringe benefits of
5 barangay officials, the basic priorities in the barangays and the barangay scholarship
6 grant.

7 **SEC. 18. *Penal Provision.*** – Any person who shall willfully interfere with,
8 restrain or coerce any barangay official or barangay resident in the exercise of his or
9 their rights guaranteed by this Act or who shall in any other manner commit any act
10 to defeat any of the provisions of this Act shall, upon conviction, be punished by a
11 fine of not less than five hundred pesos nor more than two thousand pesos, or by
12 imprisonment of six months and one day, or both, subject to the discretion of the
13 court.

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

16 **SEC. 19. *Repealing Clause.*** – All Acts and decrees, executive orders,
17 implementing rules and regulations or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions
18 of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

19 **SEC. 20. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provisions of his Act are declared
20 invalid, the remainder or any provisions thereof not affected thereby shall remain in
21 force and effect.

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

Approved,