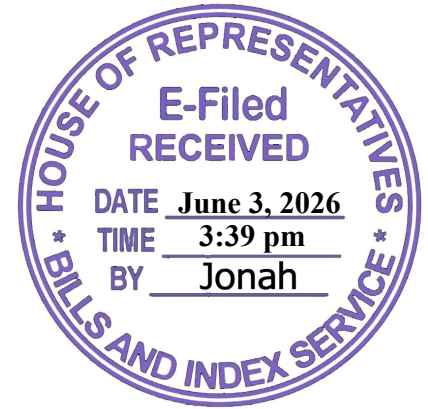


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 9737



INTRODUCED BY REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE KATARUNGANG PAMBARANGAY SYSTEM BY
PROVIDING NATIONAL AND LOCAL SUPPORT MECHANISMS FOR THE
LUPON NG TAGAPAMAYAPA, INSTITUTIONALIZING TRAINING-BASED
INCENTIVES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The *Katarungang Pambarangay* system under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, particularly under Title I, book III (Sections 399-422), serves as the State’s primary mechanism for community-based dispute resolution. It promotes the amicable settlement of disputes at the barangay level, thereby decongesting court dockets, reducing litigation costs, and preserving social harmony within communities.

At the core of this system is the *Lupon ng Tagapamayapa*, constituted pursuant to Section 399 of the Local Government Code, and vested with mediation and conciliation functions under Sections 40 to 404 thereof. *Lupon* members, who are appointed by the *Punong Barangay*, perform quasi-judicial dispute resolution functions without compensation, motivated largely by civic and community service.

While the law recognizes the importance of the *Lupon*, existing provisions on support mechanisms remain largely decentralized and discretionary, resulting in uneven implementation across local government units. Although Section 393 (d) of the Local Government Code authorizes the grant of allowances, honoraria, and other emoluments to barangay officials and personnel subject to

budgetary limitations, there is no uniform national framework specifically addressing the welfare, training, and incentives of *Lupon* members.

Further, while the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has issued administrative guidelines to strengthen KP implementation, including training programs and performance monitoring, these remain policy-based and not statutorily institutionalized, resulting in gaps in capacity-building, standardization, and sustainability.

This measure seeks to address these gaps by institutionalizing a national support framework for *Lupon* members, providing a carefully structured, non-salaried honorarium that respects the fiscal autonomy of local government units and avoids the creation of an employer-employee relationship, and linking incentives to training, certification, and performance standards. It likewise strengthens capacity-building mechanisms and ensures the professionalization of *Lupon* service while preserving its community-based and voluntary character.

In strengthening the *Katarungang Pambarangay* system, this measure affirms the State's commitment to accessible, efficient, and culturally responsive justice at the barangay level.

This measure does not convert *Lupon* members into government employees, nor does it create Plantilla positions. Instead, it strengthens an existing

Despite their crucial role, *Lupon* members often receive uneven and inadequate support, with incentives varying widely depending on local government income classification. This disparity affects morale, capacity, and the overall effectiveness of barangay-based dispute resolution, particularly in low-income and geographically isolated communities.

This measure seeks to strengthen the *Katarungang Pambarangay* system by providing a nationally supported, fiscally responsible framework for *Lupon* assistance. It establishes a nationally funded, minimum honorarium, subject to training and certification, and authorizes tiered incentives tied to capacity-building and performance. It preserves the voluntary and non-salaried nature of *Lupon* service, avoids the creation of Plantilla positions, and respects fiscal autonomy.

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



REP. PATRICK MICHAEL "PM" D. VARGAS

Fifth District, Quezon City

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 9737

INTRODUCED BY REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE KATARUNGANG PAMBARANGAY SYSTEM BY
PROVIDING NATIONAL AND LOCAL SUPPORT MECHANISMS FOR THE
LUPON NG TAGAPAMAYAPA, INSTITUTIONALIZING TRAINING-BASED
INCENTIVES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Lupon ng Tagapamayapa Support and Strengthening Act*”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to strengthen community-based dispute resolution, ensure the effective implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay system, and recognize the voluntary service of Lupon ng Tagapamayapa members. The State also seeks to maintain fiscally sustainable incentives in compliance with budgetary and audit laws, while promoting capacity-building, accountability, and performance in barangay justice.

SECTION 3. *Nature of Lupon Membership.* — Lupon ng Tagapamayapa members shall remain non-salaried volunteers and shall not be deemed government employees, elective officials, or holders of Plantilla positions.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed as placing Lupon members under the Salary Standardization Law, the Position Classification and Compensation System, or any other law governing standardized government salaries.

SECTION 4. *National Minimum Honorarium Program.* — There is hereby established a National Lupon Honorarium Program, to be administered by the Department of the Interior Local Government (DILG), subject to the availability of funds and annual appropriations.

1. *Eligibility.* Lupon ng Tagapamayapa members shall be eligible for the minimum honorarium under this program upon:
 - a. Valid appointment by the Punong Barangay; and
 - b. Completion of mandatory training and certification prescribed under Section 6 of this Act.
2. *Nature of Honorarium.* The minimum honorarium shall be non-regular, non-fixed, and non-salaried, and shall not create an employer-employee relationship between the government and the Lupon members.

SECTION 5. *Training-Based and Tiered Incentives* –

1. Advanced Training Incentives- Lupon members who complete advanced, specialized, or continuing education programs may receive incentives, subject to guidelines issued by the DILG.
2. Performance-Based Incentives. Incentives may be granted based on objective performance indicators, including but not limited to :
 - a. Case disposition rates;
 - b. Timeliness of resolution;
 - c. Compliance with Katarungan Pambarangay procedures; and
 - d. Ethical and professional conduct.
3. Form of Incentives. Incentives under the section may be in the form of honoraria, per diems, allowance, or non-monetary recognition, and shall not be treated as compensation or salary.

SECTION 6. *Capacity-Building and Certification.* -- The DILG, in coordination with the Department of Justice (DOJ), shall develop and implement standardized training and certification programs for Lupon ng Tagapamayapa members.

1. The training programs shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Mediation and conciliation skills;
 - b. Legal and procedural updates on Katarungan Pambarangay;
 - c. Ethics, confidentiality, and due process; and

- d. Record-keeping and documentation.
2. Completion of prescribed training shall be a prerequisite for eligibility under Sections 4 and 5 of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Insurance and Logical Support.* Subject to the availability of funds, Lupon members may be provided with:

- a. Group life or accident insurance coverage while performing official function; and
- b. Logistical and training support, including meals, transportation, and materials during officially sanctioned activities.

Such support shall not be construed as compensation or employment benefits.

SECTION 8. *Role of Local Government Units.* Local government units may, subject to the enactment of an ordinance and the availability of funds:

- a. Grant additional honoraria or incentives to Lupon members;
- b. Provide logistical support and facilities for Katarungang Pambarangay proceedings; and
- c. Adopt local performance recognition mechanisms.

SECTION 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DILG, in coordination with the DOJ, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and the Commission on Audit (COA), shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, rules, and regulations, other issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent with any provision of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,