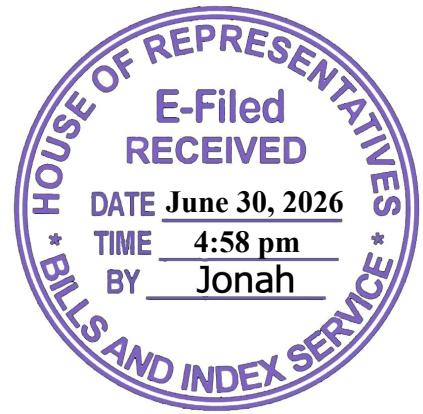


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 9997**



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Introduced by Representative Jan “Atty. JP” D. Padiernos

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Strong communities require strong barangays. As the government's most immediate and accessible unit, the barangay is entrusted with responsibilities that extend far beyond local administration. It serves as the first responder during emergencies, the primary venue for community dispute resolution, the frontline implementer of national and local programs, and the closest provider of basic public services to the Filipino people.

In recent years, however, the functions assigned to barangays have significantly expanded while the institutional support available to barangay officials and personnel has not evolved at the same pace. They are expected to undertake responsibilities in public health, disaster risk reduction, peace and order, social welfare, environmental protection, and community development, often despite limited resources and inadequate compensation and benefits. This disparity affects not only the welfare of barangay officials but also the efficiency and quality of services delivered to local communities.

The Constitution recognizes the importance of local autonomy and the role of local government units in national development. Consistent with this policy, strengthening the country's smallest political unit is essential to building more responsive, accountable, and effective governance. Investing in barangays is ultimately an investment in better public service, stronger citizen participation, and sustainable community development.

This measure seeks to establish a comprehensive Magna Carta for Barangays by institutionalizing mechanisms that enhance the welfare, protection, and capacity of barangay officials and personnel while ensuring that barangays are better equipped to discharge the functions entrusted to them by law. The objective is not merely to provide additional benefits but to reinforce the institutional foundation upon which grassroots governance depends.

The necessity of such legislation has long been acknowledged, as similar measures have been introduced in previous Congresses seeking to establish a Magna Carta for Barangays or to improve the rights and benefits of barangay officials. The repeated filing of these measures demonstrates a continuing recognition that existing legal and institutional frameworks remain inadequate to address the evolving demands placed upon barangays. Their enactment, however, has yet to be realized.

For these reasons, the passage of this bill is both timely and imperative in order to strengthen local governance, improve the delivery of public services, and advance the constitutional policy of genuine local autonomy.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JPadiernos', is positioned above the printed name.

**Rep. Jan "Atty. JP" D. Padiernos**  
GP (GALING SA PUSO) Partylist

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**AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE MAGNA CARTA FOR BARANGAYS**

*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 Magna Carta for Barangays.”

**Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - Pursuant to Article X, Sections 2 and 3 of the 1987 Constitution, which guarantee local autonomy and mandate the establishment of a responsive and accountable system of local government through decentralization, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to strengthen the barangay as the basic political unit and the primary planning and implementing unit of government at the community level.

The State shall promote the general welfare of barangay residents by enhancing the institutional capacity of barangays, improving the economic and social welfare of barangay officials and personnel, and ensuring that they are provided adequate support, resources, and facilities necessary for the effective discharge of their duties. It shall likewise encourage participatory governance, community empowerment, and citizen involvement in local decision-making, consistent with the constitutional policy of genuine local autonomy and inclusive national development.

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

**Section 3. *The Barangay Officials as Regular Government Employees.*** - The Punong Barangay, Sangguniang Barangay Members, the Sangguniang Kabataan Chairperson, the Barangay Secretary, and the Barangay Treasurer are hereby declared regular government employees and shall be entitled to compensation, allowances, insurance, medical and dental benefits, retirement benefits, and such other benefits as may be provided by law.

**Section 4. *Salaries of Barangay Officials.*** – Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the appropriate city or municipal government, in coordination with the concerned barangay, shall undertake the necessary measures for the implementation of the

salary scheme provided herein, subject to the enactment of the corresponding appropriation ordinance.

The barangay officials covered under Section 3 of this Act shall be entitled to the following minimum salaries:

Punong Barangay- An amount equivalent to the salary of sangguniang bayan member of the municipality or city concerned;

Six Sangguniang Barangay Members – an amount equivalent to eighty percent (80%) of the salary of a Sangguniang Bayan Member; and

Sangguniang Kabataan Chairperson, Barangay Secretary, and Barangay Treasurer – for each, an amount equivalent to seventy-five percent (75%) of the salary of a Sangguniang Bayan Member.

Provided that no barangay official shall suffer any diminution of existing salaries or benefits.

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

**Section 5. *Access to Safe and Potable Water.***– It is the policy of the State that every barangay shall have access to a regular, adequate, safe, and potable water supply. To achieve this objective, the national government, in coordination with the appropriate local government units and relevant government agencies, shall prioritize the development, construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of appropriate water supply systems and facilities consistent with existing laws, technical standards, and local conditions.

**Section 6. *Transportation Accessibility for Every Barangay.*** – The national government, in coordination with local government units and the appropriate government agencies, shall adopt measures to improve the accessibility and connectivity of barangays through the development and enhancement of transportation infrastructure and services, consistent with existing laws and available resources.

**Section 7. *Basic Government Facilities and Services.*** – Every barangay shall be provided reasonable access to:

- (a) basic education services;
- (b) primary healthcare services;
- (c) a functional barangay hall; and
- (d) such other public facilities as may be necessary for effective local governance, subject to existing laws and available appropriations.

### **IV. MEASURES TO ASSURE THE ENJOYMENT OF LOCAL AUTONOMY**

**Section 8. *Fiscal Support for Barangays.*** – Every barangay shall be entitled to adequate fiscal support and to its lawful share in national taxes in accordance with existing laws. The State shall ensure the timely release of such funds and adopt measures to strengthen the financial capability of barangays in the effective delivery of public services.

**Section 9. *Support for Barangay Infrastructure.*** – Barangays shall be provided adequate financial and technical assistance for the construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of barangay roads, bridges, and other essential public infrastructure necessary for effective local governance and community development, subject to existing laws and available appropriations.

**Section 10. *Fiscal Empowerment of Barangays.*** – Barangays shall be entitled to adequate and sustainable financial resources necessary for the effective discharge of their powers, duties, and responsibilities. The State shall adopt measures to enhance the fiscal autonomy of barangays by expanding their access to lawful sources of revenue, ensuring the timely release of funds, and providing appropriate financial support for local governance and community development, subject to existing laws.

**Section 11. *Equitable Share from the Utilization of Natural Resources.*** – Barangays hosting or directly affected by the exploration, development, or utilization of natural resources within their territorial jurisdiction shall be entitled to an equitable share of the benefits and revenues derived therefrom, in accordance with existing laws. The State shall adopt measures to ensure that such barangays receive appropriate financial and developmental support, taking into consideration the environmental, social, and economic impacts of such activities on the local community.

## **V.SUNDRY MATTERS**

**Section 12. *Scholarship and Educational Assistance Program.*** – Every barangay is encouraged to establish scholarship and educational assistance programs for deserving and qualified residents in order to promote access to quality education and community development, subject to the availability of funds and existing laws.

The national government and local government units may provide technical, financial, or other forms of assistance to support such programs and may encourage partnerships with educational institutions, private organizations, and other stakeholders for this purpose.

**Section 13. *Local Employment and Community Participation.*** – The State shall promote the generation of employment opportunities for qualified residents of host barangays in government-funded programs, projects, and activities implemented within their communities. Implementing agencies and contractors are encouraged, whenever practicable and consistent with existing laws and qualification standards, to prioritize the hiring of qualified local residents and to provide skills development and training opportunities to enhance local workforce participation.

**Section 14. *Livelihood, Cooperative, and Enterprise Development.*** – Barangays shall be supported in promoting sustainable livelihood opportunities and the establishment and development of cooperatives, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), social enterprises, and other community-based organizations that generate employment and local economic growth.

The national government, local government units, and appropriate government agencies shall provide technical assistance, skills development, capacity-building programs, market linkage, and access to appropriate financing and livelihood support programs, subject to existing laws and available resources.

**Section 15. *Capacity Development and Continuing Education.*** – The State shall ensure that barangay officials and personnel are provided continuing education, leadership development, governance training, financial management, disaster risk reduction, digital literacy, and other capability-building programs necessary for the effective discharge of their duties.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government, in coordination with appropriate government agencies, state universities and colleges, and other educational institutions, shall develop and implement programs to strengthen the competencies and professional development of barangay officials and personnel.

**Section 16. *Legal Assistance and Protection.***– Barangay officials and personnel who are made parties to administrative, civil, or criminal actions arising from or in connection with the lawful performance of their official duties shall be entitled to appropriate legal assistance and representation, unless they are finally adjudged to have acted with bad faith, malice, or gross negligence.

**Section 17. *Digital Governance and Administrative Modernization.*** – The State shall promote the modernization of barangay administration through the adoption of digital governance systems and appropriate information and communications technology to improve records management, financial accountability, transparency, and the efficient delivery of public services.

**Section 18. *Health and Wellness of Barangay Officials and Personnel.*** – The State shall promote the physical, mental, and occupational well-being of barangay officials and personnel by supporting access to health promotion, mental wellness, stress management, and psychosocial support programs necessary for the effective performance of their duties.

**Section 19. *Performance Incentives and Recognition.*** – The State shall encourage excellence, innovation, transparency, and accountability in barangay governance by establishing a system of incentives and recognition for outstanding barangays and barangay officials.

**Section 20. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, in coordination with the appropriate government agencies and after consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

**Section 21. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Department of the Interior and Local Government and other concerned agencies. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**Section 22. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Section 23. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**Section 24. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,