

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

Twentieth (20th) Congress
Second Regular Session



House Bill No. **10363**

Introduced by HONORABLE LORETO "AMBEN" S. AMANTE
3rd District of Laguna

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE KATARUNGANG PAMBARANGAY,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, AS AMENDED**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Katarungang Pambarangay remains a vital mechanism for delivering accessible, expeditious, and community-based justice at the grassroots level. It serves as a primary means of resolving disputes, promoting social harmony, and decongesting court dockets. However, despite its sound legal foundation, its implementation continues to be constrained by gaps in capacity, resources, institutional support, and accountability.

This measure seeks to strengthen the Katarungang Pambarangay by institutionalizing mandatory and continuing training for members of the Lupong Tagapamayapa, providing honoraria and incentives, and enhancing oversight and accountability mechanisms. It likewise promotes public awareness and recognizes exemplary performance through a strengthened incentives system.

By addressing these systemic gaps, this bill aims to improve the effectiveness, credibility, and sustainability of barangay justice, and to reinforce its role as a cornerstone of accessible and participatory justice in the Philippines.

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

HON. LORETO S. AMANTE

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

Twentieth (20th) Congress
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10363**

Introduced by HONORABLE LORETO "AMBEN" S. AMANTE
3rd District of Laguna

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE KATARUNGANG PAMBARANGAY,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, AS AMENDED**

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

Section 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "*Katarungang Pambarangay Reform Act of 2026*".

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to strengthen the Katarungang Pambarangay system as a mechanism for accessible, efficient, and community-based justice by enhancing the capacity, support, accountability, and incentives of the Lupong Tagapamayapa and ensuring effective implementation across all barangays.

Section 3. Section 393 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"Section 393. Benefits of Barangay Officials. -

"(a) Barangay officials, including barangay tanods and members of the lupong tagapamayapa, shall receive honoraria, allowances, and such other emoluments as may be authorized by law or barangay, municipal or city ordinance in accordance with the provisions of this Code, but in

no case shall it be less than One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) per month for the punong barangay, ~~[and]~~ Six hundred pesos (P600.00) per month for the sangguniang barangay members, barangay treasurer, and barangay secretary, **AND FOUR HUNDRED PESOS (P400.00) FOR MEMBERS OF LUPONG TAGAPAMAYAPA**: Provided, however, That the annual appropriations for personal services shall be subject to the budgetary limitations prescribed under Title Five, Book II of this Code;

“xxx

“(d) All duly appointed members of the barangay tanod brigades, or their equivalent, which shall number not more than twenty (20) in each barangay, **AND MEMBERS OF LUPONG TAGAPAMAYAPA** shall be granted insurance or other benefits during their incumbency, chargeable to the barangay or the city or municipal government to which the barangay belongs.”

Section 4. Section 406 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“Section 406. Character of Office and Service of Lupon Members. -

“xxx

“(b) ~~[The lupon or pangkat members shall serve without compensation, except as provided for in Section 393 and without prejudice to incentives as provided for in this Section and in Book IV of this Code.]~~ The Department of the Interior and Local Government **AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE** shall provide for a system of granting economic or other incentives to the lupon or pangkat members who adequately demonstrate the ability to judiciously and expeditiously

resolve cases referred to them. While in the performance of their duties, the lupon or pangkat members, whether in public or private employment, shall be deemed to be on official time, and shall not suffer from any diminution in compensation or allowance from said employment by reason thereof.”

Section 5. Section 421 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, is hereby further amended with sub-sections to read as follows:

“Section 421. Administration; Rules and Regulations. - xxx

“SECTION 421-A. JOINT OVERSIGHT BODY. - A JOINT KATARUNGANG PAMBARANGAY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE IS HEREBY CREATED, COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DILG, DOJ, OADR, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT CONCERNED.

THE COMMITTEE SHALL:

- a. MONITOR COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND PROCEDURES;**
- b. EVALUATE BARANGAY PERFORMANCE;**
- c. PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND POLICY GUIDANCE;**
- AND**
- d. MAINTAIN A CENTRALIZED DATABASE OF KATARUNGANG PAMBARANGAY CASES AND OUTCOMES.**

THE COMMITTEE SHALL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON THE STATUS AND PERFORMANCE OF THE KATARUNGANG PAMBARANGAY.”

Section 6. *Mandatory and Continuing Training Programs for Lupon Tagapamayapa.* - For the purpose of strengthening the Katarungang Pambarangay as a mechanism for accessible and community-based justice, all members of the Lupon Tagapamayapa shall undergo mandatory training programs prior to the assumption

of their duties. During their incumbency, they shall be required to attend continuing training programs to enhance their competence in dispute resolution, mediation, conciliation, and administration of justice at the barangay level. Deliberate failure to attend the required training programs shall constitute sufficient ground for disqualification, suspension, or other appropriate administrative sanctions in accordance with applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

Section 7. *Components of Mandatory and Continuing Training Programs.* -

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in coordination with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution (OADR), and with the assistance of the Local Government Academy (LGA), the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP), and other relevant institutions, shall jointly design and implement the mandatory and continuing training programs for members of the Lupong Tagapamayapa. Such programs shall include, but not be limited to, the following components:

- a. Foundational Knowledge on the Katarungang Pambarangay System, including:
 - i. Legal framework and procedures under the Local Government Code of 1991;
 - ii. Principles of alternative dispute resolution;
 - iii. Ethics, accountability, and standards of conduct;
- b. Capability Building, including:
 - i. Mediation and conciliation techniques;
 - ii. Documentation and record-keeping;
 - iii. Conflict management and communication skills;
 - iv. Culturally responsive and community-based dispute resolution practices;
- c. Continuing Education, including updates on relevant laws, jurisprudence, policies, and best practices in barangay justice administration.

Section 8. *Training Fund.* - A training fund for the implementation of the mandatory and continuing training programs for the Lupong Tagapamayapa is hereby established. The initial amount necessary for its implementation shall be appropriated from any available sources, and thereafter, such sums as may be needed shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The DILG shall administer the fund in coordination with the DOJ and OADR, subject to existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations.

Section 9. *Lupong Tagapamayapa Incentives Award.* - The Lupong Tagapamayapa Incentives Awards ("LTIA") is hereby institutionalized as a continuing national program that recognizes and promotes exemplary performance of barangays in the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay. The LTIA shall serve as a mechanism to strengthen barangay justice administration by encouraging the judicious, expeditious, and effective resolution of disputes, as well as fostering innovation, accountability, and community engagement in the delivery of barangay justice services.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall be the primary agency responsible for the overall administration and implementation of the LTIA, in coordination with the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution (OADR), and such other national government agencies and stakeholders as may be necessary. The DILG shall establish and maintain a system of assessment, validation, and recognition at the local, regional, and national levels, taking into consideration the varying capacities, contexts, and conditions of barangays nationwide.

The LTIA shall be implemented through a multi-level evaluation and selection process, including local and national assessments, validation of performance, and conferment of awards, in accordance with guidelines to be issued by the DILG. Such a system shall ensure transparency, objectivity, and fairness in recognizing outstanding Lupong Tagapamayapa, while allowing flexibility in determining the appropriate standards and indicators of performance over time.

The DILG and DOJ shall likewise develop a system of incentives, which may include financial grants, technical assistance, capacity-building support, and public recognition, to be awarded to qualified barangays. These incentives shall be designed not only to reward performance but also to support the continuous improvement of barangay justice mechanisms and the institutional development of the Katarungang Pambarangay.

The DILG and DOJ shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively carry out the provisions of this Section.

Section 10. *Public Awareness and Legal Education on Katarungang Pambarangay.* - The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in coordination with the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution (OADR), and local government units, shall ensure the conduct of sustained and systematic public awareness and legal education programs on the Katarungang Pambarangay system.

Such programs shall aim to promote public understanding of barangay dispute resolution processes, encourage community participation, and strengthen confidence in the system as an accessible and effective mechanism for the administration of justice.

Barangays shall integrate information and education initiatives on Katarungang Pambarangay in their regular programs and activities, subject to guidelines to be issued by the DILG.

Section 11. *Accountability and Administrative Liability of Lupon Members.* - Members of the Lupon Tagapamayapa shall be subject to standards of conduct and accountability in the performance of their duties. The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in coordination with the Department of Justice (DOJ), shall promulgate a code of conduct and prescribe rules governing administrative liability for violations thereof.

Any act of misconduct, abuse of authority, gross negligence, or failure to comply with applicable laws, rules, and procedures shall be grounds for the imposition of appropriate administrative sanctions, including suspension or removal, without prejudice to any civil or criminal liability under existing laws.

A mechanism for the filing, investigation, and resolution of complaints against Lupon members shall be established in accordance with guidelines to be issued by the DILG.

Section 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in coordination with the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution (OADR), and such other agencies as may be necessary, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Section 13. *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 (DILG) and such other agencies concerned. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 14. *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 15. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 16. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.