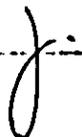


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

Office of the Secretary

16 JAN 18 P1:50

SENATE
S.B. No. 3085

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE BARANGAY UNIT THROUGH SUPPORT FOR BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND BARANGAY VOLUNTEER WORKERS, AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The success of a government initiative is measured by its impact on communities and on the lives of our countrymen, especially the Filipinos who suffer from poverty and those that live in remote areas often forgotten.

It is when every Filipino, every family, and every barangay is healthy, educated, and financially independent that we can declare our country as a champion in development.

According to the Local Government Code of 1991: "As the basic political unit, the Barangay serves as the primary planning and implementing unit of government policies, plans, programs, projects and activities in the community, as a forum wherein the collective views of people may be expressed, crystallized and considered, and where disputes may be amicably settled."

Apart from attending to the basic needs of the community and delivering various government services, barangay officials and volunteers also facilitate citizen empowerment and engagement so that leaders are responsive to the true needs of the citizens they serve.

Thus, this bill endeavors to strengthen barangay governance by providing barangay tanods and barangay health workers transformative capacity building, sufficient financial empowerment, and continuity of service.

Proposed reforms under this bill uphold the principle of local autonomy enshrined in the Constitution and advocate the operative principles of decentralization as declared in the Local Government Code of 1991.

To ensure an effective and inclusive government that promotes the active participation of its citizens, it is imperative that we strengthen barangay governance in our 42,036 barangays around the Philippines. The key to unlocking national progress lies in our ability to reach out to each individual in every barangay.

Thus, the approval of the bill is earnestly sought.


Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

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

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as "The Barangay Reform Act of 2015."

2 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared policy of the State to empower and
3 strengthen our Barangay Officials and Barangay Volunteer Workers in order to sufficiently
4 provide front line government services to the Filipino people in the barangay level. The State
5 acknowledges the need to provide for the financial burden of rendering service and the need to
6 properly compensate and capacitate Barangay Officials and Volunteers. Furthermore, the State
7 recognizes the need to ensure continuity of programs, projects and services of each barangay in
8 order to effectively benefit our people.

9 **Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this Act, the following shall mean:

- 10 a) Barangay Health Worker (BHW) shall refer to a person who has undergone training
11 programs under any accredited government or non-government organization and who
12 voluntarily renders primary health care services in the community after having been
13 accredited to function as such by the local health board in accordance with the
14 guidelines promulgated by the Department of Health (DOH); and
15 b) Barangay Tanod shall refer to all duly appointed members of the barangay tanod
16 brigades, which shall not be more than twenty (20) in each barangay as prescribed by
17 Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991.

18 **Sec 4. Honorarium of BHWs and Barangay Tanods.** – In order to ease the financial burden on
19 our barangay officials and volunteers, the following benefits shall be given by the National
20 Government for services rendered by the following Barangay Workers:

- 21 a) One (1) BHW in each Barangay shall receive a monthly honorarium of not less than Five
22 Hundred (500) pesos from the DOH.
23 b) At least twenty (20) Tanods, in each barangay, shall receive a monthly honorarium of
24 not less than Five Hundred (500) pesos from the Department of Interior and Local
25 Government (DILG).

26 The Barangays may choose to give additional honorarium to the aforementioned volunteers.
27 *Provided*, that such additional honorarium shall be charged against the local budgets of each

1 barangay. *Provided further*, that Barangays shall ensure that all BHWs receive the same
2 honorarium.

3 **Sec 5. Capacity Building for Barangay Officials and Volunteer Workers** – In addition to
4 financial benefits, the National Government shall provide the following to Barangay Officials
5 and Volunteer Workers:

6 a) Training and workshops on how to effectively exercise their duty provided by the DILG
7 for Tanods and DOH for BHWs, and any other such training fit for Barangay Officials and
8 Volunteer Workers.

9 b) Philhealth coverage for BHWs, which shall include medical examination and treatment
10 in government hospitals, and fully subsidized by the National Government through the
11 DOH. *Provided*, that indigent barangay volunteers shall be covered through the full
12 national government subsidy scheme.

13 c) Free legal services from government lawyers or the Public Attorney's Office for cases
14 arising from acts committed in the performance of duty. *Provided*, that such legal
15 services shall continue, even after the expiration of the term of the Barangay volunteer,
16 until its final disposition.

17 **Sec 6. Continuity of Barangay Services** – In order to ensure the continuity of Barangay Services,
18 the term of office of all elected barangay officials after the effectivity of this Act shall be five (5)
19 years.

20 No barangay elective official shall serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same
21 position.

22 The power of the DILG regarding suspension, removal, recall, and other disciplinary actions
23 against offending Barangay Official, as prescribed by Republic Act No. 7160 otherwise known as
24 the Local Government Code of 1991, shall be in full force and effect under this Act.

25 **Sec. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The DILG, in consultation with the National Liga
26 ng mga Barangay, DOH, and the Commission on Elections, shall issue the rules and regulations
27 to implement this Act within ninety (90) days after its approval.

28 **Sec. 8. Separability Clause.** — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same
29 shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

30 **Sec. 9. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances or portion thereof, as well as
31 rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed or
32 modified accordingly.

33 **Sec. 10. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
34 Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

35 Approved,