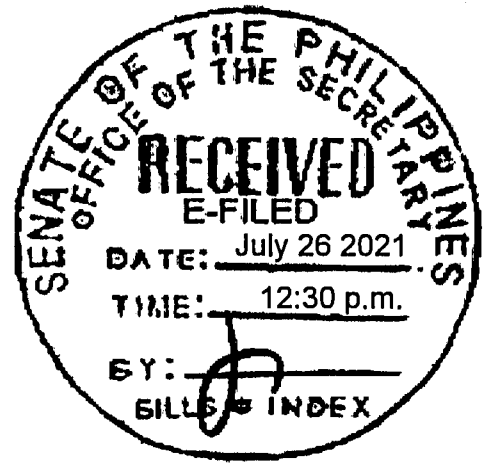


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Third Regular Session* )



SENATE  
S. No. 2326

---

**Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.**

---

**AN ACT  
EXPANDING AND MODERNIZING THE KATARUNGANG PAMBARANGAY AND  
STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR THE BARANGAY JUSTICE SYSTEM AND ITS  
WORKERS**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Katarungang Pambarangay was conceptualized to promote the speedy administration of justice at the barangay level, provide an alternative to litigation dispute settlement, and to achieve peaceful and friendly settlements. It recognizes the Filipino tradition of resolving conflicts through amicable settlement that saves the time and resources of all the parties concerned, and at the same time relieves the trial courts of cases among neighbours that can be settled through mediation at the barangay level.

Katarungang Pambarangay was governed by Presidential Decree No. 1508 which was signed on June 11, 1978 and took effect on December 20, 1978. It covers cases punishable by imprisonment not exceeding thirty (30) days or a fine not exceeding Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00).

PD 1508 was repealed by Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, which embodies the same principles and essence of PD 1508 in Sections 399-422, Chapter VII, Title I, Book III, and Section 515, Title I, Book IV. The cases covered by the Katarungang Pambarangay was, however, expanded by

increasing the authority of the lupon to settle criminal offenses punishable by imprisonment not exceeding one (1) year or a fine not exceeding Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00). Related to this, the Supreme Court issued Circular No. 14-93 on July 15, 1993 to provide the "Guidelines on the Katarungang Pambarangay Conciliation Procedure to Prevent Circumvention of the Revised Katarungang Pambarangay Law".

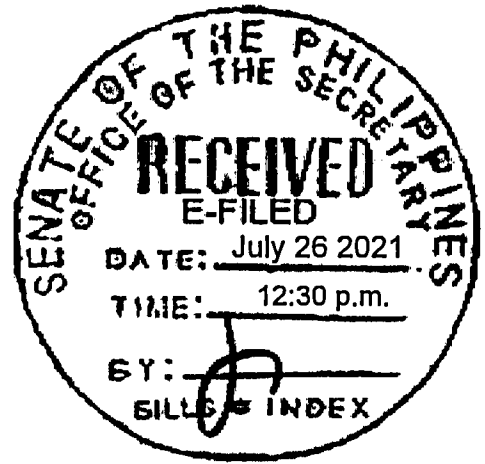
Truly, Katarungang Pambarangay has been instrumental in the promotion of peace, order and development in our communities but it needs to be revisited to improve the administration of justice at the barangay level, to professionalize justice administration at the barangay level, and to provide greater fiscal and other incentives to attain a high level of competency, integrity, independence, probity and honesty.

This Barangay Justice System Act seeks to expand and modernize the Katarungang Pambarangay and strengthen the support for it and its workers. To achieve this, it proposes, among others, the conduct of Barangay Justice Training Program, the mandatory continuing Barangay Justice Education, and the provision of salary, incentives and benefits of Barangay Justice Workers.

In view of the aforementioned, the immediate passage of this bill is highly recommended.

  
**RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Third Regular Session* )



SENATE

S. No. 2326

---

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

---

**AN ACT**  
**EXPANDING AND MODERNIZING THE KATARUNGANG PAMBARANGAY AND**  
**STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR THE BARANGAY JUSTICE SYSTEM AND ITS**  
**WORKERS**

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

1           Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Barangay Justice*  
2 *System Act*".

3           Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to ensure that  
4 justice, in its most tangible and immediate sense, is made easily accessible to all its  
5 citizens. In line with the foregoing, the State recognizes that there is a need to further  
6 strengthen and modernize the government services aimed at providing access to  
7 justice at the barangay level, the level of government which is most immediately  
8 accessible to Filipino citizens.

9           Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

10           (a) *Barangay Justice Worker* refers to a person who renders barangay  
11 justice services in the barangay level after having been accredited to  
12 function as such by the Department of Justice (DOJ), in accordance with  
13 the DOJ's promulgated guidelines;

14           (b) *Barangay Justice Advisory Center* refers to the office that is established  
15 in order to be an information and advice center that may be approached

1 by barangay residents for preliminary inquiries regarding possible  
2 initiation of or defense against existing legal action;

3 (c) *Barangay Conciliation Board*, otherwise referred to as "Conciliation  
4 Board" refers to the body of individuals that exercises administrative  
5 supervision over conciliation and conciliation panels at the barangay  
6 level;

7 (d) *Barangay Conciliation Panel*, otherwise referred to as "Conciliation Panel"  
8 refers to the conciliation panel chosen by the parties to the dispute from  
9 the list of members of the conciliation board.

10 **Sec. 4. *Barangay Justice Worker.* –**

11 (a) For a person to be eligible for registration and accreditation as a  
12 Barangay Justice Worker with the DOJ, he must be a Filipino citizen of  
13 legal age, is a college degree graduate, must have undergone and  
14 successfully completed the Barangay Justice Training Program provided  
15 by the DOJ, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local  
16 Government (DILG); and is

17 (b) found to be a person of integrity, impartiality, independence of mind,  
18 sense of fairness, and reputation for probity.

19 **Sec. 5. *Barangay Justice Training Program.* –** In coordination with the DILG,  
20 the DOJ shall formulate and administer a training program to be known as the  
21 Barangay Justice Training Program, for all prospective Barangay Justice Workers  
22 consisting of not less than eighty (80) hours of training, including, but not limited to,  
23 lectures on basic civil and criminal procedure, rules of evidence, arbitration and dispute  
24 resolution, as well as relevant substantive laws such as family law, property law and  
25 criminal law.

26 **Sec. 6. *Mandatory Continuing Barangay Justice Education.* –** The DOJ, in  
27 coordination with the DILG, shall likewise formulate and administer a continuing  
28 mandatory education program for Barangay Justice Workers consisting of sixteen (16)  
29 hours of lectures on relevant legal topics: *Provided*, That such sixteen (16) hours of  
30 lectures shall be attended by each Barangay Justice Worker every three (3) years,  
31 including the year immediately after the year of registration of said Barangay Justice  
32 Worker.

1            *Sec. 7. Assignment of Barangay Justice Workers to Barangays.* – The DOJ shall  
2 likewise devise a system of assigning registered Barangay Justice Workers to specific  
3 barangays. In assigning such Barangay Justice Workers, the DOJ shall take into  
4 consideration and ensure that Barangay Justice Workers actually residing in a  
5 barangay are assigned thereto, or failing such, are assigned to the city or municipality  
6 or residence, or further failing such, are assigned to the city, municipality, or barangay  
7 closest to their actual place of residence. The DOJ shall ensure that at least six (6)  
8 but not more than twelve (12) Barangay Justice Workers shall be assigned for each  
9 barangay.

10           *Sec. 8. Functions of the Barangay Justice Worker.* – A Barangay Justice Worker  
11 shall –

12            (a) Perform functions as part of the Barangay Justice Advisory Center as  
13            defined hereunder;

14            (b) Sit as a member of the Barangay Conciliation Board and perform the  
15            functions therein as defined hereunder.

16           *Sec. 9. Barangay Justice Advisory Center.* – There is hereby created in each  
17 barangay a Barangay Justice Advisory Center which is composed of all the Barangay  
18 Justice Workers currently assigned in the barangay.

19           *Sec. 10. Functions of the Barangay Justice Advisory Center.* – The Barangay  
20 Justice Advisory Center shall –

21            (a) Entertain queries from barangay residents regarding basic legal  
22            questions of rights and obligations, especially in relation to the barangay  
23            and their co-residents;

24            (b) Advise barangay residents regarding possible avenues of legal action  
25            and the applicability and/or necessity of undergoing conciliation under  
26            the Conciliation Board; and,

27            (c) Officially refer inquiring barangay residents to proper legal offices such  
28            as, but not limited to, the City Prosecutor’s Office, Public Attorney’s  
29            Office, the local chapter of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, or the  
30            NLRC’s Single Entry Assistance Desk (SEAD), depending on the assessed  
31            legal need of such resident.

1           Sec. 11. *Barangay Conciliation Board.* – The conciliation board is composed of  
2 the punong barangay, as chairman and the Barangay Justice Workers assigned to the  
3 barangay as members. The conciliation board is a standing body that continuously  
4 exists, with only the punong barangay, as chairman, being replaced every time a new  
5 one is duly elected.

6           In barangays where majority of the inhabitants are members of indigenous  
7 cultural communities, local systems of settling disputes through their councils of datu  
8 or elders shall be recognized without prejudice to the applicable provision of this law.

9           Sec. 12. *Functions of the Barangay Conciliation Board.* – The conciliation board  
10 shall:

11           (a) Exercise administrative supervision over the conciliation panels provided  
12           herein;

13           (b) Meet regularly once a month to provide a forum for exchange of ideas  
14           among its members and the public on matters relevant to the amicable  
15           settlement of disputes, and to enable various conciliation panel members  
16           to share with one another their observations and experiences in effecting  
17           speedy resolution of disputes; and,

18           (c) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions  
19           as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

20           Sec. 13. *Secretary of the Conciliation Board.* – The barangay secretary shall  
21 concurrently serve as the secretary of the conciliation board. The secretary shall  
22 record the results of mediation proceedings before the punong barangay and shall  
23 submit a report thereon to the proper city or municipal courts. He shall also receive  
24 and keep the records of proceedings submitted to him by the various conciliation  
25 panels.

26           Sec. 14. *Barangay Conciliation Panel.* –

27           (a) There shall be constituted for each dispute brought before the  
28           conciliation board a conciliation panel, consisting of three (3) members  
29           who shall be chosen by the parties to the dispute from the list of  
30           members of the conciliation board. Should the parties fail to agree on  
31           the conciliation panel membership, the same shall be determined by lots  
32           drawn by the conciliation board chairman.

1 (b) The three (3) members constituting the conciliation panel shall elect  
2 from among themselves the panel chairman and the panel secretary.  
3 The panel secretary shall prepare the minutes of the conciliation panel  
4 proceedings and submit a copy duly attested to by the chairman to the  
5 conciliation board secretary and to the proper city or municipal court.  
6 He shall issue and cause to be served notices to the parties concerned.

7 (c) Subject to RA 10173, or the "Data Privacy Act", the conciliation board  
8 secretary shall issue certified true copies of any public record in his  
9 custody that is not by law otherwise declared confidential.

10 Sec. 15. *Vacancies in the Barangay Conciliation Panel.* – Any vacancy in the  
11 conciliation panel shall be chosen by the parties to the dispute from among the other  
12 conciliation board members. Should the parties fail to agree on a common choice, the  
13 vacancy shall be filled by lot to be drawn by the conciliation board chairman.

14 Sec. 16. *Character of Office of Barangay Conciliation Board Members.* – The  
15 conciliation board members, while in the performance of their official duties or on the  
16 occasion thereof, shall be deemed as persons in authority, as defined in the Revised  
17 Penal Code.

18 Sec. 17. *Legal Advice on Matters Involving Questions of Law.* – The provincial,  
19 city legal officer or prosecutor or the municipal legal officer shall render legal advice  
20 on matters involving questions of law to the punong barangay or any conciliation board  
21 or conciliation panel member whenever necessary in the exercise of his functions  
22 under this Act.

23 Sec. 18. *Subject Matter for Amicable Settlement; Exceptions Thereto.* – The  
24 conciliation board of each barangay shall have authority to bring together the parties  
25 actually residing in the same city or municipality for amicable settlement of all disputes  
26 except:

- 27 (a) Where one party is the government or any subdivision or instrumentality  
28 thereof;
- 29 (b) Where one party is a public officer or employees, and the dispute relates  
30 to the performance of his official functions;
- 31 (c) Offenses punishable by imprisonment exceeding one (1) year or a fine  
32 exceeding Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00);

- 1 (d) Offenses where there is no private offended party;
- 2 (e) Where the dispute involved real properties located in different cities or
- 3 municipalities unless the parties thereto agree to submit their differences
- 4 to amicable settlement by an appropriate conciliation board;
- 5 (f) Disputes involving parties who actually reside in barangays of different
- 6 cities or municipalities, except where such barangay units adjoin each
- 7 other and the parties thereto agree to submit their differences to
- 8 amicable settlement by an appropriate conciliation board;
- 9 (g) Such other classes of disputes which the President may determine in the
- 10 interest of justice or upon the recommendation of the Secretary of
- 11 Justice.

12 The court in which non-criminal cases not falling within the authority of the

13 conciliation board under this Code are filed may, at any time before trial, *motu proprio*

14 refer the case to the conciliation board concerned for amicable settlement.

15 Sec. 19. *Venue for Amicable Settlement.* –

- 16 (a) Disputes between persons actually residing in the same barangay shall
- 17 be brought for amicable settlement before the conciliation board of said
- 18 barangay.
- 19 (b) Those involving actual residents of different barangays within the same
- 20 city of municipality shall be brought in the barangay where the
- 21 respondent or any of the respondents actually resides, at the election of
- 22 the complainant.
- 23 (c) All disputes involving real property or any interest therein shall be
- 24 brought in the barangay where the real property or the larger portion
- 25 thereof is situated.
- 26 (d) Those arising at the workplace where the contending parties are
- 27 employed or at the institution where such parties are enrolled for study,
- 28 shall be brought in the barangay where such workplace or institution is
- 29 located.

30 Objections to venue shall be raised in the mediation proceedings before the

31 punong barangay; otherwise, the same shall be deemed waived. Any legal question

32 which may confront the punong barangay in resolving objections to venue herein



1 referred to may be submitted to the Secretary of Justice or his duly designated  
2 representative, whose ruling thereon shall be binding.

3 **Sec. 15. Procedure for Amicable Settlement. –**

4 (a) Who may initiate proceeding – Upon payment of the appropriate filing  
5 fee, any individual who has a cause of action against another individual  
6 involving any matter within the authority of the conciliation board may  
7 complain, orally or in writing, to the conciliation board chairman of the  
8 barangay.

9 (b) Mediation by conciliation board chairman – Upon receipt of the  
10 complaint, the conciliation board chairman shall, within the next working  
11 day, summon the respondent(s), with notice to the complainant(s) for  
12 them and their witnesses to appear before him for a mediation of their  
13 conflicting interests. If he fails in his mediation effort within fifteen (15)  
14 days from the first meeting of the parties before him, he shall forthwith  
15 set a date for the constitution of the conciliation panel in accordance  
16 with the provisions of this Chapter.

17 (c) Suspension of prescriptive period of offenses – While the dispute is  
18 under mediation, conciliation, or arbitration, the prescriptive periods for  
19 offenses and cause of action under existing laws shall be interrupted  
20 upon filing of the complaint with the punong barangay. The prescriptive  
21 periods shall resume upon receipt by the complainant of the complaint  
22 or the certificate of repudiation or of the certification to file action issued  
23 by the conciliation board or conciliation panel secretary: *Provided,*  
24 *however,* That such interruption shall not exceed sixty (60) days from  
25 the filing of the complaint with the punong barangay.

26 (d) Issuance of summons; hearing grounds for disqualification – The  
27 conciliation panel shall convene not later than three (3) working days  
28 from its constitution, on the day and hour set by the conciliation board  
29 chairman, to hear both parties and their witnesses, simplify issues, and  
30 explore all possibilities for amicable settlement. For this purpose, the  
31 conciliation panel may issue summons for the personal appearance of  
32 parties and witnesses before it. In the event that a party moves to

1 disqualify any member of the conciliation panel by reason of relationship,  
2 bias, interest, or any other similar grounds discovered after the  
3 constitution or the conciliation panel, the matter shall be resolved by the  
4 affirmative vote of the majority of the conciliation panel whose decision  
5 shall be final. Should disqualification be decided upon, the resulting  
6 vacancy shall be filled as herein provided for.

7 (e) Period to arrive at a settlement – The conciliation panel shall arrive at a  
8 settlement or resolution of the dispute within thirty (30) days from the  
9 day it convenes in accordance with this section. This period shall, at the  
10 discretion of the conciliation panel, be extendible for another period  
11 which shall not exceed thirty (30) days, except in clearly meritorious  
12 cases.

13 *Sec. 16. Form of Settlement.* – All amicable settlement shall be in writing, in a  
14 language or dialect known to the parties, signed by them, and attested to by the  
15 conciliation board chairman or the conciliation panel chairman, as the case may be.  
16 When the parties to the dispute do not use the same language or dialect, the  
17 settlement shall be written in the language known to them.

18 *Sec. 17. Conciliation.* –

19 (a) Pre-condition to Filing of Complaint in Court. – No complaint, petition,  
20 action or proceeding involving any matter within the authority of the  
21 conciliation board shall be filed or instituted directly in court or any other  
22 government office for adjudication, unless there has been a  
23 confrontation between the parties before the conciliation board  
24 chairman or the conciliation panel, and that no conciliation or settlement  
25 has been reached as certified by the conciliation board secretary or  
26 conciliation panel secretary as attested to by the conciliation board or  
27 conciliation panel chairman or unless the settlement has been repudiated  
28 by the parties thereto.

29 (b) Where Parties May Go Directly to Court. – The parties may go directly to  
30 court in the following instances:

31 (1) Where the accused is under detention;

1 (2) Where a person has otherwise been deprived of personal liberty  
2 calling for habeas corpus proceedings;

3 (3) Where actions are coupled with provisional remedies such as  
4 preliminary injunction, attachment, delivery of personal property  
5 and support *pendente lite*; and,

6 (4) Where the action may otherwise be barred by the statute of  
7 limitations.

8 (c) Conciliation Among Members of Indigenous Cultural Communities. – The  
9 customs and traditions of indigenous cultural communities shall be  
10 applied in settling disputes between members of the cultural  
11 communities.

12 Sec. 17. *Certification for Filing.* – The certification for filing a complaint in court  
13 or any government office shall be issued as follows:

14 (a) Issued by the conciliation board secretary and attested by the  
15 conciliation board chairman (punong barangay), certifying that a  
16 confrontation of the parties has taken place and that a conciliation  
17 settlement has been reached, but the same has been subsequently  
18 repudiated;

19 (b) Issued by the panel secretary and attested by the panel chairman  
20 certifying that:

21 (1) a confrontation of the parties took place but no conciliation /  
22 settlement has been reached; or

23 (2) that no personal confrontation took place before the conciliation  
24 panel through no fault of the complainant.

25 (c) Issued by the punong barangay as requested by the proper party on the  
26 ground of failure of settlement where the dispute involves members of  
27 the same indigenous cultural community, which shall be settled in  
28 accordance with the customs and traditions of that particular cultural  
29 community, or where one or more of the parties to the aforesaid dispute  
30 belong to the minority and the parties mutually agreed to submit their  
31 dispute to the indigenous system of amicable settlement, and there has

1           been no settlement as certified by the datu or tribal leader or elder to  
2           the punong barangay of place of settlement; and,

3           (d) If mediation or conciliation efforts before the punong barangay proved  
4           unsuccessful, there having been no agreement to arbitrate, or where the  
5           respondent fails to appear at the mediation proceeding, the punong  
6           barangay shall not cause the issuance at this stage of a certification to  
7           file action, because it is mandatory for him to constitute the conciliation  
8           panel before whom mediation, conciliation, or arbitration proceedings  
9           shall be held.

10       Sec. 18. *Arbitration.* –

11           (a) The parties may, at any stage of the proceedings, agree in writing that  
12           they shall abide by the arbitration award of the conciliation board  
13           chairman or the conciliation panel. Such agreement to arbitrate may be  
14           repudiated within five (5) days from the date thereof for the same  
15           grounds and in accordance with the procedure hereinafter prescribed.  
16           The arbitration award shall be made after the lapse of the period for  
17           repudiation and within ten (10) days thereafter.

18           (b) The arbitration award shall be in writing in a language or dialect known  
19           to the parties. When the parties to the dispute do not use the same  
20           language or dialect, the award shall be written in a language or dialect  
21           known to them.

22       Sec. 19. *Proceedings Open to the Public Exception.* – All proceedings for  
23       settlement shall be public and informal: *Provided, however,* That the conciliation board  
24       chairman or the conciliation panel chairman, as the case may be, may *motu proprio*  
25       or upon request of a party, exclude the public from the proceedings in the interest of  
26       privacy, decency, or public morals.

27       Sec. 20. *Appearance of Parties in Person.* – In all barangay conciliation  
28       proceedings, the parties must appear in person without the assistance of counsel or  
29       representative, except for minors and incompetents who may be assisted by their  
30       next-of-kin who are not lawyers.

31       Sec. 21. *Effect of Amicable Settlement and Arbitration Award.* – The amicable  
32       settlement and arbitration award shall have the force and effect of a final judgment

1 of a court upon the expiration of ten (10) days from the date thereof, unless  
2 repudiation of the settlement has been made or a petition to nullify the award has  
3 been filed before the proper city or municipal court.

4 However, this provision shall not apply to court cases settled by the conciliation  
5 board under the last paragraph of Section 18 of this law, in which case the compromise  
6 settlement agreed upon by the parties before the conciliation board chairman or the  
7 conciliation panel chairman shall be submitted to the court and upon approval thereof,  
8 have the force and effect of a judgement of said court.

9 *Sec. 22. Execution.* – The amicable settlement or arbitration award may be  
10 enforced by execution by the conciliation board within six (6) months from the date  
11 of the settlement. After the lapse of such time, the settlement may be enforced by  
12 action in the appropriate city or municipal court.

13 *Sec. 23. Repudiation.* – Any party to the dispute may, within ten (10) days  
14 from the date of the settlement, repudiate the same by filing with the conciliation  
15 board chairman a statement to that effect sworn to before him, where the consent is  
16 vitiated by fraud, violence, or intimidation. Such repudiation shall be sufficient basis  
17 for the issuance of the certification for filing a complaint as hereinabove provided.

18 *Sec. 24. Transmittal of Settlement and Arbitration Award to the Court.* – The  
19 secretary of the conciliation board shall transmit the settlement or the arbitration  
20 award to the appropriate city or municipal court within five (5) days from the date of  
21 the award or from the lapse of the ten-day period repudiating the settlement and shall  
22 furnish copies thereof to each of the parties to the settlement and the conciliation  
23 board chairman.

24 *Sec. 25. Power to Administer Oaths.* – The punong barangay, as chairman of  
25 the conciliation board, and the members of the conciliation panel are hereby  
26 authorized to administer oaths in connection with any matter relating to all  
27 proceedings in the implementation of the barangay conciliation procedure herein  
28 outlined.

29 *Sec. 26. Barangay Justice Worker Salary, Incentives and Benefits.* – In  
30 recognition of their services, all accredited barangay justice workers who are actively  
31 and regularly performing their duties shall be entitled to the following salary,  
32 incentives and benefits:

- 1 (a) Salary – Barangay Justice Workers shall receive a compensation under  
2 a salary grade to be determined by the DOJ;
- 3 (b) Hazard Allowance – Barangay Justice Workers in rural and urban areas,  
4 exposed to situations, conditions, or factors in the work environment or  
5 place where foreseeable but unavoidable danger or risks exist which  
6 adversely endanger his health or life and/or increase the risk of  
7 producing adverse effect on his person in the exercise of his duties, to  
8 be validated by the proper authorities, shall be entitled to hazard  
9 allowance in an amount to be determined by the DOJ, in consultation  
10 with the local peace and order council of the local government unit  
11 concerned.
- 12 (c) Training, Education and Career Enrichment Programs – The DOJ, in  
13 accordance with the Department of Education and other concerned  
14 government agencies and non-government organizations, shall provide  
15 opportunities for the following:
- 16 (1) educational programs which shall recognize years of barangays  
17 justice service as credits to higher education in institutions with  
18 stepladder curricula that will entitled Barangay Justice Workers to  
19 upgrade their skills and knowledge for community work or to  
20 pursue further training as lawyers;
- 21 (2) continuing education, study and exposure tours, training, grants,  
22 field immersion, scholarships, and similar activities; and,
- 23 (3) scholarship benefits in the form of tuition fees in state colleges,  
24 to be granted to one child every Barangay Justice Worker who  
25 will not be able to take advantage of the above programs.
- 26 (d) Civil Service Eligibility – A second grade eligibility shall be granted to  
27 Barangay Justice Workers who have rendered five (5) years continuous  
28 service as such.
- 29 (e) Free Legal Services – Legal representation and consultation services for  
30 Barangay Justice Workers shall be immediately provided by the Public  
31 Attorneys Office in cases of coercion, interference, and in other civil and

1 criminal cases filed by or against Barangay Justice Workers arising out  
2 of or in connection with the performance of their duties as such.

3 (f) Private Legal Assistance – As an alternative to the free legal services  
4 under the previous paragraph, all Barangay Justice Workers are hereby  
5 authorized to engage the service of private lawyers or extend counsel  
6 immediately upon receipt of Court Notice that a civil or criminal action,  
7 suit or proceeding is filed against them. The lawyer’s fee shall be part  
8 of the indemnification package for the Barangay Justice Workers, subject  
9 to the provisions of the succeeding paragraph.

10 (g) Indemnification of Barangay Justice Worker – The DOJ shall establish an  
11 equitable indemnification package for the Barangay Justice Workers,  
12 which may be in the form of free legal assistance, liability insurance, and  
13 other forms of protection and indemnification for all cost and expenses  
14 reasonably incurred by such persons in connection with any civil or  
15 criminal actions, suit or proceeding to which they may be, or have been  
16 made, a party by reason of the performance of their functions or duties,  
17 unless they are finally adjudged in such action or proceeding to be liable  
18 for gross negligence or misconduct or grave abuse of discretion.

19 In the event of settlement or compromise, indemnification shall be  
20 confined only on matters covered by the settlement, provided that the  
21 DOJ Secretary has determined that the concerned Barangay Justice  
22 Worker did not commit gross negligence or misconduct in the  
23 performance of his functions and duties.

24 (h) Legal Assistance Fund – There shall be established a Legal Assistance  
25 Fund to be administered by the DOJ and sourced from the filing fees  
26 authorized to be collected under Section 15 of this Act and from national  
27 and local appropriations, among others.

28 *Sec. 27. Administration; Rules and Regulations.* – The city or municipal mayor,  
29 as the case may be, shall see to the efficient and effective implementation and  
30 administration of barangay conciliation provisions of this law.

1           The DOJ, in coordination with concerned agencies, shall prepare and issue the  
2 implementing rules and regulations within one hundred eighty (180) days from the  
3 effectivity of this Act.

4           *Sec. 28. Appropriations.* – Such amount as may be necessary for the effective  
5 implementation of this law shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act  
6 under the annual budget of the city or municipality concerned.

7           *Sec. 29. Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or  
8 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise  
9 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

10          *Sec. 30. Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,  
11 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary  
12 to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or  
13 amended accordingly.

14          *Sec. 31. Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
15 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

16           *Approved*