

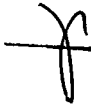


Senate
Office of the Secretary

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

)
)
)

'16 JUL 20 P4:32

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE
S.B. No. 700

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.

In view of the foregoing, the early approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

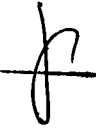


Senate
Office of the Secretary

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

'16 JUL 20 P 4:32

SENATE
S.B. No. 700

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

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 "*Support for Barangay Workers*
2 *Act.*"

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

10 **Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

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

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

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

6 The Barangays may choose to give additional honorarium to the aforementioned
7 volunteers. *Provided*, that such additional honorarium shall be charged against the local
8 budgets of each barangay. *Provided further*, that Barangays shall ensure that all BHWs
9 receive the same honorarium.

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

- 13 a) Training and workshops on how to effectively exercise their duty provided by the
14 DILG for Tanods and DOH for BHWs, and any other such training fit for Barangay
15 Officials and Volunteer Workers.
16 b) Philhealth coverage for BHWs, which shall include medical examination and
17 treatment in government hospitals, and fully subsidized by the National Government
18 through the DOH. *Provided*, that indigent barangay volunteers shall be covered
19 through the full national government subsidy scheme.
20 c) Free legal services from government lawyers or the Public Attorney's Office for cases
21 arising from acts committed in the performance of duty. *Provided*, that such legal
22 services shall continue, even after the expiration of the term of the Barangay
23 volunteer, until its final disposition.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 *Approved,*