

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )**

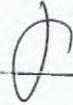


**Senate**  
Office of the Secretary

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**SENATE**

**Senate Bill No. 597**

RECEIVED BY: 

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**Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri**

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**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 development of the country lies with the development of its people. No government policy or program, no matter how well-crafted can be called a success unless it would be able to reach each and every one of its constituents, up to the last individual in the barangay.

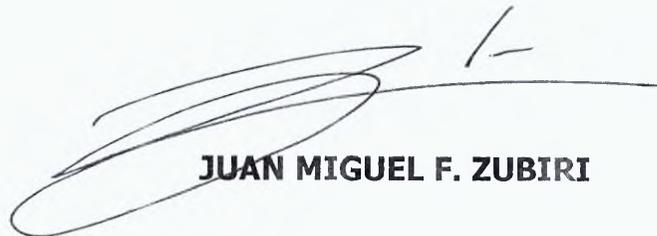
The barangay is the basic unit of government, the closest to its constituents and the first line of government service people turn to. The Local Government Code of 1991 recognizes the important role of the barangay as it states that: "As the basic political unit, the barangay serves as the primary planning 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, crystalized, and considered and where disputes may be amicably settled."

Empowering the barangay is the key to ensuring that government policies being pursued for the development and progress of the country are properly implemented. It is through the barangay that development programs can be delivered and effectively reach each and every Filipino, even those in the most remote areas of the country.

This bill seeks to strengthen the barangay by providing its barangay *tanods* and barangay health workers capacity building programs and financial empowerment. This would ensure that the barangay workers are fully capable of addressing the needs of their constituents and are able to implement the government policies for the advancement of the Filipino people.

Strengthening barangay governance through the empowerment of its barangay *tanods* and barangay health workers is a vital key that would not only help in effectively delivering quality service to every individual, but would also encourage active people participation in governance.

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

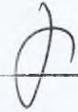


**JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**

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

3       **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to  
4 empower and strengthen our barangay officials and barangay volunteer workers in order  
5 to 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.

9       **Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.** - As used in this Act, the following terms shall  
10 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  
14       been accredited to function as such by the local health board in accordance with  
15       the 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  
18       Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991.

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1           **Sec. 4. Honorarium of BHWs and Barangay Tanods.** - In order to ease the  
2 financial burden on our barangay officials and volunteers, the following benefits shall be  
3 given by the National Government for services rendered by the following barangay  
4 workers:

- 5           a) One (1) BHW in each barangay shall receive a monthly honorarium of not less than  
6           Five Hundred pesos (Php 500) from the DOH  
7           b) At least twenty (20) *tanods* in each barangay, shall receive a monthly honorarium  
8           of not less than Five Hundred pesos (Php 500) from the Department of Interior  
9           and Local Government (DILG).

10           The barangays may choose to give an additional honorarium to the  
11 aforementioned volunteers: *Provided*, That such additional honorarium shall be charged  
12 against the local budgets of each barangay: *Provided further*, That barangays shall ensure  
13 that all BHWs receive the same honorarium.

14           **Sec. 5. Capacity Building for Barangay Officials and Volunteer Workers.**

15 - In addition to financial benefits, the National Government shall provide the following to  
16 barangay officials and volunteer workers:

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

28           **Sec. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The DILG, in consultation  
29 with the National Liga ng mga Barangay and DOH, shall issue the rules and regulations  
30 to implement this Act within ninety (90) days after its approval.

31           **Sec. 7. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is declared  
32 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

33           **SEC. 8. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or  
34 other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed  
35 or modified accordingly.

1           **SEC. 9. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
2 publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation in  
3 the Philippines.

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5           *Approved,*