

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2046

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

Introduced by **HON. TEODORO G. MONTORO**

AN ACT PROVIDING PENSION BENEFITS TO ALL BARANGAY OFFICIALS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The barangay is the smallest political unit in the Philippine government hierarchy. There are presently more than 42,000 barangays spread all over the Philippines. The archipelagic nature of the country has enabled barangays to sprawl even in the farthest reaches of the country, from Batanes in the north to Tawi-Tawi in the South. Most of these barangays are likewise densely populated and their management, whether political or developmental, has been very difficult.

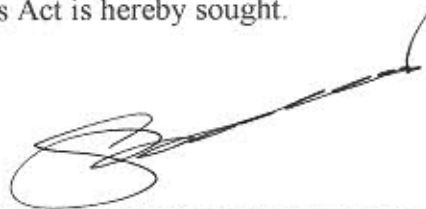
Despite being the smallest political unit in the country, the barangay is the first line of defense of the government in all aspects. It spearheads the fight against illegal drug trade, kidnapping, child and women abuse, syndicates and other forms of criminality. It is also the place where the administration of justice is first determined, being the primary facilitator in resolving cases and disputes among neighbors and constituents, through the "katarungang pambarangay" system. The national government has also tasked and tapped the barangays to implement its projects in the form of infrastructure and non-infrastructure programs.

The far-flung areas of the country have been politically managed by barangay officials under insufficient funds and challenging circumstances. Most of the barangay officials even use their personal funds in implementing government programs and ensuring that their constituents are well taken care of. Throughout the years, the barangays received minimal funding support thereby necessitating its officials to resort to other endeavors in order to make ends meet while making sure that barangay services are delivered.

Notwithstanding the big role the barangay officials play in the lives of the Filipinos, they are also one of the most neglected components of Philippine government. A barangay official does not receive a regular salary but a mere honorarium. The phrase "para sa bayan" is indeed very applicable to the public service provided by the barangay officials. The barangay officials do not expect huge monetary returns but in some instances even give up their lives to protect their communities.

With this, there is a need to support the barangay officials, particularly with respect to their personal needs after they have retired from public service. A pension fund must be established that could support the barangay officials even after their work in government. Although there is no existing mechanism for a barangay pension fund, this Act seeks to set up this mechanism.

By virtue of these reasons, the approval of this Act is hereby sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'T' followed by a series of loops and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke that ends in a small upward flick.

REP. TEODORO G. MONTORO
AASENSO Party-List

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

SECTION 1. Title – This Act shall be known as the Barangay Pension Act of 2016.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Principles and State Policy - The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.

SECTION 3. Creation of the Barangay Pension Fund – The Barangay Pension Fund is hereby created to provide pension benefits to all barangay officials, namely the Punong Barangay, members of the Barangay Council, the Barangay Treasurer and the Barangay Secretary.

SECTION 4. Barangay Pension Fund Council – An independent Barangay Pension Fund Council is hereby created which shall undertake the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Management and disposition of the barangay pension fund;
2. Preparation and approval of the Barangay Pension Fund Plan;
3. Coordination with appropriate agencies to effectively implement the Fund Plan;
4. Promulgate implementing rules and regulations of this Act; and
5. Perform other duties and responsibilities

SECTION 5. Source of the Barangay Pension Fund – the appropriate fund shall be allocated from the General Appropriations Act (GAA) or other government fund source.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive and administrative orders or parts thereof, inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 7. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,