

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

1511

House Bill No. _____



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

Explanatory Note

This measure intends to provide for mandatory PhilHealth coverage for all barangay officials, employees, members of the Lupon Tagapamayapa, Barangay Tanods, Barangay Health Workers and Barangay Nutrition Scholars.

Section 384 of the Local Government Code of 1991 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, and as a forum wherein the collective views of the people may be expressed, crystallized and considered, and where disputes may be amicably settled*". This puts barangay officials and personnel are at the forefront of governance. Punong Barangays act as the chief executive which oversees the daily operations of the barangay, presides over all matters within his jurisdiction and maintains public order. Members of the Lupon Tagapamayapa are the ones that hear and mediate disputes at the barangay level. Meanwhile, Barangay Tanods are the enforcers of ordinances and ensure the peace and order within the barangay. As for the Barangay Health Workers, they deliver the government health services.

Certainly, barangay officials and personnel play a significant role in improving the political and social conditions of the country through delivery of government services and providing a safe and peaceful environment. They are instrumental in helping the national government attain its goals.

However, despite the vital role of the barangay in government service and nation-building, most of the personnel comprising it only receive measly compensation. Volunteer tanods put their lives on line every time they patrol in their respective vicinities but only receive a token pay. Barangay health workers and other personnel who provide government service only get an honorarium. The least we can do is to provide them health insurance so if they are hurt while fulfilling their duties, the treatment and medication will be shouldered by the PhilHealth. This is also in line with the role of government in removing barriers and providing wider access to healthcare which is a universal basic service.

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


HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY PHILHEALTH COVERAGE
FOR ALL BARANGAY OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES, MEMBERS OF
THE LUPON TAGAPAMAYAPA, TANODS, HEALTH WORKERS
AND BARANGAY NUTRITION SCHOLARS

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

1 **Section 1. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the
2 state to promote the welfare of the Barangay Officials, Employees, Members of
3 the Lupon Tagapamayapa, Tanods, Health Workers and Barangay Nutrition
4 Scholars. In pursuit thereof, the State shall provide complete Philhealth benefits to
5 all of the incumbent barangay officials, employees, members of the lupon
6 tagapamayapa, tanods, health workers and barangay nutrition scholars.

7
8 **Section 2. Coverage.**- The Punong Barangay, Barangay Kagawads,
9 Barangay Tanods, Barangay Secretaries, Barangay Treasurer, Members of the
10 Lupon Tagapamayapa, duly-accredited Barangay Health workers and Barangay
11 Nutrition Scholars under Presidential Decree 1569 of all barangays of the
12 Republic of the Philippines shall be covered by this Act.

13
14 **Section 3. Philhealth Benefits.**- All Barangay Officials, Employees,
15 Members of the Lupon Tagapamayapa, Tanods, Health Workers and Barangay
16 Nutrition Scholars stated in the previous section shall enjoy complete Philhealth
17 coverage under the National Health Insurance Act of 1995.

1 **Section 4. Appropriations.-** The amount necessary to guarantee the
2 enrolment of all Barangay Officials, Employees, Members of the Lupon
3 Tagapamayapa, Tanods, Health Workers and Barangay Nutrition Scholars not
4 currently covered by any existing category shall be sourced from the National
5 Insurance Fund of Philhealth from the proceeds of Republic Act No. 10351, in
6 accordance with pertinent laws and regulations.

7
8 **Section 5. Repealing Clause.-** All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules
9 and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby
10 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

11
12 **Section 6. Effectivity. –** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
13 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspaper of general
14 circulation.

Approved,