



LEAGUE OF CITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES

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Official Position Paper of the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP)

The League of Cities of the Philippines fully supports this measure (HB 3907) which would save the government from unnecessary expenses and for the barangay officials to focus on public service.

DISCUSSION

- 1. Reconsider the 5 year-term of the barangay officials; Every three years of trainings, workshops and seminars for the new set of barangay officials are a waste of government funds.**

The 1987 Constitution does not prohibit the Congress to set the term of barangay officials different from other elective local officials, to wit:

Section 8 Article X. The term of office of elective local officials, **EXCEPT BARANGAY OFFICIALS**, which shall be determined by law, shall be three years and no such official shall serve for more than three consecutive terms. Voluntary renunciation of the office for any length of time shall not be considered as an interruption in the continuity of his service for the full term for which he was elected.

Same is true with the SK elections wherein Congress has repeatedly postponed the elections of Sangguniang Kabataan without Constitutional infirmity since it is a rule of statutory constructions that what is not expressly or impliedly prohibited by law may be done except when the act is contrary to morals, customs and public order.

The 2002 synchronized barangay and SK elections through the Republic Act 9164 was an exercise of the legislative power of Congress. The said law may be amended or repealed by Congress to change the term of the barangay officials from three years to five-years. For every three-years, the barangays are spending a lot of money for the trainings, orientation workshops or seminars for their new set of elected officials which usually serve for a term of three years. Such activities would consume the time of the barangay officials attending the same instead of focusing on their mandate to pass barangay ordinance, formulate policies, implement programs and projects for the barangays. Stated otherwise, the barangay officials' roles and responsibilities are mainly to deliver the necessary public service to their constituents, rather than on field trips/attending seminars or workshops.



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The 3 year-term of the barangay officials is very short for the deserving officials. They should be given enough time to be able to finish their priority projects or programs for the barangay. Election really cause a sense of divisiveness not just inside the family but in society as a whole. For every after election, once the incumbent barangay captain and/or barangay councilors are defeated, the new set of barangay officials will discontinue the projects or programs of their predecessors which really hampers the developments intended for their constituents and to the barangay itself.

2. The amount saved shall be invested on barangay health workers and for barangay tanods' patrol vehicle, including the installation of CCTVs.

The funds that would be saved by the barangay in reducing the number of barangay councilors (kagawad) should instead be used to invest on recruitment and training of the barangay health worker. This would support the national government's effort and policy in establishing a national mental health program, and to provide emergency response especially in times of disaster or calamity.

Barangay tanods are at the forefront of public service. They are the first one to respond and are responsible for the maintenance of the peace and order in the community. They should be provided with the new equipment and vehicle necessary to patrol the areas of concerns to deter any possible criminals from committing crimes.

CONCLUSION

The barangay officials play a vital role in fighting criminality in the community. They are at the forefront of public service which deserve to be given assistance as they patrol the barangay to maintain the peace and order and to complement the government's efforts to free the barangays from illegal drugs or on its campaign against illegal drugs. The three-year term of the barangay officials should be changed to five years as discussed above.