

Introduction

The Local Government Code of 1991 (Republic Act No. 7160) effectively gave the barangay – the smallest political unit in the Philippines – an identity, character and powers of its own. Aside from the usual governmental powers, the barangay also acquired corporate powers that also meant exercising executive, legislative and judicial mandates. Hence, it now had the power to legislate local laws or ordinances, implement these along with other national or local government policies and engage in or undertake business with the end goal of generating revenues for its treasury.

But the most significant change is the imposed role of the barangay in being able to direct national development through the bottom-up approach where the barangay development plans have to be considered in every local or national development plans or strategies.

Ten (10) years of the empowerment process for our local government have not exactly paved the way for genuine local autonomy. Marami pa rin ang umaayaw na humarap sa o tanggapin ang katotohanan. Alam naman ng iba ang nararapat gawin, ngunit patuloy pa rin na pinapalabo ang eksena dahil ito –sa kanilang pagkakaalam – ang tanging paraan upang sila ay patuloy na tingnan ng may paggalang (at takot) ng mga barangay at iba pang local government units (LGUs).

Consider the following real-life situation in the bureaucracy: A barangay chairman wants to buy 10 reams of typewriting paper but cannot do so unless he buys from the accredited supplier.

Mahirap tanggapin na totoo ang ganitong sitwasyon. And it is even harder to accept that similar cases are repeatedly taking place in other parts of the country.

Obviously, some empowering document/s may have been purposely omitted as its contents would have “downgraded” the influence of some other-wise “involved parties”.

Local empowerment process is not an easy one and much may yet be achieved if the process would

involve the adequate dissemination of the proper information involving the barangay, particularly its role in interacting with the whole government structure. Since 1991, numerous laws (aside from R.A. 7160) have been passed by the Philippine Congress and signed by the President of the country. Malacanang and various departments have likewise caused the issuances of a litany of proclamations; executive, administrative or department orders; and circulars affecting the LGUs and the barangay, specifically.

Syempre pa, ang mga ito ay nailabas na rin sa mga dyaryo at iba pang publications to have the effect of legislation or law. Pero sa totoo lang, iilan lang sa mga LGU officials ang tunay na nakakaalam tungkol sa kanila.

This study was undertaken with the end goal of making available to all concerned parties, particularly, barangay workers the access to information that would facilitate their work - specifically, the delivery of quality services to the people in the community.

Objectives

- To increase awareness among local government units (LGUs) particularly - its officials and constituents on pertinent legislation relative to barangay governance/administration, gain confidence on their role and actively get involved in barangay development processes and activities;
- To continue to the building of a positive perception of government with barangay officials and key influential persons in the community in doing its share to equitably deliver a comprehensive and integrated set of basic services, and to increase their appreciation of barangay transformation as key actors and/or partners;
- To enable external and internal clients, particularly national government agencies, to integrate and coordinate policy-making decision at the top without confusing or overburdening the barangays;
- To provide potential international assistance programs and other fund sources the required information to be able to respond with well-informed and enlightened

decisions and actions, aligned with national development thrusts and development priorities and aspirations of the people in the community.