

Part II

Report Proper

What We Found Out

National policies need to be accompanied by rules, guidelines and structures so as to facilitate implementation and ensure that the original intentions or goals are observed. In reality, this is the *raison d'être* for legislation which can take the form of congressional acts, presidential decrees or orders and administrative orders or memorandum circulars from the different instrumentalities of the government. The barangay as part of the government structure – and as mandated by the Local Government Code – has assumed more tasks and responsibilities in the effort to, more than simply establish government presence, but effect development or translate national policies into concrete actions that the people can relate to.

This study or inventory of laws and other executive policies reveal several findings that could serve as points for discussion and consideration by sectors involved in charting the destiny of the people and this nation.

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Scope of Barangay Responsibilities from 1991 to 2001

Among the findings generated in the course of the study of executive and legislative policies are:

- A. Laws and policies promulgated since Republic Act 7160 or the 1991 Local Government Code up to the present are interrelated and consistent with the principles and state policies stated in the Philippine Constitution. As it is the duty of the government “to serve and protect the people” as well as “to promote a just and dynamic order social order” to ensure prosperity and “free the people from poverty”, these laws and issuances are manifestations of the basic desire to transform local government units (LGUs), such as the barangay, into self-reliant communities and partners in national development goals.
- B. The role, functions and responsibilities of the barangay as a local government unit and its inherent instrumentalities cover a wide range and variety of concerns, but are focused mainly on the enforcement of laws and public policies, and the delivery of basic public goods and services. In effect, the barangay is now recognized better as the front-line structure for the government in the delivery of services to the people and the community. This is not entirely a new invention as it has always been the front-line organization for years; however, there is a marked shift towards the barangay, as though some national government agencies came to know of barangay’s existence only yester-day.
- C. While legislative and executive issuances prescribe the respective organizational structure/s or implementing mechanism/s at the level of the barangay, these most often tend to unfortunately forget the attendant financial and other requirements (i.e., properly trained man-power) necessary to operate the structures efficiently and effectively. This is has come to be known among local autonomy advocates as the “unfunded mandates” (and this is quite disturbing as the situation extends to all other LGUs: municipalities, cities and provinces).
- D. The responsibilities assigned to the barangay and its instrumentalities require a high level kind of skills among barangay officials to be able to effectively coordinate the various activities among the key sectors in the local community and function accordingly. This is another area which requires a deeper study as it would seem as though these have remained unattended or unacted. (This is also an effect of the previously mentioned

“unfounded mandates”: or the phrase “subject to availability of funds” really should be taken to mean “no funds.”

- E. The tasks mandated, delegated or assigned by laws and other legislative issuances to the barangay can be grouped or categorized into 10 thematic areas to expedite barangay development and/or the delivery of basic services to the community. These areas are the following:
- Health Care and Well-being
 - Food Security and Nutrition
 - Water and Environment Protection
 - Income/Livelihood and Employment Promotion
 - Shelter/Housing and Infrastructure
 - Peace and Order/Public Safety
 - Education and Functional Literacy
 - Representation in National Boards/Committees
 - Participation in Governance and
 - Multi-disciplinary Skills

Most of these belong to the outline of the government’s poverty alleviation program while the rest are basically designed to promote and sustain coordination with the rest of the bureaucratic structure. The last area, multi-disciplinary skills, refers specifically to the acquisition of both basic and advanced knowledge required by all of the other areas to improve or increase efficiency of services.

- F. By virtue of the various laws, presidential orders and legislative issuances, a total of 40 committees or organizational structures are to be created and/or coordinated with, for and in behalf of, the barangay to implement or improve the delivery of services to the constituents. Thirteen (13) of these are actually opportunities for the Liga ng mga Barangay to influence policies and implementing guidelines, rules, and regulations via membership/representation in national, regional, or provincial boards/bodies/councils
- G. Barangay officials’ responses to the three-item questionnaire reveal that delivery of basic services in the barangay are facilitated by the committee structures as mandated by law or executive orders but they are not properly or adequately funded. Barangay officials or kagawads who may be assigned to take charge of specific committees need to be properly oriented or trained in problem-identification, problem solving, and project development and implementation.
- H. Of the various laws and executive issuances that affect the operations of the barangay (excluding RA Act 7160), twenty-one (21) are Republic Acts; 24 Executive Orders; three (3) Presidential Decrees; 5 Administrative Order; 10 DBM Budget Circulars; 2 DBM Local Budget Memoranda; 7 DBM Budget Circular; 1 DENR Administrative Order; 7 DAR Administrative Order; 4 DAR Memorandum Circulars; 52 DILG Memorandum Orders/Circulars; 8 DILG Opinions; 2 CDA Memorandum Circulars; 1 DSWD Order; 1 NEDA-DBM Joint Circular; 2 DBM-COA Joint Circular; 3

COA Resolutions; 7 COA Decisions; 7 COA Circulars; 7 COA Memoranda; 1 DECS Memorandum Circular; 1 CSC Memorandum Circular; 1 CSC Memorandum; 5 CSC Resolutions, 7 Revenue Memorandum Order; 1 Revenue Regulation; 1 BSP Circular and 4 Comelec Resolutions.

- I. These laws or issuances can be categorized as programs (which call for the creation of committees and operational (which involves systems and procedures)
- K. This study focused on the laws and issuances that directly involved the creation of structures such as task forces or committees at the barangay.

A Summary of Barangay Roles and Responsibilities Categorized by Thematic/Service Areas

Thematic/Service Areas	Roles and Responsibilities
1. Health Care and Well-Being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote general welfare • Ensure delivery of basic services • Establish Day Care Centers • Provide-public early child care development services • Establish/maintain Health Stations • Provide primary health care • Conduct annual Palarong Barangay • Maintain a data base system • Develop partnerships and network • Set up and maintain a Barangay reading/ information center
2. Food Security and Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty mapping/profile preparation • Provide supplemental feeding • Set up and maintain Barangay nursery/ seed bank • Conduct local resources appraisal/assessment • Adapt minimum basic needs approach/CIDSS
3. Water and Environment Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforce laws and regulations relative to pollution control and protection of environment. • Establish barangay communal forest tree parks or greenbelts, mangroves and similar development projects. • Protection of environment and maintenance of ecological balance • Protect wild fauna and flora within their jurisdiction • Design solid waste collection and operation of MRF and other relevant systems
4. Income/ livelihood & Employment Promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish farm/fishery collection and buying stations • Negotiate and enter into contracts • Undertake economic enterprise/livelihood or employment promotion • Conduct Barangay Development Planning/Plans Preparation • Support Agricultural productivity through cooperatives

<p>5. Shelter and Housing/ Infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barangay properties physical inventory • Slum rehabilitation • Maintenance of barangay roads, bridges and other facilities such as satellite multi-purpose pavements, sports/recreation centers, public markets, etc. • Curtail the proliferation and further increase in the number of squatters and mendicants in their and find respective jurisdictions ways to relocate them to sites where their general welfare is of paramount consideration.
<p>6. Peace and Order/Public Safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforce all laws and ordinances • Complaints processing • Conflict resolution • Administration and maintenance of Katarungang Pambarangay • Information/Intelligence gathering • Prepare disaster mitigation/rehabilitation plans
<p>7. Education and Functional Literacy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in the education of barangay residents for people's participation in local government administration Information sharing • Set up and operate an information/reading center • Supervise activities of the Sangguniang Kabataan • Preside over Sangguniang Barangay sessions • Prepare annual Executive/Supplemental Budget • Perform fiscal/financial management • Conduct regular barangay consultations/assemblies • Appoint barangay officers • Participate in local special bodies such as Local Development Council PABC, Health Board, Local School Board, POC, PLEBS etc.
<p>8. Participation in Governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with people's organizations and NGOs in the private sector • Create groups and special bodies to respond to calamities and emergencies • Propose legislative proposals • Legislate ordinances/rules • Conduct Barangay People's Day • Supplement the efforts of government in creating gainful employment within the barangay • Forge linkages with NGAs and NGOs

RESULTS OF FOCUSED GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Twenty-two (22) Punong Barangay from different places nationwide participated in the FGD. Basic Question was what roles in the list were most difficult to perform. Top three answers were those of the economic enterprise/livelihood promoter (17), policy/law enforcer (13) and policy/ordinance maker (7). The question likewise revealed that the easiest were: decision-maker and community development manager (16); negotiator, project implementer (15); policy ordinance maker (14).

Focused Question No. 1

What particular role do you find difficult to perform or do?

1. Policy/Law Enforcer

- Not all laws can be enforced in a barangay.
- Also it is difficult to sustain (re: consistency) in enforcement particularly drug prevention because of the laxity of policemen in preventing the proliferation of drugs.
- Tanods have their limitations, policemen or narcotics command need to cooperate and make concrete plans with barangay officials to get rid of drug menace.
- There is always suspicion that favoritism is the operating practice/procedure.
- Citizens are not law-abiding – “ayaw sumunod”.
- Lack of “political will” and support from higher local government officials who are relatives (due to blood relations).
- Existence of lawless/arm groups and clan feuds.

2. Basic Services Provider

- Financial constraints/lack of funds.
- Lack of coordination between national agencies and local government units.
- Failure to provide basic services effectively because in the first place it does not possess resources.
- Lack of manpower.
- So many mandated tasks given by DILG and other agencies that we can't handle because compensation is not enough.

3. Community Development Manager

- One needs a good grasp of the situation in the locality.
- Additional problem is created when other government agencies come in with their own plans.

- Absence of long term plans within the LGU and every administration has its own set of priorities.

4. Program/Project Implementer

- The governors/congressmen and mayors will intervene in the implementation of various projects especially if the funds/allocations come from them.
- Too many programs that use barangay officials as the front-liners, but are deprived of the appropriate honoraria and recognition.
- Lack of cooperation from various sectors

5. People Empowerment/Participation Advocate

- Negative attitudes and mentality.
- Difficulty to sustain them into a working and functional units
- Some people in the community are passive in performing their responsibilities to beneficiaries and program partners.

6. Policy/Ordinance Maker

- Little or not enough background in legislation.
- Many national and local laws overlap with each other.
- Need more training or capability building seminars.
- One must have knowledge on legal matters and issues.

7. Conflict Handler/Arbiter

- Disputes/problems could hardly be decided upon because of “kamag-anak” system or “pakikisama” system.
- Needs to have strong political will.

8. Networker/Arbiter

- Traditional and cultural practices
- Inexperience of local chief executives and council.
- Lack of facilities such as computers, etc.
- Lack of technical know-how, capital and markets.

9. Problem-Solver/Decision-Maker

- Lack of knowledge and skills
- Political intervention

10. Economic Enterprise/Livelihood Promoter

- Constituents” attitude – they want to get rich/something without working for it.
- No funds/capital available for livelihood activities.
- No funds to finance livelihood project or economic enterprise: our barangay is 4th to 5th class.

- Mentality of people that any amount shelled out of the government is a dole-out.
- Lack of markets to sell our products.
- Our municipality is in the 5th to 6th class and the people are poor.

Focused Question No. 2:

What do you propose to do to improve barangay affairs administration and management?

1. More training and capability building workshops/seminars for proper implementation/execution of functions and responsibilities (to be done at the barangay level).
2. Additional funding support for every additional role/function devolved or assigned to the barangay.
3. Continuous education re: advocacy in good barangay governance.
4. Increase the funds/IRA of the barangay so we can hire manpower and not a mere volunteer (bayanihan).
5. Improve capability in:
 - a. *Values Orientation*
 - b. *Fiscal Accountability*
 - c. *Barangay Administration/Management*
 - d. *Barangay Governance*
 - e. *Leadership Governance*
6. Technical support from DILG/LIGA, e.g., legal consultant/s and development planners
7. Practice the principles/values of transparency and accountability.
8. Adopt some best practices.
9. Introduce innovations and reforms.
10. Involve citizens/constituents in planning, implementation and evaluation.
11. LIGA should push through with providing retirement benefits to members.
12. Reduce/lessen the roles and functions so we can attend to priority programs.
13. Should only cover the basic services so that barangay officials will be able to focus on these.
14. Institutionalizing the LIGA as capability building provider.
15. Municipalities and provinces especially elective officials must be "barangay-centered".
16. Lessen the numerous councils and organizations in order that officials can concentrate on the basic services.

17. Strengthening unity, peace and teamwork among residents of the barangay.
18. Build/generate financial/fiscal resource capability.
19. Do away with too much "politicking".
20. Attitudes of barangay officials need to improve.
21. Raise personal qualification of candidates for barangay officials' positions to at least high school graduate.

Focused Question No. 3:

If the thematic areas were to serve as standing committees in all barangays, what 5 areas are "*MUST HAVE*" areas and what other five areas are "*NICE TO HAVE*" areas?

MUST HAVE:

1. Health Care and Well Being
2. Peace and Order/Public Safety
3. Income/Livelihood Support and Employment Promotion
4. Food Security and Nutrition
5. Shelter/Housing and Infrastructure
6. Environment Protection
7. Education and Literacy Programs
8. Participation in Governance
9. LIGA Participation in National Boards and Committees
10. Computerized System
11. Barangay Reading and Information Centers
12. Barangay Library
13. Water Supply System
14. Promote General Welfare
15. Adapt Minimum Basic Needs (MBN) Approach/CIDSS
16. Design Solid Waste Collection
17. Economic Enterprise
18. Curtail the Proliferation and Further Increase of Mendicants/Squatters

NICE TO HAVE:

1. Multi-disciplinary
2. Education and Functional Literacy
3. LIGA Participation/Representation in National Bodies
4. Participation in Governance
5. Water and Environmental Protection
6. Food Security and Nutrition
7. Shelter/Housing and Infrastructure
8. Income/Livelihood and Empowerment Promotion
9. Peace and Order
10. Health Care and Well-being

11. Telephone system, satellite
12. Cooperatives
13. Funding support for buildings, machinery, livelihood programs
14. Early Childhood Care Development Services
15. Set up and maintain Barangay Nursery/Seed bank
16. Barangay Communal Forest Tree Parks
17. Farm and Fishery Resource Management
18. Slum Rehabilitation