

BHIRACO

Barangay Human Rights Action Center Program **Legal Bases**



Published by



**BHRAC National Secretariat
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
SAAC Bldg., UP Complex Commonwealth Ave.,
Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. no. (632) 925-3879
www.chr.gov.ph**

With grant support from



**UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**



Barangay Human Rights
Action Center Program

Legal Bases



MESSAGE



First of all, allow me to congratulate all the men and women of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines, and the men and women in thousands of barangays, who have worked tirelessly on this, one of the Commission's flagship projects, the Barangay Human Rights Action Center, or BHRAC.

Its importance cannot be exaggerated. The barangay is the smallest political unit of the Philippines. It is the form of local government which has the most immediate effect, on a daily basis, on the lives of Filipinos. People bring their grievances to the barangay captain and the *lupong tagapamayapa*. Neighborhoods rely partly on the barangay *tanods* to keep the peace and maintain security. And it is the barangay officers who are at times, the most familiar elected officials known to the local population, because these are their friends, their neighbors, and their family members.

The barangay and its officers are familiar, accessible, and often approachable. This is precisely why the Commission must have a presence at that level, at the grassroots level, advocating for the protection and promotion of the human rights of all people. And that is precisely the role that the Barangay Human Rights Action Center project plays.

Through this, and especially through the many individual Barangay Human Rights Action Officers and their networks, present in thousands of barangays around the country, the Commission is endeavoring to build a framework for human rights advocacy at the grassroots level. This is part of our effort to make the human rights of persons familiar to as many people as possible, accessible in the sense that within their neighborhoods people will be able to find human rights advocates offering training and information, and an avenue for redress in the event of human rights violations. They are also approachable so that people will not feel that they have nowhere to turn, in the event they are subjected to oppression and abuse.

We need to make human rights real to the Filipino people, and the BHRAC is one of the most significant ways in which the Commission can reach out to as many Filipinos as possible, and into as many neighborhoods and communities as possible. Much hinges on its success, and much progress can be achieved through the work that it does.

Published by



BHRAC National Secretariat
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
SAAC Building, U.P. Complex Commonwealth Ave.,
Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines

With grant support from



UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

All Rights Reserved.

The Commission further lauds this effort to codify and more widely disseminate the legal bases of the work of the BHRAC and its officers. Human rights after all are not merely pretty words or benefits which are dependent on the government's mercy or charity. Instead, human rights are found in law, both national and international. And with respect to international law in particular, the Philippine government has international legal obligations which it has a duty to fulfill.

So when we call on the government to respect, protect, promote and fulfill the human rights of all the people under its jurisdiction, we are not asking for a favor, we are not asking for the government to carry out something that is optional. Instead, we are reminding it of its obligations and its duties. These are legal obligations. The government must comply with these.

It is therefore important that all human rights advocates are familiar with these legal duties, and that the various documents and instruments in which these can be found are accessible. The work we do to promote human rights in the Philippines is complex and difficult, and there are many vested interests arrayed against us, but as we continue to build alliances, as we continue to reach out to the people we seek to protect, and as we continue to call on the government to fulfill its international legal obligations, we will all help move the Philippine situation toward a better place, and help develop a society which we can bequeath to our children and their children without shame.

Thank you very much.

LEILA M. DE LIMA (Sgd.)
Chairperson



For Filipinos, the term “barangay” evokes the idea of a community, of neighborliness, of people who look out for each other. In trying to build a culture of human rights throughout the Philippines, where everyone is aware of, enjoys, respects and protects their own rights and the rights of others, the Commission on Human Rights has been trying to bring to the very grassroots level a protection and promotion system called the Barangay Human Rights Action Centers (BHRACs).

The BHRAC program, conceived in 1994, is a flagship program of the Commission and is undergoing a renewed thrust under the 4th Commission. The program aims to reach the people who need it most, those who are by nature of their circumstances are not only far in terms of physical distance from our Regional Offices, but most often than not, do not have the knowledge and the means to seek and avail of our assistance.

This publication which is a compilation of legal documents about BHRAC comes in handy for the Barangay Human Rights Action Officers who will man the BHRACs. They will have company in carrying out their activities especially in far-flung areas where dearth of reading materials coupled with the scarcity of knowledgeable persons to refer to hamper their efforts to fight for their rights.

With 41,940 barangays in the country, the CHR is not promising to instantly establish a BHRAC in every barangay. However, this renewed effort to establish centers in barangays that have been identified as particularly vulnerable to human rights issues, including some in areas of armed conflict, demonstrates the continuing effort of the Commission to reach as many of the populace as possible.

I congratulate the men and women behind this publication which I believe will greatly aid our BHRAOs in the performance of their duties.

Kapit Bisig para sa Karapatang Pantao!

CECILIA RACHEL V. QUISUMBING (Sgd.)
Commissioner



MESSAGE

The BHRAC Program exists because of the central and indispensable role of ordinary people in the promotion and protection of human rights especially at the grassroots level. It is a flagship program of the Commission and a means to bring itself closer to the people whom it serves.

The development of BHRAC Legal Bases is part of the popularization campaign of the Commission. This campaign is vital to the commitment of the Commission to increase people's awareness of the BHRAC Program and make it concretely accessible to all.

The resolutions, circulars and undertakings issued by the Commission serve as legal grounds for the implementation of the BRHAC Program. They have been compiled in this IEC material to become a useful reference and guide for the Barangays, their human rights officers, every person concerned and those who are genuinely interested in learning about the BHRAC Program.

It is my hope that BHRAC Legal Bases will always serve its purpose, as we all continue to develop various ways by which human rights can become a meaningful reality for everyone.

MA. VICTORIA V. CARDONA (Sgd.)
Commissioner



MESSAGE

The Local Government Code identifies the Barangay as the basic political unit that serves as the primary planning and implementing unit of government policies, plans, programs, projects and activities in the community, (Section 384, Chapter I, Title I, Book III of the Local Government Code). It is the most accessible political unit in the grassroots level especially in the far-flung areas.

The Commission on Human Rights recognizes the importance and significance of this basic political unit. This is the reason why the Barangay Human Rights Action Center (BHRAC) is a flagship program of the Commission. The Commission believes a strong and effective BHRAC program will provide all individuals, from those living in the busiest city to those living in the most secluded barrio, easy access to the services of the Commission. The BHRAC program will help spread awareness of human rights and fundamental freedom to all corners of the archipelago.

The Commission is constantly exploring ways to improve effectiveness and spread awareness of the BHRAC program. I believe the development of BHRAC Legal Bases is one of the tools designed to enhance the program. It is a functional reference and guide for officers and members of the barangays, and their constituents, to understand and employ the BHRAC program.

NORBERTO DELA CRUZ (Sgd.)
Commissioner



MESSAGE

This Handbook offers our readers a compilation of documents the Commission on Human Rights uses as legal bases in its nationwide implementation of the Barangay Human Rights Action Center. Created in 1994, the BHRAC is the 4th Commission's 'flagship project'.

By providing training to Barangay Human Rights Action Officers, education, information and knowledge of human rights norms and standards and international humanitarian law are spread at the grassroots level to grow and bear fruit. And truly, we can say that the enlightened volunteer their services to "walk the talk". Thus, every human rights activity is emerging as a potentially significant agent of change in the Legal System context in the countryside, a relatively new role being played by the BHRAOs, to whom we dedicate this Handbook.

To the public, a BHRAO represents hope for freedom, justice, and peace in the smallest political unit of the society and inspires us all to live peaceful and productive lives, respectful of each other's rights. It then also follows that when a BHRAO is remiss in his duties, or worse betrays the trust his office reposes on him, he perverts justice that our Legal System is painstakingly endeavoring to serve.

It is necessary, therefore, that the office of the BHRAOs be considered part of the Human Rights Agenda of the Government. It is they who represent, to most Filipinos, justice and human rights at work in the barangay.

We, at the CHR, fully realize that writing guidebooks alone will not solve the problems that beset the BHRAOs, but we also know that a good handbook can be a valuable tool in the hands of a BHRAO. A handbook does not make one a good BHRAO, but is a useful reference for a BHRAO who has made the fundamental moral option to be good!

Let this Handbook assure the BHRAOs that we in the Commission are their number one allies in their day-to-day activities. Our partnership with them continues to contribute in the great measure to the strides for which the CHR has received heartwarming commendation.

JOSE MANUEL S. MAMAUAG, MNSA (Sgd.)
Commissioner and BHRAC Focal Commissioner

CONTENTS

iii	<i>Messages</i>
ix	<i>Contents</i>
x	<i>Foreword</i>
1	BHRAC Concept
2	BHRAC Conceptgram
3	Establishing BHRAC & Selecting BHRAO
4	Frequently Asked Questions
6	Operation / Mobilization Structure
7	BHRAC Program Development Framework
8	Institutional Development Timeline
11	Legal Bases
12	• MC No. 94-194 - Enjoining All Barangays to Pass / Adopt a Resolution for the Establishment of HR Action Centers in LGUs (27 Oct 1994)
14	• MOA - Joint Formulation and Implementation of National HR Advocacy Program for LGUs, specifically for Punong Barangays (16 Nov 1994)
18	• MOA - Joint Implementation of a Continuing National HR Advocacy Program as well as Institutionalization of the BHRACs (20 Jun 1996)
24	• MOA - CHR-DILG, Leagues, Provinces, Cities, Municipalities, and Liga ng mga Barangay (10 Dec 1996)
31	• MOA - Conduct of HR Education & Information Dissemination Programs for Women and Girl Sectors (19 Mar 1997)
35	• MOA - Implementation of a Continuing HR Advocacy, Regional and National Trainer's Training Programs and Conduct Capability Building Programs and Connections for the BHRAOs and other BHRAC Implementors (11 Dec 2001)
39	• MC 2006-45 - Revitalization and Strengthening of the BHRAC Program (11 May 2006)
43	• Joint MC 1,S.2006 - Guidelines in the Conduct of Election of the BHRAC in every Barangay Nationwide (6 Oct 2006)
47	• CHR Resolution (IV) No. A2009-053-G BHRAC Functionality Indicators
49	• CHR Resolution (IV) No. A2009-053-H BHRAC Policy Guidelines and Procedures
57	Human Rights Calendar



FOREWORD

BHRAC CONCEPT

The Barangay Human Rights Action Center Program, or BHRAC, has been the flagship program of the Commission on Human Rights since 1995. It started as a social/action research in 1994 that studied the possibility of organizing community-based human rights volunteer workers.

BHRAC was an idea that immediately became flesh by virtue of a series of measures crafted in no uncertain terms by CHR and its partners from different sectors and administrative tiers such as the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Local Government Academy, the Liga ng mga Barangay, and NGOs such as Sorooptimist International, PRODEM and the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines.

As a flagship program, BHRAC has been staying buoyant and afloat, on course to meet its ultimate goal, i.e., to empower and mobilize community-based human rights advocates to take up the cudgels for human rights promotion and protection by themselves, and at the same time, to bring the services of CHR to the grassroots level. In a sense, BHRAC is CHR's national grassroots human rights advocacy program that fast-tracks the building up of a culture of human rights in the Philippines.

The BHRAC Program is alive not only because of its many advocates, to include the BHRAOs, but also because of the policy environment that institutionalized it. From 1994 to 2009, CHR issued its own policy directives on the BHRAC Program, entered into Memorandums of Agreement with concerned stakeholders, and mobilized relevant entities to issue appropriate department orders, ordinances and resolutions. Yet to come out are human rights laws on and about the BHRAC Program. This pamphlet puts together all the instruments that contribute to the strengthening of the policy or legal bases for the establishment of the BHRACs.

ANA ELZY E. OFRENEO (Sgd.)
Director IV

THE BARANGAY HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION CENTER (BHRAC) PROGRAM: A Nationwide Mobilization for Human Rights Protection and Advocacy at the Barangay Level

The Barangay Human Rights Action Officer, BHRAO, serves as the focal person of the Commission on Human Rights at the barangay or village level. The BHRAO hails from and is based at the community where he performs his two main functions, which are:

- Establish a continuing program of information and education to enhance respect for human rights, thereby helping build a culture of human rights, within the community; and
- Receive complaints of human rights violations and immediately refer them to the nearest field office of CHR for investigation.

The BHRAO maintains his/her office that is called the Barangay Human Rights Action Center or BHRAC. BHRAC has three main features:

- It has a community-based action officer called the Barangay Human Rights Action Officer;
- It is the barangay or village's information and education center on human rights; and
- It is the center for receiving complaints and preservation of initial evidences of human rights violations.

Through the BHRAC, CHR brings its services closer to the people at the grassroots level.

BHRAC CONCEPTGRAM

ESTABLISHING BHRAC & SELECTING BHRAO



The BHRAC shall be established in the barangay through a Resolution approved by the Sangguniang Barangay. The BHRAC shall be manned by a Barangay Human Rights Action Officer (BHRAO).

The **two-mode** selection process for the BHRAO is as follows:

1. In barangays where the barangay council has no Human Rights Committee, the following procedure shall be observed:

A barangay assembly meeting shall be convened for the purpose of nominating candidates and finally designating the person who shall serve as the BHRAO; and

The BHRAO shall be chosen through viva voce by a majority of those present in the barangay assembly meeting. The meeting shall be jointly supervised by the City/Municipal Planning and Development and City/Municipal Local Government Operations Officer.

2. In barangays, municipalities, cities where the barangay, municipal, and city councils has a Human Rights Committee, the chairman automatically becomes the BHRAO.

In the first case, the following qualifications are prescribed:

- At least a high school graduate;
- Not less than 21 years old;
- Must not be an elective appointive official of the government;
- Once elected, s/he must not engage in partisan political activities;
- Committed to the cause of human rights; and
- Willing to undergo BHRAO Training.

In both cases, after the BHRAO had undergone the required training, a resolution shall be issued by the Barangay/Municipal council, formally conferring the BHRAO's authority as such. The Commission shall then issue a Deputation Certificate and a BHRAO Identification Card for this purpose.

TERM OF OFFICE OF AN ELECTED BHRAO

An elected BHRAO shall have a term of five (5) years without re-election.

REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

The following are the grounds for removal of a BHRAO from office:

1. Violation of human rights
2. Loss of Confidence
3. Non performance of functions

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQs

What are the functions/services of the BHRAC?

The BHRAC has two main functions/services:

1. Complaints Referral

The BHRAO is primarily (at the very least) tasked to receive complaints of “alleged” human rights violations and refer the same to the nearest CHR regional or sub-office for investigation.

2. Awareness-Raising on Human Rights

The BHRAO is tasked to coordinate with the CHR Regional offices in the conduct of seminars, trainings, symposia and other human rights information and education activities. He/she is also tasked to mobilize the community for the mobile education and develop human rights advocates within the barangay.

Who are my partners / support groups in the barangay?

The BHRAO has to organize and build his/her support group, called human rights advisory group, who can be his/her partners in the promotion and protection of human rights in the barangay. The BHRAO can mobilize certain cause-oriented individuals, groups, sectors, and/or organizations to constitute the human rights advisory group such as the:

- Church and/or Church-based organization/s
- School and/or school-based organization/s
- Barangay-Based Sectoral Organizations
 - Women
 - Farmers/fishermen
 - Youth
 - Labor
 - Others
- Barangay-based NGOs
- Local media

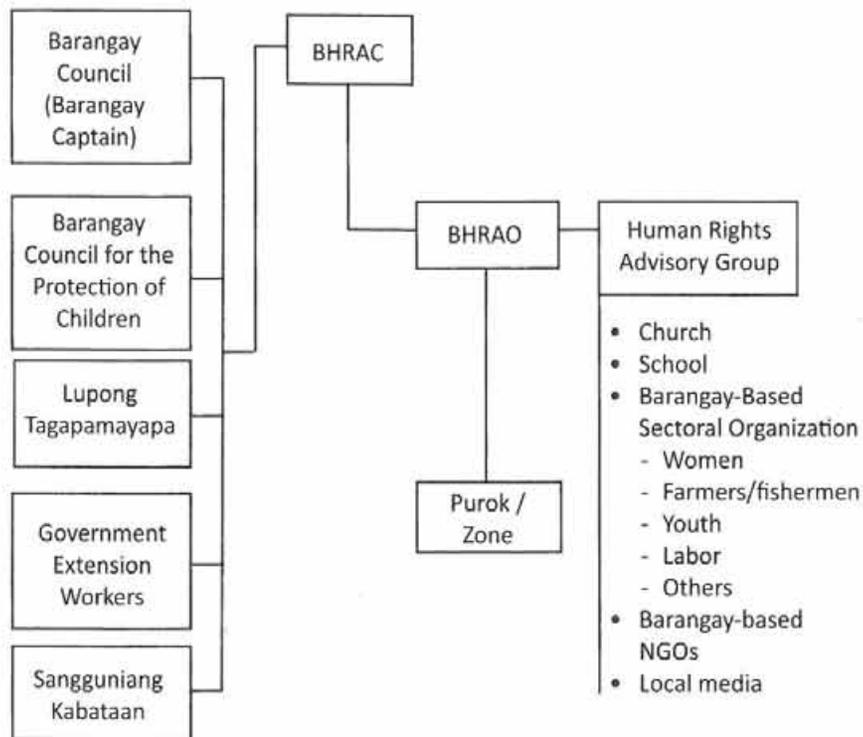
What are the different stakeholder's role in the Barangay Human Rights Action Center?

The Commission on Human Rights role is to build a nationwide cadre trainers on human rights and give technical assistance to the Barangay Human Rights Officers through the conduct of BHRAC orientation, seminars and capacity building programs, provide prototype human rights materials, investigate referred cases of human rights violations, monitor the BHRAC program and recommend policies to the national government for the furtherance of the institutionalization of the program. It is also considered that the assistance of the Department of the Interior and Local Government is very important in this program, thus a partnership was formed between the CHR and DILG creating the BHRAC Inter-Agency Committee.

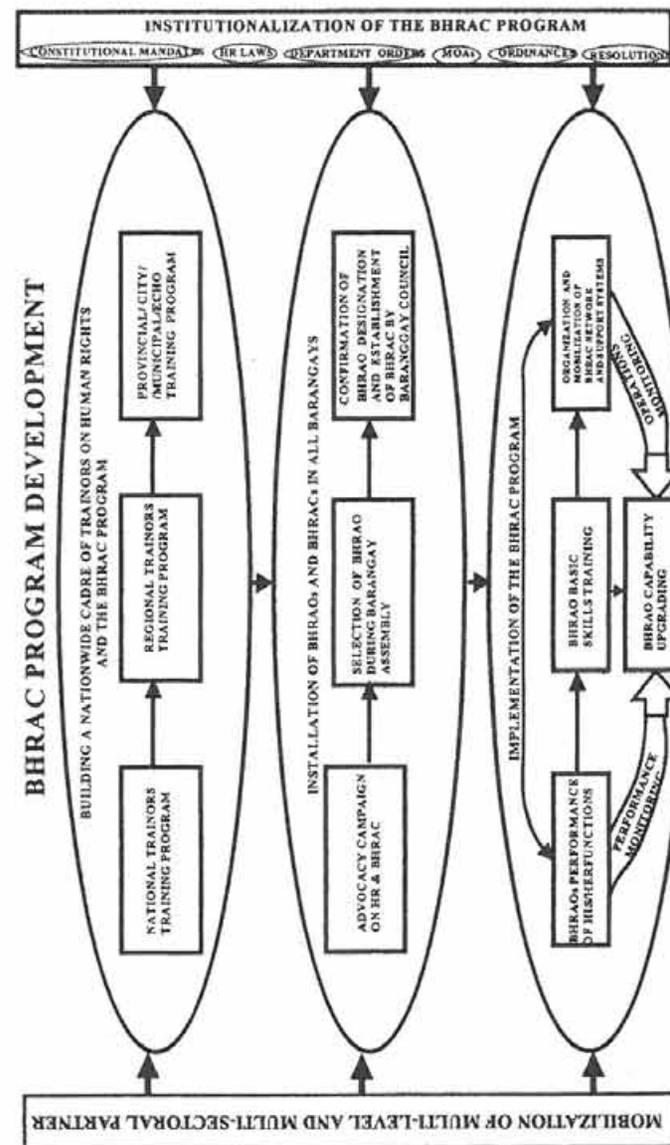
The DILG's role is to be co-partners with the CHR in giving technical assistance to the BHRAOs through the Regional/Provincial/City/Municipal Local Government Operations Officers. The Provincial/City/Municipal LGOOs also assist in mobilizing BHRAC activities.

Other partners include the Local Government Units through their local chief executives and Councils, C/M Planning Development Coordinators and various leagues (Liga ng mga Barangay, League of Municipalities, League of Cities and League of Provinces) and various non-government organizations.

OPERATION / MOBILIZATION STRUCTURE



BHRAC PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK



INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

1991-1994	Built alliance with DILG-Local Government Academy		
	Groundworked for the inclusion of Human Rights module in the regular and special courses for Local Government Units (LGUs) which were organized/conducted by the DILG/LGA.		
	Enlisted DILG-LGA participation in the series of <i>Regional Trainers' Training Program on Human Rights-International Humanitarian Law</i> .		
September 1994	CHR Convinced DILG to issue a memo order to all Local Chief Executives and DILG Regional / Field Offices requiring them to ensure establishment of, among others, BHRACs in all barangays.		
27 October 1994	Then DILG Secretary Rafael M. Alunan issued Memorandum Circular No. 94-194 "Enjoining all Local Chief Executives to pass/adopt a Resolution for the establishment of BHRACs in LGUs" .		
16 November 1994	Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between and among CHR, DILG and Liga Ng Mga Barangay on the <i>Joint Formulation and Implementation of National Human Rights Advocacy Program for LGUs, specifically for Punong Barangays</i> .		
December 1994	Piloting of <i>Regional Training on BHRAC</i> (NCR barangay leaders)		
1994-1995	Consultation and creation of the legal basis of the BHRAC Program.		
February 1995	Continuation of pilot training (NCR-Valenzuela)		
June 1995	Pilot of Regional Trainers Training on BHRAC in Bicol		
1995-1997	Nationwide mobilization for the establishment of BHRACs		
			through the conduct of a series of Regional Trainers Training Program on BHRAC
		20 June 1996	Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the CHR-DILG-Liga Ng Mga Barangay on the <i>Joint implementation of a continuing National Human Rights Advocacy Program as well as institutionalize the BHRACs</i>
		December 1996	<i>"National Seminar Workshop for BHRAOs"</i> , held on 9-10 December 1996 at Manila Midtown Hotel, Manila, Philippines
		10 December 1996	Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between and among the CHR-DILG-League of Provinces, Cities, Municipalities and the Liga Ng Mga Barangay on the <i>Joint implementation of a continuing National Human Rights Advocacy Program as well as the institutionalization of the BHRACs</i>
		19 March 1997	Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the CHR and the Soroptimist International Philippines Region (SIPR) on the Conduct of human rights education and information dissemination programs for women and girl child sectors .
		December 1997	<i>"Second National Convention of BHRAOs"</i> , 9-10 December 1997 at Crown Peak Garden and Leisure Hotel in Subic, Olongapo City, Philippines.
		July 1998	The BHRAC program won second place out of more than five hundred entries in the Federation of Soroptimist International of America during their 35th Federation Convention held at Marriott Hotel, New York on July 2-5, 1998.
		May 1999	<i>"Child Rights Forum and Capability Building for BHRAOs"</i> on 3-5 May 1999 at Ibalong Recreation Center in Legazpi City, Philippines.
		May 2000	<i>"National Capability Building and Convention of BHRAOs"</i>

with the theme, *“National Human Rights, Democracy and Development”* at Grand Men Seng Hotel in Davao City, Philippines.

- December 2000 **14,137 BHRACs / BHRAOs already established/elected.**
- December 2000 *“National Association of Barangay Human Rights Action Officer (NABHRAO) Executive Meeting”* held at CHR Central Office on 7-8 December, 2000.
- March 2001 *“5th National Capability Building and Convention of Barangay Human Rights Action Officers”*, held on 27-29 March 2001 at Punta Villa Resort, Arevalo, Iloilo City, Philippines.
- 11 December 2001 **Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)** between and among CHR, DILG, Leagues of Provinces, Cities and Municipalities and Liga ng Mga Barangay, on the implementation of a continuing human rights advocacy, regional and national trainers’ training programs and conduct capability building programs and conventions for the BHRAOs and other BHRAC implementors.
- October 2003 **1st National Assessment of the BHRAC Program.**
- 11 May 2006 Then DILG Undersecretary Wencilito T. Andanar issued **Memorandum Circular No. 2006-45** for the **Revitalization and Strengthening of the BHRAC Program.**
- 6 October 2006 CHR and DILG issued a **Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1,s, 2006** on the **Guidelines on the conduct of election of the BHRAO in every Barangay Nationwide.**
- 18 May 2009 The CHR 4th Commission issued **CHR Resolution CHR (IV) No. A2009-053-G** for the **BHRAC Functionality Indicators.**
- 18 May 2009 The CHR 4th Commission issued **CHR Resolution CHR (IV) No. A2009-053-H** for the **BHRAC Policy Guidelines and Procedures.**

LEGAL BASES



**Memorandum Circular No. 94-194
Dated October 27, 1994
Enjoining All Barangays to Pass/Adopt a Resolution
for the Establishment of Human Rights Action Centers
in Local Government Units**

In support of the above activity, all barangays are hereby enjoined to pass/adopt a resolution for the establishment of Human Rights Action Centers in all local government units. All local chief executives are likewise hereby requested to support the said activity by designating their respective local planning and development coordinator as human rights coordinator who shall be responsible to:

- Receive complaints of human rights violations in their respective areas of jurisdiction refer them to the CHR field office for proper action and monitor developments for the complaints; and
- Coordinate, organize and/or conduct human rights information and education drives on a continuing basis within and among LGU officials, officers and employees as well as among the constituents.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
EDSA Corner Reliance St. Mandaluyong
Metro Manila

October 27, 1994

**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NO. 94-194**

TO: ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY MAYORS, MUNICIPAL MAYORS, PUNONG BARANGAYS, DILG REGIONAL DIRECTORS AND OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT: ENJOINING ALL BARANGAYS TO PASS/ADOPT A RESOLUTION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION CENTERS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR), which is the lead agency in the promotion and protection of human rights, is committed to reach all sectors of local governments.

In observance of the annual Human Rights Week which will be held on December 3-10, 1994, the CHR lined up several activities to mark this milestone. One of these activities is the proposed establishment of Human Rights Action Centers in all local government units.

In support of the above activity, all barangays are hereby enjoined to pass/adopt a Resolution for the establishment of Human Rights Action Centers in all local government units. All local chief executives are likewise hereby requested to support the said activity by designating their respective local planning and development coordinator as human rights coordinator who shall be responsible to:

- Receive complaints of human rights violations in their respective areas of jurisdiction, refer them to the CHR field office for proper action, and monitor developments for the complaints; and
- Coordinate, organize and/or conduct human rights information and education drives on a continuing basis within and among LGU officials, officers and employees as well as among the constituents.

All DILG Regional Directors are hereby directed to disseminate this issuance to all local government units within their jurisdictions.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.

(Sgd.)
RAFAEL M. ALUNAN III
Secretary

**Memorandum of Agreement
Dated 16 November 1994
Joint Formulation and Implementation of
National Human Rights Advocacy Program
for LGUs, specifically for Punong Barangays**

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

This AGREEMENT made and entered into by and among the:

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, a government entity organized and existing pursuant to the Constitution of the Philippines, with principal office and address at Julia Vargas Ave., Pasig, Metro Manila, hereinafter referred to as CHR, represented by its Chairman, HON. SEDFREY A. ORDONEZ,

and

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, through the LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACADEMY (LGA), a government entity organized and existing pursuant to the Constitution of the Philippines, with principal address at EDSA corner Reliance Street Manduluyong City, Metro Manila, hereinafter referred to as the DILG, represented by its Secretary, HON. RAFAEL M. ALUNAN III,

AND

LIGA NG MGA BARANGAY, an organization of barangay captains or village chiefs, with principal address at Rm. 223 Army Navy Club, T. M. Kulaw St., Luneta, Manila hereinafter referred to as LIGA, represented by its President, HON. ALEX L. DAVID,

witnesseth:

WHEREAS, the Philippine Constitution declares a state policy of promoting and protecting the dignity of every person and guarantees full respect for human rights;

WHEREAS, the COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, through its Public Information and Education Office (PIEO), undertakes its Constitutional mandate of "establishing a continuing program of research, information and education to enhance respect for the primacy of human rights" and in pursuance of this thrust, coordinates and tops the services and assistance of any department, bureau, office or agency;

WHEREAS, the COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS has designed the Human Rights Education and Training Program (HRETP) which caters to all sectors of Philippine society which has the local government units (LGUs) as one of its priority target clientele;

WHEREAS, the DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT - LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACADEMY (LGA) and COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS - PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION OFFICE (PIEO) had been co-opting since 1992 in the organization of human rights education and training projects for DILG officials, personnel and persons under its administrative jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, the DILG, in fulfilling its mandate of promoting autonomy, decentralization, and community empowerment, establishes and prescribes policies, plans, programs and projects to strengthen the administrative, technical, and fiscal capabilities of LGUs and their personnel;

WHEREAS, the DILG has formulated the Integrated Capability Building Program (ICBP) as a full capability development and technology transfer program, specifically concentrating on the development and enhancement of knowledge, the upgrading and strengthening of skills and on the increase in the expertise and competence of local authorities in the areas of: management systems improvement, local finance and fiscal administration, local development planning, community mobilization, and effective legislation at the pro-

vincial, city, municipal, and barangay levels and in the installation of a functional and effective system of decentralization in every level of local government;

WHEREAS, the DILG, in operationalizing its mandate through the aforementioned institutional responsibilities and specifically through the ICBP, mobilizes the assistance and participation of the management and staff and utilizes the resources of the Local Government Academy;

WHEREAS, the LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACADEMY (LGA) is an attached agency of the DILG with the institutional responsibility of developing the human resources of the local government system through the establishment of institutional arrangements needed to harness various existing and potential resources for achieving the goal of establishing appropriate competences in the local government system, and by addressing the training needs and concerns of local governments by overseeing the implementation, supervision, integration, and coordination of training programs and related activities with various non-government and government agencies;

WHEREAS, to operationalize and implement the human rights component of the ICBP under its integrated approach to Local Government Management, the DILG through the LGA, the LIGA NG MGA BARANGAY and the CHR, in their commitment to develop and upgrade the administrative and technical knowledge and skills of local authorities in promoting and protecting the human rights of their constituents, are launching the National Human Rights Advocacy for Local Government Units (LGUs) as a joint collaborative program by all the aforesaid agencies;

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the herein parties to establish a Human Rights Action Center/Units in every barangay, municipality and province which shall be tasked to receive complaints of human rights violations in their areas of jurisdiction, monitor developments in the complaints of human rights violations in their areas of jurisdiction, refer them to the CHR field office for proper action and organize and/or conduct human rights information and education drive on a continuing basis within and among LGU officials, officers and employees as well as among the constituents;

WHEREAS, realizing the crucial role of the barangay officials and local executives in multi-sectoral endeavors in their respective barangays/jurisdictions, notably in protecting and promoting the human rights of their constituents, there is a need to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills in terms of instilling human rights awareness as well as of safeguarding them;

WHEREAS, in recognition of their common goals and in support of the aforementioned policies, the CHR, DILG and LIGA, pledge together their full cooperation and resources for the effective execution of this undertaking.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing premises, the parties hereby mutually agree to the following terms, conditions and objectives stated hereunder:

I. GENERAL TERMS

- A.) CHR, DILG-LGA and LIGA shall jointly formulate and implement a continuing National Human Rights Advocacy Program for Local Government Units (LGUs), specifically for Punong Barangays.
- B.) CHR, DILG-LGA and LIGA shall jointly determine the criteria for the selection of participants to the National Human Rights Advocacy Program.
- C.) CHR shall develop, in close consultation with LIGA, responsive and relevant human rights modules for inclusion in LGA's and LIGA's various regular and special

courses for local government units, as well as the necessary training instructional materials.

D.) DILG-LGA, LIGA and CHR shall jointly monitor and evaluate the effective implementation of this program.

II. SPECIFIC AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

A.) The CHR shall:

1. Provide the costs of technical inputs like resource persons, reproduction of training materials and kits, etc.;
2. Prepare the training design and provide necessary materials for training;
3. Manage the actual conduct of the training;
4. Assist in the preparation of monitoring and evaluation tools appropriate in assessing the program;
5. Provide, in coordination with LGA, after-training report on every training conducted.

B) The DILG-LGA shall:

1. Provide administrative inputs in the implementation of the program including board and lodging of participants, venue and facilities. An amount of P50,000.00 has been allocated for 1994;
2. Assist in the formulation of the criteria for the selection of participants;
3. Assist the CHR in the actual conduct of the training;
4. Coordinate with CHR regarding the evaluation and monitoring of the effectiveness and progress of the program; and
5. Mobilize/coordinate with ILAGs regarding the inclusion of the module in their special and regular courses.

C) The LIGA shall:

1. Disseminate information to their members re: National Human Rights Advocacy for LGUs;
2. Identify/recommend participants to be sent to the training based on the agreed criteria;
3. Provide counterpart fund in the form of traveling allowances of participants and other incidental expenses and urge the member barangays to shoulder the traveling expenses for this purpose; and
4. Coordinate with appropriate agency regarding the periodic evaluation and monitoring of the progress of the program.

There shall be created a CHR, DILG-LGA, and LIGA implementing Committee whose functions shall be:

- a. To operationalize the herein setforth program;
- b. To submit regular progress report to the respective agencies; and
- c. To perform such other functions as the said agencies may direct on its own or upon recommendation to the Committee.

This Agreement shall take effect immediately upon signing by the herein parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have signed this Memorandum of Agreement this 16th day of November 1994 in Pasig, Metro Manila, Philippines.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

By:

By:

(Sgd.)
SEDFREY A. ORDOÑEZ
Chairman

(Sgd.)
RAFAEL M. ALUNAN III
Secretary

LIGA NG MGA BARANGAY

By:

(Sgd.)
ALEX L. DAVID
President

Signed in the presence of:

(Sgd.)
HON. NARCISO C. MONTEIRO
Witness for CHR

(Sgd.)
DIR. RODOLFO FERRARREN
Witness for DILG, NCR

DIR. ALEX L. BRILLANTES, JR.
Witness for DILG, LGA

DR. SERAFIN M. BENAIDO
Witness for DILG, NBOO

Witness for Liga ng mga Barangay:

(Sgd.)
ATTY. CARLOS P. MEDINA, JR.
Director, Ateneo Human Rights Center

(Sgd.)
EVELYN P. SERRANO
Secretary General
Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates

FUNDS AVAILABLE:

(Sgd.)
MARCIANA C. OBISPO
Accountant III, LGA.

**Memorandum of Agreement
Dated 20 June 1996
Joint Implementation of a Continuing
National Human Rights Advocacy Program
as well as Institutionalize the BHRACs**

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

This AGREEMENT made and entered into by and among the

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, a government entity organized and existing pursuant to the Constitution of the Philippines, with principal office and address at Julia Vargas Ave., Pasig, Metro Manila, hereinafter referred to as CHR, represented by its Chairman, **HON. AURORA P. NAVARRETE-RECIÑA**,

and

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, through the **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACADEMY (LGA)**, a government entity organized and existing pursuant to the Constitution of the Philippines, with principal address at EDSA corner Reliance Street Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, hereinafter referred to as the DILG, represented by its Secretary, **HON. ROBERT Z. BARBERS**,

and

LIGA NG MGA BARANGAY, an organization of barangay captains or village chiefs, with principal address at Rm. 223 Army Navy Club, T.M. Kalaw St., Luneta, Manila hereinafter referred to as LIGA, represented by its President, **HON. ALEX L. DAVID**,

witnesseth,

WHEREAS, the Philippine Constitution declares a policy of promoting and protecting the dignity of every person and guarantees full respect for human rights;

WHEREAS, the **COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**, through its Public Information and Education Office (PIEO), undertakes its Constitutional mandate of "establishing a continuing program of research, information and education to enhance respect for the primacy of human rights" and in pursuance of this thrust, coordinates and taps the services and assistance of any department, bureau, office or agency;

WHEREAS, the **COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**, has developed the Barangay Human Rights Action Center Program (BHRAC) designed for the local government units (LGUs);

WHEREAS, the **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT-LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACADEMY (LGA)** and **COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS - PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION OFFICE (PIEO)** has been engaged in cooperative efforts since 1992 in the organization of human rights education and training projects for DILG officials, personnel and persons under its administrative jurisdiction,

WHEREAS, the DILG, in fulfilling its mandate of promoting autonomy, decentralization, and community empowerment, establishes and prescribes policies, plans, programs and projects to strengthen the administrative, technical, and fiscal capabilities of LGUs and their personnel,

WHEREAS, the DILG has formulated the Integrated Capability Building Program (ICBP) as a full capability development and technology transfer program, specifically concentrating on the development and enhancement of knowledge, the upgrading and strengthening of skills and on the increase in the expertise and competence of local authorities in the areas of: management systems improvement, local finance and fiscal administration, local development planning, community mobilization, and effective legislation at the provincial, city municipal, and barangay levels and in the installation of a functional and effective system of decentralization in every level of local government;

WHEREAS, the DILG, in operationalizing its mandate through the aforementioned institutional responsibilities and specifically through the ICBP, mobilizes the assistance and participation of the management and staff and utilize the resources of the Local Government Academy;

WHEREAS, the **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACADEMY (LGA)** is an attached agency of the DILG with the institutional responsibility of developing the human resources of the local government system through the establishment of institutional arrangements needed to harness various existing and potential resources for achieving the goal of establishing appropriated competencies in the local government system, and by addressing the training needs and concerns of local governments by overseeing the implementation, supervision, integration, and coordination of training programs and related activities with the NGOs and other NGAs;

WHEREAS, to operationalize and implement the Human Rights Program, the CHR in cooperation with the DILG through the LGA and the LIGA NG MGA BARANGAY, in their commitment in promoting and protecting the human rights, are implementing the Barangay Human Rights Action Center Program as a joint collaborative effort by all the aforesaid agencies;

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the herein parties to establish a Barangay Human Rights Action Center in every barangay which shall be tasked to receive complaints of human rights violations in their areas of jurisdiction, monitor developments in the complaints of human rights violations in their areas of jurisdiction, refer them to the CHR field office for proper action and organize and/or conduct human rights information and education drive;

WHEREAS, realizing the crucial role of the barangay officials and local executives in multi-sectoral endeavors in their respective barangay jurisdictions, notably in protecting and promoting the human rights of their constituents, there is a need to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skill in terms of instilling human rights awareness as well as of safeguarding them;

WHEREAS, in recognition of their common goals and in support of the aforementioned policies, the CHR, DILG and LIGA, pledge together their full cooperation and resources for the effective execution of this undertaking.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing premises, the parties hereby mutually agree to the following terms, conditions and objectives stated thereunder:

GENERAL TERMS

- A.) CHR, DILG-LGA, and LIGA shall jointly implement a continuing National Human Rights Advocacy Program as well as institutionalize the Barangay Human Rights Action Centers;
- B.) CHR, DILG-LGA and LIGA shall jointly determine the selection of participants to the aforementioned program;
- C.) CHR and the DILG-LGA shall develop responsive and relevant human rights modules for inclusion to the latter's ICBP Level II, as well as the necessary training and instructional materials;
- D.) DILG-LGA, LIGA and CHR shall develop and implement a scheme to monitor and evaluate the program;

II. SPECIFIC AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

John Sta. Ramon
John Sta. Ramon
John Sta. Ramon

Plung

me

R

mm

R

A

A.) The CHR shall:

- 1. Provide the costs of technical inputs like resource persons, reproduction of training materials and kits, etc.;
- 2. Prepare the training design and provide necessary materials for training;
- 3. Coordinate with the DILG-LGA the pre-planning and actual conduct of the training;
- 4. Assist in the preparation of monitoring and evaluation tools appropriate in assessing the program;
- 5. Provide, in coordination with LGA, after-training report on every training conducted.
- 6. Extend assistance in the conduct of all HR re-echo activities.

John Sta. Ramon
John Sta. Ramon
John Sta. Ramon

Plung

me

R

mm

R

A

B.) The DILG-LGA shall:

- 1. Extend technical and financial assistance in the implementation of the BHRAC Program;
- 2. Assist the CHR in the selection of participants in all HR trainings;
- 3. Assist the CHR in the actual conduct of the training;
- 4. Coordinate with CHR regarding the evaluation and monitoring of the program; and
- 5. Integrate the HR curricula in the specialized courses of the ICBP.

C.) The LIGA shall:

- 1. Disseminate information to their members re: National and Regional Human Rights Advocacy for LGUs;
- 2. Coordinate with appropriate agency regarding the BHRAC activities;
- 3. Assist in the conduct of BHRAC National Activities.

Furthermore, CHR and the DILG-LGA shall:

- a. Integrate the outputs of all Regional BHRAC activities conducted;
- b. Revise and develop the BHRAC guidebook based on the results of the integration;
- c. Formulate guidelines for the proper implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the BHRAC; and
- d. Prepare for an annual National Convention on BHRAC, the CHR as the lead agency. The conduct of the said convention will focus on the institutionalization of the BHRAC.

This Agreement shall take effect immediately upon signing by the herein parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have signed this Memorandum of Agreement this 20th day of June 1996 in Mandaluyong City, Philippines.

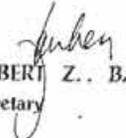
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

By:

By:

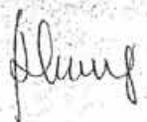

AURORA P. NAVARRETE-RECIÑA
Chairperson


ROBERT Z. BARZERS
Secretary

LIGA NG MGA BARANGAY

By:

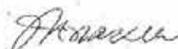
ALEX L. DAVID
President



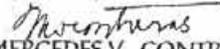


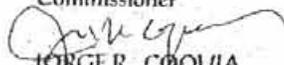


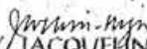
Signed in the presence of:


NASSER A. MAROHOMSALIC
Commissioner


VICENTE P. SIBULO
Commissioner

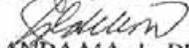

MERCEDES V. CONTRERAS
Commissioner

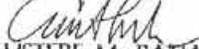

JORGE R. COQUIA
Commissioner

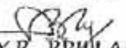

ATTY. JACQUELINE V. MEJIA
Executive Director, CHR


ANA ELZABE OFRENEO
Director, PEO, CHR


ALVIN G. DANS
Undersecretary for Local Government


YOLANDA MA. L. DE LEON
Assec. for Plans and Programs


AUSTERE M. PANADERO
Assec. for HRD

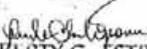

ALEX B. BRILLANTES, JR.
Executive Director, LGA

NORMANDO J. TOLEDO
Director, OPDS

JOSEFINA CASTILLA
Director, NBOO


ROLANDO ACOSTA
Director, BLGS

FUNDS AVAILABLE:


LIBERTY C. ESTIPONA
CHR, Chief Accountant

MARCIANA C. OBISPO
DILG-LGA, Chief Accountant

**Memorandum of Agreement
Dated 10 December 1996**

**Between and Among the CHR-DILG-League of Provinces, Cities,
Municipalities and the Liga Ng Mga Barangay on the Joint
Implementation of a Continuing National Human Rights Advocacy
Program as well as the Institutionalization of the BHRACs**

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement made and entered into by and among

THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, a government entity organized and existing pursuant to the Constitution of the Philippines, with principal office and address at IBP Building, Julia Vargas Avenue, Pasig City, hereinafter referred to as CHR, represented by its Chairperson, HON. AURORA P. NAVARRETE-RECINA,

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, a government entity organized and existing pursuant to the Constitution of the Philippines, with principal address at Francisco Gold Condominium, EDSA, Kamuning, Quezon City, hereinafter referred to as DILG, represented by its Secretary, HON. ROBERT Z. BARBERS,

THE LEAGUE OF PROVINCES, an organization of provincial governors, with principal address at 14th Floor Eisenhower Building, Greenhills, San Juan, Manila, hereinafter referred to as LOP, represented by its President, HON. ROBERTO M. PAGDANGANAN,

THE LEAGUE OF CITIES, an organization of city mayors, with principal address at 2nd Floor, PBSP Building, Magallanes corner Real Street, Intramuros, Manila, hereinafter referred to as LOC, represented by its President, HON. JESSE M. ROBREDO,

THE LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES, an organization of municipal mayors with principal address at 265 Ermin Garcia Street, Cubao, Quezon City, hereinafter referred to as LOM, represented by its President, HON. AGNES V.S.T. DEVANADERA,

and

THE LIGA NG MGA BARANGAY, an organization of barangay captains or village chiefs, with principal address at 10C P. Bonifacio Street corner Samson Road, Kalookan City, hereinafter referred to as LIGA, represented by its President, HON. ALEX L. DAVID,

witnesseth;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Constitution declares as a policy the promotion and protection of the dignity of every person and the guarantee for the full respect for his human rights;

WHEREAS, the CHR, through its Public Information and Education Office (PIEO), undertakes its constitutional mandate "of establishing a continuing program of research, information and education to enhance the primacy of human rights" and in pursuance of this function, can coordinate and request the assistance of any department, bureau, office or agency;

WHEREAS, the CHR has launched the Barangay Human Rights Action Center (BHRAC) Program designed as an outreach program that empowers the ordinary citizen to take the lead role in the promotion and protection of human rights at the grassroots;

WHEREAS, the CHR, DILG and the LIGA have conducted the Regional Trainors Training Program (RTTP) to prepare the Human Rights Coordinators at the provincial, city and municipal levels for their duties and responsibilities;

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the herein parties to establish BHRACs in every barangay which shall be tasked to function as centers for complaints processing; information dissemination; coordination referral and mobilization;

WHEREAS, recognizing the important role of the BHRACs and the local executives, notably in endeavors relative to the promotion and protection of human rights, there is a need to strengthen the commitments of all the agencies concerned to achieve the vision of the BHRAC program;

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing premises, the parties hereby mutually agree to the following terms, conditions and objectives stated hereunder:

I. GENERAL TERMS

- A) The CHR, DILG and the Local Government Units represented by the different leagues shall jointly implement a continuing National Human Rights Advocacy Program as well as the institutionalization of the Barangay Human Rights Action Centers (BHRACs);
- B) The CHR, DILG and the Local Government Units shall provide technical support and source funds for the furtherance and institutionalization of the BHRACs;
- C) The CHR, DILG and the Local Government Units shall jointly monitor the BHRAC program;
- D) The CHR, DILG and the Local Government Units shall separately and/or jointly recommend policies to the National Government for the furtherance of the institutionalization of the BHRACs.

II. SPECIFIC AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

A) The CHR shall:

1. provide its services and technical assistance to the BHRACs' complementary services and functions and to its Barangay Human Rights Action Officers (BHRAOs);
2. provide technical assistance in the establishment and operations of BHRAC;
3. develop human rights information and education materials to be used for the mobile human rights information and education arm of the BHRAC or the "Araling Taong Bayan" and provide at least every region with a prototype;
4. develop responsive and relevant human rights modules for the BHRAOs' capability upgrading, the necessary training and instructional materials;
5. establish and operationalize the Batingaw National Bulletin;

6. provide support mechanisms;
7. prepare the monitoring and evaluation tools, as appropriate;
8. monitor and evaluate the BHRAC program;
9. recommend to the national government effective measures/policies to further promote human rights.

B) The DILG through its appropriate units (NBOO, BLGS and LGA) shall:

1. provide technical assistance in the establishment and operations of BHRAC;
2. assist in developing human rights information and education materials to be used for the mobile human rights information and education arm of the BHRAC or the "Araling Taong Bayan"
3. develop responsive and relevant human rights modules for the BHRAOs for inclusion in the latter's ICBP Level II, as well as the necessary training and instructional materials;
4. issue the corresponding circular/directive enjoining the local government units to identify, create and appropriate/allot funds for the BHRAC and BHRAOs support mechanism;
5. monitor compliance by local executives with the aforementioned directive;
6. assist in the preparation of the monitoring and evaluation tools, as appropriate;
7. coordinate and assist the CHR in monitoring and evaluating the BHRAC program;
8. recommend to the national government effective measures/policies to further promote human rights.

C) The Local Government Units through the various leagues shall:

1. issue the corresponding circular/directive enjoining the barangays to pass/ adopt resolution creating the BHRAC and selecting the BHRAO according to the set standard provided in the BHRAC handbook;
2. identify, create and appropriate/allot/source funds for the BHRAC operationalization and BHRAOs support mechanism;
3. provide technical assistance in the establishment of BHRAC;
4. sponsor the BHRAC's human rights activities and reproduce information and education materials;
5. review human rights plans of action of respective LGU unit/level and include/apply for their budget appropriation
6. document human rights situations/condition in each respective LGU level;
7. maintain a directory of services and programs for each LGU level;
8. provide technical and administrative assistance to BHRAOs;
9. assist the CHR in monitoring and consolidating reports submitted by the BHRAOs;
10. participate in all the BHRAC programs and maintain coordination with the CHR and DILG;
11. recommend to the national government effective measures/policies to further promote human rights.

This Agreement shall take effect immediately upon signing by the herein parties.

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have signed this Memorandum of Agreement this 10th day of December 1996 in Manila City, Philippines.

[Signature]
 AURORA P. NAVARRETE-RECINA
 Chairperson
 Commission on Human Rights

[Signature]
 ROBERTO Z. BARBERS
 Secretary
 Department of the Interior
 and Local Government

[Signature]
 ROBERTO M. PAGDANGANAN
 President
 League of Provinces

[Signature]
 JESSE M. REBREDO
 President
 League of Cities

[Signature]
 AGNES V.S.T. DE VANADERA
 President
 League of Municipalities

[Signature]
 ALEX L. DAVID
 President
 Liga ng mga Barangay

SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF:

[Signature]
 NASSER A. MAROHOMSALIC
 Commissioner
 Commission on Human Rights

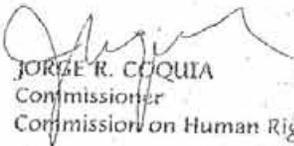
[Signature]
 MANUEL R. SANCHEZ
 Undersecretary for Local
 Government
 Department of the Interior
 and Local Government

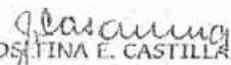
[Signature]
 MERCEDES V. CONTRERAS
 Commissioner
 Commission on Human Rights

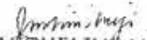
[Signature]
 ALEX B. BRILLANTES, JR.
 Executive Director
 Local Government Academy
 Department of the Interior
 and Local Government

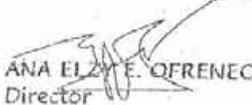

VICENTE P. SIBULO
Commissioner
Commission on Human Rights


ROLANDO M. ACOSTA
Director
Bureau of Local Government
Supervision
Department of the Interior
and Local Government


JORGE R. COQUIA
Commissioner
Commission on Human Rights


JUSTINA E. CASTILLA
Director
National Barangay
Operations Office
Department of the Interior
and Local Government


JACQUELINE V. MEJIA
Executive Director
Commission on Human Rights


ANA ELIZE OFRENEO
Director
Public Information and
Education Office
Commission on Human Rights





Memorandum of Agreement Dated 19 March 1997 CHR and Soroptimist Philippines to Conduct Human Rights Education and Information Dissemination Programs for Women and Girl Child Sectors

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement made and entered into by and between :

THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, a government entity organized and existing pursuant to the Constitution of the Philippines, with principal office address at IBP Bldg., Julia Vargas Avenue, Pasig City, represented by its Chairperson, HON. AURORA P. NAVARRETE-RECINA, hereinafter referred to as CHR;

and

THE SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE PHILIPPINES REGION, a non-government classified service organization with office address at No. 4006 Cordillera Street Barangay Olympia, City of Makati, represented by its Governor, HON. ESPERANZA F. ARKONCEL, hereinafter referred to as SIPR;

WITNESSETH;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Constitution declares that the state values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for and human rights;

WHEREAS, the CHR through its Public Information and Education Office (PIEO), undertakes its constitutional mandate of "establishing a continuing program of research, information and education to enhance respect for and the primacy of human rights" and in pursuance of this function, is further constitutionally mandated to coordinate and request the assistance of any department, bureau, office or agency;

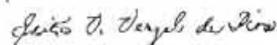
WHEREAS, the CHR has its flagship program called the Barangay Human Rights Action Center (BHRAC) Program which is its outreach program designed to empower the ordinary citizens to take the lead role in the promotion and protection of human rights at the grassroots;

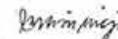
WHEREAS, the CHR is the lead national agency tasked to spearhead the inter-agency formulation and monitor the implementation of the Philippine Human Rights Plan (PHRP). The PHRP, as it addresses all the issues on human rights affecting vulnerable sectors of society, including women and children, is a call for multi-sectoral participation geared to the realization of the observance and full enjoyment of human rights;

WHEREAS, in implementing the PHRP and the BHRAC, there is a need for the herein Parties to coordinate, complement and synchronize their efforts and available resources to optimize target results for the women and children sectors;

WHEREAS, THE SIPR through its Strategies and Programs of the Committee on Human Rights and Enhancement of the Advancement of the Status of Women, seeks to raise the awareness of citizens, specifically women and girl child sectors, of their basic human rights and responsibilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing, the herein Parties do hereby agree and stipulate to jointly undertake, (a) the conduct of human rights education and information dissemination programs for women and girl child sectors and (b) the establishment/operationalization of the BHRAC under the following terms and conditions:





SPECIFIC AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

The CHR shall:

- a. Provide its services and technical assistance to Soroptimists' program in the enhancement/advancement of the status of women and promotion of the welfare of girl children;
- b. Develop and produce human rights information and education materials to be used for the women and children sectors;
- c. Ensure the availability of training staff and resource person/s for information and education campaigns on human rights;
- d. Include SIPR in the PHRP's Inter-Agency Sectoral Working Group for women and children.

The SIPR, areas where there exist SIPR Clubs, undertake any or a combination of the following subject to implementing guidelines that CHR shall provide:

- a. Help establish and operationalize BHRACs;
- b. At the provincial, city and municipal levels, ensure the active performance by the Provincial, City, Municipal Planning and Development Coordinators as provincial, city, municipal Human Rights Coordinators;
- c. Mobilize Local Government Operations Officers/Provincial Development Coordinators to perform their role as Human Rights Coordinators as well as transform part of their offices as Human Rights Coordination Centers;
- d. Produce and provide SIPR human rights materials for their mobilization activities and organizing activities;
- e. In partnership with CHR, organize trainers training programs for provincial, city and municipal LGOs/PDCs;
- f. Serve as member of the BHRAO's Sectoral Advisory Group and extend its services - legal, civic, educational, etc. for the rights of women and children;
- g. Where warranted, serve and act as either Barangay Human Rights Action Officer (BHRAO) or BHRAO's adviser and support system;
- h. Organize capability training program for BHRAOs, in close coordination with the CHR;
- i. Help the BHRAO mobilize the community for effective social action towards the promotion and protection of the rights of women and children;
- j. Coordinates and extends direct services to victims of human rights violations, e.g. extend medical assistance and/or legal referrals or offer pro bono professional services to child victims of abuse, torture victims as well as victims of domestic violence.

C. E. Navarrete
 J. P. Alcala
 L. S. de la Cruz

J. P. Alcala
 M. Contreras
 J. Coquila
 J. Verdel de Dios
 J. Castillo

Edith Vergel de Dios

Immaculada

This MOA shall operate until either or both of the Parties decide to terminate the same.

This Agreement shall take effect immediately.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have signed this Memorandum of Agreement this 19th day of March 1997 in Pasig City, Philippines.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE PHILIPPINES REGION

By:

By:

C. E. Navarrete
ARORA P. NAVARRETE-RECIÑA
 Chairperson

Esperanza F. Arkoncel
ESPERANZA F. ARKONCEL
 Governor

SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF:

Nasser A. Marohomsalic
NASSER A. MAROHOMSALIC
 Commissioner, CHR

Teresito B. Choa
TERESITA B. CHOA
 Secretary, SIPR

Mercedes V. Contreras
MERCEDES V. CONTRERAS
 Commissioner, CHR

Lilia Santos Villa
LILIA SANTOS VILLA
 Chairperson, SIPR
 Human Rights/Advancement of the Status of Women Committee

Vicente P. Sibulo
VICENTE P. SIBULO
 Commissioner, CHR

Edith Vergel de Dios
EDITH VERGEL DE DIOS
 Vice-Chairperson, SIPR
 Human Rights/Advancement of the Status of Women Committee

Jorge R. Coquila
JORGE R. COQUILA
 Commissioner, CHR

Gloria C. Larot
GLORIA C. LAROT
 Member, SIPR
 Human Rights/Advancement of the Status of Women Committee

Immaculada
JACQUELINE V. MEJIA
 Executive Director, CHR

Myrina C. Razon
MYRYNA C. RAZON
 Acting Executive Director
 DILG-LGA

Ana Elise Ofreneo
ANA ELISE OFRENEO, CESO III
 Director, Public Information and Education Office, CHR

Josefina E. Castilla
JOSEFINA E. CASTILLA
 Director
 DILG-NBOO

WHEREAS, the CHR, DILG, Leagues of Provinces, Cities, Municipalities and Liga ng mga Barangay have built a strong cooperation in the implementation of the BHRAC Program;

WHEREAS, it is the commitment of the herein parties to continuously establish and operate BHRACs in every barangay which shall be tasked to function as centers for complaints; information dissemination; coordination, referral and mobilization to fully implement the program nationwide;

WHEREAS, the above-mentioned agencies are conducting regular BHRAC Advocacy, Trainers Training Programs, Regional and National Capability Building Programs and Conventions for the Barangay Human Rights Action Officers and other Local Government Units Personnel;

WHEREAS, recognizing the important role of the BHRAOs and the local executives in the local Government units, notably in endeavors relative to the promotion and protection of human rights, there is a need to strengthen and reiterate the commitments of all agencies concerned to achieve the vision of the BHRAC PROGRAM;

WHEREAS, the Executive Branch of the Government, through the President of the Republic of the Philippines, HER EXCELLENCY GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, has expressed its desire and vision to achieve a human rights culture and uphold human rights throughout the country and, at the same time, acknowledged the importance of the BHRAC Program;

NOW, THEREFORE, for in consideration of the foregoing premises, the parties hereby mutually agree, to the following terms, conditions and objectives stated hereunder:

I. GENERAL TERMS

- A) The CHR, DILG and Local Government Units, represented by the different leagues shall implement a continuing Human Rights Advocacy, Regional and National Trainers Training Programs and conduct Capability Building Programs and Conventions for the Barangay Human Rights Action Officers (BHRAOs) and other BHRAC Implementors;
- B) The DILG shall provide support in the form of technical assistance, while the LGUs shall provide support and source funds for the furtherance of the Barangay Human Rights Laws;
- C) The CHR, DILG, and the Local Government Units shall lobby to Congress for enactment of Human Rights Laws;
- D) The CHR, DILG, and the Local Government Units shall recommend policies to the National Government in furtherance of the institutionalization of the BHRACs; and,
- E) The CHR, DILG, and the Local Government Units shall include BHRAC in their annual budget and lobby for the same.

II. SPECIFIC AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

A) The CHR shall:

1. Provide its services and technical assistance to the BHRACs' complementary services and functions and to its Barangay Human Rights Action Officers (BHRAOs), Provincial and Municipal Human Rights Action Implementors;
2. Provide technical assistance in the establishment and operations of BHRAC;

3. Develop human rights information and education materials to be used for the mobile human rights information and education arm of the BHRAC or the "Araling Taong Bayan";
4. Develop responsive and relevant human rights modules for the BHRAO's Capability upgrading including the necessary training and instructional materials;
5. Establish and operationalize the Batingaw National Bulletin;
6. Provide support mechanisms to the BHRAC Program;
7. Draft bills on human rights and lobby the same in Congress; and
8. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the BHRAC Program.

B) The DILG shall:

1. Issue circular/directive encouraging the local government units to appropriate funds for the BHRAC and BHRAO support mechanism and expenses for the purpose of attending capability building workshops and conventions;
2. Assist in developing human rights information and education materials to be used for the mobile human rights information and education arm of the BHRAC or "Araling Taong Bayan";
3. Assist in developing or review of relevant human rights education and training modules for the BHRAOs as well as the necessary training and instructional materials;
4. Monitor compliance by local chief executives with the aforementioned directives; and
5. Designate an office in the Department to act as the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) and technical action officers at all levels who shall assist the CHR in the implementation of BHRAC program.

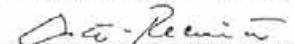
C. The Local Government Units through the various leagues shall:

1. Whenever necessary, issue circular/directive enjoining the barangays to pass/adopt resolution creating the BHRAC and selecting BHRAO in accordance with the duly adopted according to set of standard provided in the BHRAC Handbook;
2. Give priority to BHRAC Program, and review human rights plan of action of respective LGU unit/level for inclusion in their annual budget appropriation;
3. Appropriate funds for the BHRAC operationalization and BHRAOs support mechanism and incentive;
4. Sponsor the BHRAC's human rights activities and reproduce information and education materials;
5. Document human rights situations/condition in each respective LGU level;
6. Maintain a directory of services and programs for each LGU level;

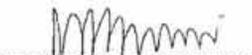
7. Assist the CHR in monitoring and consolidating reports submitted by the BHRAOs;
8. Participate in all BHRAC programs and maintain regular coordination with CHR and DILG; and
9. Adopt measures for the promotion and protection of human rights of all levels.

This agreement shall take effect immediately upon signing by the herein parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have signed this Memorandum of Agreement this 11th day of December 2001, at the Commission on Human Rights Building, Commonwealth Avenue, U.P. Complex, Diliman, Quezon City Philippines.

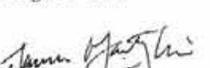

AURORA P. NAVARRETE-RECINA
 Chairperson
 Commission on Human Rights


JOSE D. LINA, JR.
 Secretary
 Department of the Interior and
 Local Government

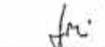

RODOLFO P. DEL ROSARIO
 President
 League of Provinces

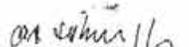

FRANCIS N. TOLENTINO
 President
 League of Cities


RAMON N. GUICO, JR.
 President
 League of Municipalities
 of the Philippines


JAMES MARTY L. LIM
 President
 Liga ng mga Barangay

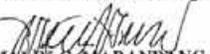
SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF:


VICENTE P. SIBULO
 BHRAC Commissioner-in-Charge
 Commission on Human Rights


EDUARDO R. SOLIMAN, JR.
 Undersecretary for Local Government
 Department of the Interior and Local
 Government


PURIFICACION V. QUISUMBING
 Commissioner
 Commission on Human Rights

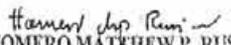

ELIGIO P. MALLARI
 Commissioner
 Commission on Human Rights


MALIC G. MARANDANG
 Commissioner
 Commission on Human Rights


DOMINADOR N. CALAMBA II
 Commissioner
 Commission on Human Rights


JACQUELINA V. MEJIA
 Executive Director
 Commission on Human Rights


ANA ELAY E. ORTENO
 Director
 Education, Research and Training Office
 Commission on Human Rights


HOMERO MATTHEW P. RUSIANA
 Commission Secretary
 Commission on Human Rights

Memorandum Circular No. 2006-45 Dated May 11, 2006 Revitalization and Strengthening of the Barangay Human Rights Action Center (BHRAC) Program

In an effort to revitalize and strengthen the BHRAC Program, the following roles and responsibilities of LGUs as stipulated in the 11 December 2001 MOA are hereby reiterated:

1. Whenever necessary, issues circular, directive enjoining the barangays to pass/adopt a resolution creating the BHRAC and selecting the BHRAO in accordance with the fully adopted according to the set of standard provided for.
2. Give priority to BHRAC Program, and review human rights plan of action of respective LGU unit/level for inclusion in the annual budget appropriation
3. Appropriate funds for the BHRAC operationalization and BHRAOs support mechanism and incentive
4. Sponsor the BHRAC's human rights activities and reproduce information and education materials
5. Document human rights situations/condition in each respective LGU levels;
6. Maintain a directory of services and programs for each LGU level
7. Assist the CHR in monitoring and consolidating reports submitted by the BHRAOs
8. Participate in all BHRAC programs and maintain regular coordination with CHR and DILG; and
9. Adopt measures for the promotion and protection of human rights at all levels.

Specifically, all Sangguniang Barangays are encouraged to pass a resolution to revitalize and strengthen BHRACs, and if not yet established, to establish one to serve as center for complaints processing, information education and coordination center on human rights issues and concerns in the barangay

In barangays where no Barangay Human Rights Action Officer (BHRAO) had been elected or where there are no longer BHRAOs, the Punong Barangay shall designate the Barangay Secretary as Barangay Human Rights Action Officer (BHRAO) until such time that a regular BHRAO will be elected during the Barangay Assembly Day on October 21, 2006. He/she shall be chosen through viva voce voting by a majority of those present during the Barangay Assembly Meeting. Incumbent BHRAO may run for re-election. However, barangay secretaries are not eligible to run for election.

Monitoring

All Regional offices shall submit to NBOO, thru email at mbreyes@dilg.gov.ph, list of barangays with established BHRACs and its elected BHRAOs after the conduct of the assembly on October 21, 2006 using the attached Monitoring Form.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
 A. Francisco Gold Condominium II EDSA cor. Mapagmahal St.
 Diliman, Quezon City

May 11, 2006

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

NO. 2006-45

TO : ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY/MUNICIPAL MAYORS,
 PUNONG BARANGAYS, DILG REGIONAL DIRECTORS AND
 ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT: REVITALIZATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE BARANGAY
 HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION CENTER (BHRAC) PROGRAM

I. Prefatory Statement

In pursuance to Article 2, Section 11 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declaring as State policy the promotion and protection of the dignity of every person and the guarantee for full respect of his human rights, the Commission of Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP) instituted the Barangay Human Rights Action Center (BHRAC) Program. The Program was designed to empower the ordinary citizen to take the lead in the promotion and protection of human rights at the grassroots.

The Department, in support to the program, issued DILG Memorandum Circular 94-194, dated October 27, 1994, enjoining all barangays to pass/adopt a Resolution for the Establishment of Human Rights Action Center.

On December 1997, the President issued a Memorandum directing the Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Presidents of the Leagues of Provinces, Cities, Municipalities and the Liga ng mga Barangay to provide support and assistance to the Commission on Human Rights in the establishment of Barangay Human Rights Action Centers in all barangays nationwide.

On December 11, 2001, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed between and among the Commission of Human Rights (CHR), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP), League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP), League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) and the Liga ng mga Barangay (LnB). Said MOA reiterated previous agreements to continuously establish and operate BHRACs in every barangay and to conduct regular BHRAC advocacy, Trainers Training Programs, Regional and National Capability Building Programs and Conventions for the Barangay Human Rights Action Officers and other Local Government Units' Personnel.

To date, however, record of CHR shows that there are 7,270 BHRACs established and of this number only 2,342 are functional nationwide. Thus, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, passed Resolution CHR (III) No. A2006-024, dated 15 March 2006, calling for the revitalization and strengthening of the BHRAC Program of the Commission to address human rights concerns at the barangay level.

II. Revitalization and strengthening of the Barangay Human Rights Action Center (BHRAC) Program

In an effort therefore to revitalize and strengthen the BHRAC Program, the following roles and responsibilities of LGUs as stipulated in the 11 December 2001 MOA are hereby reiterated:

1. Whenever necessary, issued circular/directive enjoining the barangays to pass/adopt resolution creating the BHRAC and selecting BHRAC in accordance with the duly adopted according to set of standard provided in the BHRAC handbook;
2. Give priority to BHRAC Program, and review human rights plan of action of respective LGU unit/level for inclusion in the annual budget appropriation;
3. Appropriate funds for the BHRAC operationalization and BHRACs support mechanism and incentive;
4. Sponsor the BHRACs human rights activities and reproduce information and education materials;
5. Document human rights situations/condition in each respective LGU levels;
6. Maintain a directory of services and programs for each LGU level;
7. Assist the CHR in monitoring and consolidating reports submitted by the BHRACs;
8. Participate in all BHRAC programs and maintain regular coordination with CHR and DILG; and
9. Adopt measures for the promotion and protection of human rights at all levels.

Specifically, all Sangguniang Barangays are encouraged to pass a resolution to revitalize and strengthen existing BHRACs, and if not yet established, to establish one to serve as center for complaints processing, information/education and coordination center on human rights issues and concerns in the barangay.

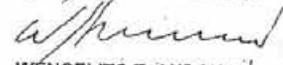
In barangays where no Barangay Human Rights Action Officer (BHRAC) had been elected or where there are no longer BHRACs, the Punong Barangay shall designate the Barangay Secretary as Barangay Human Rights Action Officer (BHRAC) until such time that a regular BHRAC will be elected during the Barangay Assembly Day on October 21, 2006. He/She shall be chosen through viva voce voting by a majority of those present during the Barangay Assembly Meeting (BHRAC Handbook). Incumbent BHRACs may run for the re-election. However, barangay secretaries are not eligible to run for election.

III. Monitoring

All regional offices shall submit to NBOO, thru email at mbreyes@dilg.gov.ph, list of barangays with established BHRACs and its elected BHRACs after the conduct of the assembly on October 21, 2006 using the attached Monitoring Form.

For compliance of all concerned.

By Authority of the Secretary:


WENCELITO T. ANDANAR
 Undersecretary for Local Government

over the Philippines. To promote a high standard of ethics in the public service, the BHRAO shall at all times be accountable to the People and shall discharge their duties with utmost responsibility, integrity, competence and loyalty, act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives and uphold public interest over personal interest.

As such, the BHRAO shall observe the following standards of personal conduct in the discharge and execution of his/her duties:

1. Be committed to the cause of Human Rights;
2. At all times respect the Rights of Others;
3. Remain true, just, honest, sincere and fair in all his/her dealings (personal/professional);
4. At all times show compassion and understanding towards the victims of Human Rights Violations and their families;
5. Be fair and undiscriminating towards victims of Human Rights Violations, their families and other complainants regardless of affiliations and preferences;
6. Demonstrate the highest degree of Excellence and Professionalism and shall be devoted and dedicated to his/her duty;
7. Extend prompt, courteous and adequate service to the people;
8. Be objective in dispensing his/her duties and shall not at any time receive any compensation in exchange for a favor;
9. At all times make Human Rights known to the People through information dissemination and education;
10. Make himself available for any upgrading programs and be in constant quest for opportunities to develop his/her skills, attitude and knowledge on Human Rights;
11. Always strive to keep himself/herself spirituality, mentally and physically fit;
12. Be a living example of Human Rights Advocate; and
13. Above all, the Barangay Human Rights Action Officer ay dapat maging makadiyos, makatao, makabayan at makakalikasan.

Formulated and ratified by the BHRAOs during the National Seminar-Workshop for BHRAOs (NSWB) held at Manila Midtown Hotel on December 9-10, 1996



JOINT MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 1, s. 2006

Date: October 6, 2006

TO : ALL LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVES, PUNONG BARANGAYS, DILG REGIONAL DIRECTORS AND FIELD OFFICERS, CHR REGIONAL DIRECTORS AND BHRAC FOCAL PERSONS, AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : GUIDELINES IN THE CONDUCT OF ELECTION OF THE BARANGAY HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION OFFICER (BHRAO) IN EVERY BARANGAY NATIONWIDE

1. Prefatory Statement

It is the policy of the State to promote and protect the dignity of every person and guarantee full respect of his human rights. *(Art. 2, Sec. 11 Philippine Constitution, 1987)*

In pursuance to the above mandate, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) designed the Barangay Human Rights Action Center (BHRAC) Program, which aims to empower the ordinary citizens to take the lead in the promotion and protection of human rights at the barangay level. Likewise, there shall be a Barangay Human Rights Action Officer (BHRAO) in every barangay who shall be in charge of BHRAC and he/she shall oversee its operation.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), as one of CHR's partners in the implementation of the BHRAC program, has recently issued MC 2006-45 enjoining the Punong Barangays to conduct the Barangay Assembly Day on October 21, 2006. One of the activities in the said event is the election of Barangay Human Rights Action Officer (BHRAO) in every barangay nationwide.

2. Guidelines

2.1 Procedures in the Pre-Election of BHRAO

- 2.1.1 The Punong Barangay shall notify all barangay residents at least five (5) days before the barangay Assembly Day that there will be an election of BHRAO. The notice shall include qualifications enumerated under Item 3 of this Joint Memorandum Circular;
- 2.1.2 The election of BHRAO shall be conducted after the mandatory activities pursuant to Section 397 of the Local Government Code; *and*
- 2.1.3 All CLGOOs/MLGOOs shall immediately coordinate with the Punong Barangays and ensure that they fully understood this Joint MC.

2.2 Election Process of BHRAO

- 2.2.1 The mode of election shall be through viva voce, which shall be supervised by the Punong Barangay and the members of the Sangguniang Barangay;
- 2.2.2 The Punong Barangay shall convene all members present in the assembly and shall receive nominations from any member present during the barangay assembly; and
- 2.2.3 The nominee/s shall come from among the members present during the barangay assembly.

3. Qualification of BHRAO

- 3.1 Not less than 21 years old;
- 3.2 Must be a person of probity and integrity;
- 3.3 Must not be an elective/appointive official of the government;
- 3.4 At least a high school graduate;
- 3.5 Once elected he/she must not engage in partisan political activities;
- 3.6 Committed to the cause of human rights; and
- 3.7 Willing to undergo BHRAO training.

In case nobody meets the qualification under 3.4, the same may be waived to ensure that every barangay elects a BHRAO.

4. Monitoring and Reporting

All DILG regional offices shall submit to the National Barangay Operations Office, through email at mbreyes@dilg.gov.ph, the list of elected BHRAO including barangays with established BHRAC per DILG MC No. 2006-45 dated May 11, 2006, using the attached Monitoring Form.

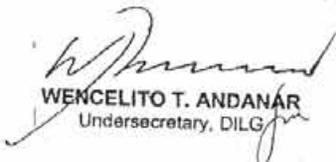
5. Post Election Activity

- 5.1 The CHR, in collaboration with DILG Field Officers, will conduct orientation training for BHRAOs, in accordance with the schedule set by CHR; and
- 5.2 All Local Chief Executives of the local government units at all levels are encouraged to provide assistance in the conduct of the said orientation training.

All CHR Regional Directors and DILG Regional Directors are directed to cause the widest dissemination of this Joint MC and in case of the latter, ensure that CLGOOs/MLGOOs shall discharge their responsibilities.

For guidance and compliance of all concerned.


DOMINADOR N. CREAMBA II
Commissioner, CHR


WENCELITO T. ANDANAR
Undersecretary, DILG

CHR Resolution CHR (IV) No. A2009-053-G Dated 18 May 2009 BHRAC Functionality Indicators



Republika ng Pilipinas
Komisyon ng Karapatang Pantao ng Pilipinas
(Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines)

RESOLUTION CHR (IV) No. A2009-053-G

WHEREAS, a consultation meeting on the functionality of the Barangay Human Rights Action Center (BHRAC) was held on March 2, 2009 at the National Operations Office (NBOO) Conference Room, presided over by the NBOO Director, John M. Castaneda;

WHEREAS, as minimum standards and based on the functions of the BHRAC, as provided in the October 27, 1994 Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Memorandum Circular No. 94-194, the following proposed indicators of a functional BHRAC were agreed upon:

FUNCTIONALITY INDICATORS	RATING
1. Establishment of the BHRAC through a Barangay Resolution/Ordinance or Executive Order/Administrative Order	10%
2. Presence of trained BHRAO	10%
3. Presence of facilities and equipment -3 chairs -1 table -1 computer/typewriter -1 logbook	10%
4. Approved Human Rights Agenda (Action Plan) to include the following: -Complaints Receiving and Referral System -Information and Education Campaign	15%
5. Approved Budget	15%
6. Accomplishments	40%

WHEREAS, the following levels of functionality were also proposed:

I -Basic	20% and below
II -Progressive	21%-50%
III -Mature	51%-79%
IV -Ideal	80%-100%

WHEREAS, to pilot test the proposed functionality indicators, the

NOW, THEREFORE, giving priority to barangays with no BHRACs or functional BHRACs yet, the Commission **RESOLVES** to **APPROVE** the Barangay Pilot Presentation of the identified 1,516 barangays chosen on the following criteria: (i) high risk area for human rights violations; and (ii) strategic location;

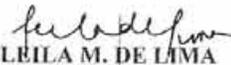
FURTHER RESOLVES to **enjoin/request** the Local Government Units (LGUs) to **create** standing regular Human Rights committee in the city/municipal and barangay level so that the chairperson of the Human Rights (HR) Committee in the city/municipal/barangay level can automatically assume the position of City/Municipal/Barangay Human Rights Action Officer (CHRAO/MHRAO/BHRAO);

RESOLVES FURTHERMORE to **define** in a separate resolution the Terms of Operation of the showcasing and the role of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) in the standing HR committee;

RESOLVES FINALLY to jointly **IMPLEMENT** with the DILG a continuing Training of Trainers (TOT) on the CHRAO/MHRAO/BHRAO module preparation, capacity building, and assessment scheme on the BHRACs showcasing.

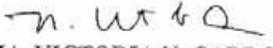
SO RESOLVED.

Done this 18th day of May 2009 at Quezon City, Philippines.


LEILA M. DE LIMA
Chairperson


CECILIA RACHEL V. QUISUMBING
Commissioner

(Absent)
NORBERTO DELA CRUZ
Commissioner


MA. VICTORIA V. CARDONA
Commissioner


JOSE MANUEL S. MAMAUAG
Commissioner

ATTESTED BY:


MARIA ASUNCION I. MARIANO-MARAVILLA
Commission Secretary

Commission Secretariat
c:/my docs/res/A2009-053-G - BHRAC function
mills 18-2009

CHR Resolution CHR (IV) No. A2009-053-H Dated 18 May 2009 BHRAC Policy Guidelines and Procedures



Republika ng Pilipinas
Komisyon ng Karapatang Pantao ng Pilipinas
(Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines)

RESOLUTION CHR (IV) No. A2009-053-H

WHEREAS, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR or Commission, for brevity), pursuant to its constitutional mandate of enhancing respect for human rights, had conceptualized a program empowering the people in the grassroots level in promoting and protecting human rights, and bringing its services closer to the people;

WHEREAS, the Barangay Human Rights Action Center (BHRAC) Program was institutionalized through the issuance of CHR Memorandum Circular No. 94-194, dated October 27, 1994, **enjoining** all local government units throughout the country to pass and adopt a barangay resolution establishing the BHRAC. Support was also solicited from the various leagues of the Local Government Units (LGUs), through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in December 1996. Consequently, series of MOAs followed, and the last of which was that agreed between and among the CHR and the various leagues last December 10, 2001;

WHEREAS, from 1995 to the first quarter of 2002, the CHR and its partner agencies were able to establish 14,408 BHRACs nationwide, or 34.36% out of the total 41,940 barangays nationwide. Likewise, the five (5) national BHRAO conventions conducted were able to come up with not only a National BHRAO Association but also thirteen (13) Regional BHRAO Associations (excluding Regions VII and XII) functioning as lobby groups as well as support mechanism for the BHRACs nationwide. Regional Conventions were also conducted;

WHEREAS, an assessment of the status of the BHRAC operations, however, reveals the slow movement of the BHRAC operations as the complaints processing function of the BHRAC reflected only 532 cases; the education and trainings conducted totalled

Karapatang Pantao: Likas Sa Atin, Tungkulin Natin

Commission Secretariat, U.P. Complex, Diliman, 1101, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. 927-0172 - 928-7018





2,057 activities only; and, coordination and referral and mobilization functions recorded only 137 and 78 activities, respectively, indicating that out of 14,408 BHRACs nationwide, only 3.69% were able to receive and process complaints of human rights violation cases, while 14.28% have conducted education and training activities and less than 1% were able to use the BHRAC coordination, referral and mobilization functions;

WHEREAS, the root causes of the identified problems and issues were traced to the selection process of BHRAOs and to the following inadequacies, among other things : (i) manpower; (ii) budgetary support; (iii) commitment; (iv) certain policies- i.e. tenure, term of office, vacancy, and removal of the BHRAO; (v) enabling law to institutionalize the program; and (vi) coordination and monitoring;

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognizing the need to **further strengthen** the BHRAC Program in the delivery of human rights promotion and protection services at the grassroots level, the Commission **RESOLVES** to **issue** the following BHRAC Policy Guidelines and Procedures:

I. DECLARATION OF POLICY

The Commission **affirms** the BHRAC as its **flagship program**. Towards this end, the Commission shall:

- a) Give highest priority to massive popularization campaign on the BHRAC Program;
- b) Maintain the independence of the BHRAC/Barangay Human Rights Action Officer (BHRAO) and ensure that neither shall be used for political purposes nor personal interests of any person or party;
- c) Integrate BHRAC components in all plans, programs, activities and other projects of the CIIR central and regional offices;
- d) Reconcile the National Association of Barangay Human Rights Action Officer (NABHRAO) Constitution and by-laws with the CIIR BHRAC program policy;

2

- e) Ensure the integration of the BHRAC program in the plans, policies, activities and services of other agencies of government by sustaining strengthened partnership with relevant stakeholders such as the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Local Government Units (LGUs), various Leagues, Government Organizations (GOs), Non Government Organizations (NGOs), and other sectors of society;
- f) Expand the involvement of other stakeholders such as business, media, NGOs and other private sectors, towards an effective partnership with the BHRAC;
- g) Limit the BHRAOs' technical functions into two: (i) complaints referral of Human Rights Violations which fall under the jurisdiction of the Commission on Human Rights; and (ii) awareness-raising on human rights;
- h) Maintain and enhance international recognition of the BHRAC as an institutional program of the Commission in reaching out to the grassroots level;
- i) Safeguard the continued existence of the BHRAC by executing optimum efforts for the passage of a BHRAC law in Congress;
- j) Establish a separate BHRAC office to directly supervise and monitor the implementation and operationalization of the BHRAC Program, strengthen and/or monitor the NABHRAO, Regional Association of Barangay Human Rights Action Officer (RABHRAOs), Provincial Association of Barangay Human Rights Action Officer (PABHRAOs), Municipal and city associations of BHRAOs in the country as well as provide assistance and supervision in terms of administrative and technical matters;
- k) Initiate the conduct of impact evaluation of the BHRAC program to be commissioned to an independent institution;
- l) Encourage the BHRAO to keep the local chief executive (Barangay Chairman) informed of his/her activities with due regard to each other's independence; and

3

- m) Ensure that only trained BHRAOs are authorized to wear the BHRAO ID, BHRAO pin and use of the BHRAC logo.

II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A. CONCEPT

The BHRAC has been conceived and created so that the CHR will be within the reach of the people especially in the far flung areas. The Commission on Human Rights Regional Offices and Sub-Offices are based mainly in the regional centers and capitals of provinces. With the BHRAC, complainants especially those coming from the remote areas can save time, effort and expenses in filing their complaints. Thus, awareness on human rights, such as information and education campaigns, can easily and readily be brought to the grassroots level. (An illustration of the BHRAC program framework is herein provided).

B. VISION, MISSION AND GOAL STATEMENT

The BHRAC shall have the following vision, mission, and goal statement:

- Vision: A barangay where the dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons are enjoyed and respected, protected, promoted and fulfilled by all with a barangay committed to human rights norms and practices.
- Mission: To empower the BHRAOs in the performance of their functions towards a free Human Rights Violations (HRVs) barangays through complaints referral and awareness-raising on human rights.
- Goal: To be the prime mover that champions everyone's human rights.

4



C. BHRAC FUNCTIONS/SERVICES

The Barangay Human Rights Action Center has twin functions or services:

- 1) Complaints Referral - The BHRAO is primarily tasked to receive complaints of alleged human rights violations falling under the CHR jurisdiction and refer the same to the nearest CHR regional or sub-regional office for investigation; and
- 2) Awareness-raising on human rights.

D. THE PERSON IN CHARGE

The BHRAO shall be the person in charge of the BHRAC. S/he shall oversee its operations.

The **two-mode** selection process for the BHRAO is as follows:

1. In barangays where the barangay council has no Human Rights Committee, the following procedure shall be observed:

A barangay assembly meeting shall be convened for the purpose of nominating candidates and finally designating the person who shall serve as the BHRAO; and

The BHRAO shall be chosen through *viva voce* by a majority of those present in the barangay assembly meeting. The meeting shall be jointly supervised by the City/Municipal Planning and Development and City/Municipal Local Government Operations Officer.

2. In barangays/municipalities/cities where the barangay/municipal/city council has a Human Rights Committee, the chairman automatically becomes the BHRAO.

5



In the first case, the following qualifications are prescribed:

- At least a high school graduate;
- Not less than 21 years old;
- Must not be an elective or appointive official of the government;
- Once elected, s/he must not engage in partisan political activities;
- Committed to the cause of human rights; and
- Willing to undergo BHRAO Training.

In both cases, after the BHRAO had undergone the required training, a resolution shall be issued by the Barangay/Municipal council, formally conferring the BHRAO's authority as such. The Commission shall then issue a Deputation Certificate and a BHRAO Identification Card for this purpose.

TERM OF OFFICE OF AN ELECTED BHRAO

An elected BHRAO shall have a term of **five (5) years without re-election.**

REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

The following are the grounds for removing a BHRAO from office:

1. Violation of human rights;
2. Loss of Confidence; and
3. Non performance of functions.



6



E. BHRAC STAKEHOLDERS SUPPORT MECHANISM

1) COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (CHR)

The following are the roles and tasks of the CHR:

- Provide capacity building to BHRAC implementers, BIIRAOs and stakeholders;
- Include the BHRAC Program in the CHR's annual budget appropriation as well as ensure the proper and effective disbursement of BHRAC funds subject to government accounting and auditing rules and regulations;
- Utilize local and international BHRAC Program funds solely for BHRAC-related activities;
- Conduct joint periodic review of BHRAC issuances such as Memorandum Circulars (MCs), MOAs, Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs), Joint Memorandum Circulars (JMCs) with relevant partner agencies;
- Institute the role of the BHRAC in providing specific services for the protection and promotion of the rights of vulnerable sectors, such as but not limited to the indigenous peoples, women and children, internally displaced persons;
- Come up with a BHRAC Manual translated into local dialects which shall serve as the primary tool to guide the BHRAO in the performance of his/her functions;
- Update regularly on BHRAC and human rights development; and
- Showcase one BHRAC per municipality and city.



7



2) ROLE OF PARTNER AGENCIES

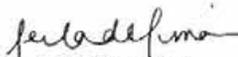
The BHRAO shall be apprised on the roles and functions of every partner agency.

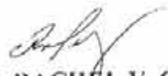
BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER to issue the requisite implementing rules and regulations.

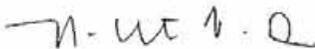
Let copies of this resolution be furnished the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and other relevant government agencies for their information and guidance.

SO RESOLVED.

Done this 18th day of May 2009 in Quezon City, Philippines.


LEILA M. DE LIMA
Chairperson

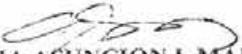

CECILIA RACHEL V. QUISUMBING
Commissioner


MA. VICTORIA V. CARDONA
Commissioner

(ABSENT)
NORBERTO DELA CRUZ
Commissioner


JOSE MANUEL S. MAMAUAG
Commissioner

ATTESTED BY:


MARIA ASUNCION I. MARIANO-MARAVILLA
Commission Secretary

Commission Secretary
C:\my documents\A2009-053-01 - BHRAC POLICY
nila-luz:18F2009

HUMAN RIGHTS CALENDAR



January

28 World Leprosy Day

February

2nd Week Presidential Proclamation 731
National Awareness Week for the
Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and
Exploitation

March

8 UN Day for Women's Rights and International Peace

21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial
Discrimination

22 World Day for Water

April

7 World Health Day

May

3 World Press Freedom Day

15 International Day of Families

21 World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and
Development

22 International Day for Biological Diversity

25 1st Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of
the Child (Children in Armed Conflict)

2nd Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of
the Child (Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child
Pornography)

29 International Day of UN Peace Keepers

31 World No Tobacco Day

June

4 International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression

5 World Environment Day

17 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

20 World Refugee Day

23 UN Public Service Day

26 International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

July

1st Saturday International Day of Cooperatives

11 World Population Day

August

9 International Day of World's Indigenous People

12 International Youth Day

23 International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade
and its Abolition

30 International Day of the Disappeared

September

8 International Literacy Day

16 International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

21 International Day of Peace

October

- 1** International Day of Older Persons
- 1st Monday** World Habitat Day
- 5** World Teacher's Day
- 2nd Wednesday** International Day of Natural Disaster Reduction
- 6** 1st Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- 10** World Day Against Death Penalty
- 16** World Food Day
- 17** International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- 3rd Week** Prison Awareness Week
- 24** United Nation's Day

November

- 6** International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Conflict
- 16** International Day of Tolerance
- 20** Universal Children's Day
Convention on the Rights of the Child
- 21** World TV Day
- 25** International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

December

- 1** World AIDS Day
- 2** International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- 3** International Day of Disabled Persons
International Day of Solidarity with Political Prisoners
- 5** International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
- 4-10** Human Rights Week
- 10** Human Rights Day
Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- 15** 2nd Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- 16** International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights
1st Optional Protocol to the International Civil and Political Rights
- 18** Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
1st Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture
International Migrant's Day
International Convention on the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families
- 21** International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

**FOURTH COMMISSION
(2008-2015)**

Hon. Leila M. De Lima
Chairperson

Hon. Cecilia Rachel V. Quisumbing
Hon. Ma. Victoria V. Cardona
Hon. Norberto dela Cruz
Hon. Jose Manuel S. Mamauag
Commissioners

Drafters of BHRAC Policy

Dir. Ana Elzy E. Ofreneo
Dir. Homero Matthew P. Rusiana
Atty. Clemente Macapugas
Atty. Jessica Gambol
Epifania O. Garay
Adelaida C. Roxas
Hubert V. Ruiz
Vicenta R. Basilio
Joy E. Estrada
Daisy Mestica
Charito Fernandez

BHRAC National Secretariat

Ana Elzy E. Ofreneo
Director, Human Rights Education and Research Office

Adelaida C. Roxas
Hubert Ruiz
Vicenta R. Basilio
Joy Estrada

Publication and Production

Shella N. Laggui
Human Rights Resource Center

Published by

*Barangay Human Rights Action Center (BHRAC) National Secretariat
Commission on Human Rights*

*With funding support from
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*

Published by



**BHRAC National Secretariat
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
SAAC Bldg., UP Complex Commonwealth Ave.,
Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. no. (632) 925-3879
www.chr.gov.ph**

With grant support from



**UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

