

Part I

The Study

Approach and Methodology

This study aims to compile legislative and executive policies affecting the barangay into a publication as a handy reference to all various stakeholders. Modest as it may seem, but this also is an attempt to gather a baseline of laws, issuances and policies on the state of barangay governance and administration in the Philippines.

It may need to be stressed that, from the start, no compilation - particularly in published form, ever existed specifically on legislation and policies affecting the barangay.

The study team had to start from scratch: as in going back to the basic law of local government (Republic Act 7160). From thereon, it had to start on an inventory of all issuances affecting – directly and indirectly – policies and the day-to-day operations of the barangay. Firstly, it had to identify these issuances based on its sources, specifically, the involved national government agencies or even constitutional offices. Secondly, as these agencies came into the picture, the team then next had to conduct an inquiry or inventory their specific orders for policies on or for the barangay.

The project adopted the usual development stages of design, collection, and analysis consisting of the following activities:

A. Design

1. Agreement on project objectives.
2. Identification of sources of relevant data/information.
3. Contacting agencies/offices by phone.
4. Writing formal requests for assistance in supplying information on documents from heads of offices.
5. Actual visits to primary and secondary sources of data/information.

B. Collection

1. Documents were photocopied and gathered.
2. Electronic copies were secured.
3. Documents were encoded and sorted according to dates (chronological) they were issued or approved.
4. Laws and policies that defined or devolved rules/functions or responsibilities to the barangay were categorized or grouped under thematic areas.
5. A three-item questionnaire was mailed to barangay officials and responses were tallied.

C. Analysis

To facilitate analysis of data gathered, legislative policies, and issuances were categorized into 10 major thematic areas that focus on the current administration's poverty alleviation thrust namely:

1. Health Care and Well-being
2. Food Security and Nutrition
3. Water and Environment Protection
4. Income/Livelihood and Employment Promotion
5. Shelter/Housing and Infrastructure
6. Peace and Order/Public Safety
7. Education and Functional Literacy
8. LIGA Representation in National Boards/Committees
9. Participation in Governance
10. Cross-Thematic/Miscellaneous

A five-column matrix was developed to focus on and summarize the roles, functions and responsibilities of barangay officials and instrumentalities according to each thematic area. For each theme, the particular law or executive policies supporting it, is listed, followed by the implementing structure in the third column.

The fourth column contains the role, functions, or responsibilities of the barangay, insofar as the specific mandate is concerned quoted in toto as stated in the official documents.

The fifth column lists the typical activities and competence requirements that barangay officials and local leaders need to undertake or develop if they are to effectively manage barangay affairs.

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Scope

A month into the project, the project was literally overwhelmed by the big volume of documents. The bulk of these was ably provided though by CD Technologies Asia, Inc. (CD Asia). A Filipino-owned data-based company, CD Asia lent the study team its CD-ROMs on Philippine laws and related documents on local autonomy and governance. Whatever deficiencies the team encountered in its physical inventory of government offices and their issuances were ably filled up by the comprehensive data from CD Asia. The CD Asia assistance proved to be tremendously significant as its files aside from being accurate - were easily accessible or user-friendly even for those who are relatively new to the computer technology. Thus this study contains the following: Republic Acts passed by the current and previous Congress of the Philippines, Batas Pambansa of the Batasang Pambansa (the legislature during the Martial Law years of President Marcos), residential Proclamations, Presidential Decrees, Executive Orders, Administrative or Department Orders, Memorandum Circulars from the various presidential Cabinet Departments, and Memorandum Circulars from other national government agencies and constitutional offices. Whenever necessary, the accompanying implementing rules and regulations are also attached.

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Cooperating Agencies

This study would not have been completed without the valuable cooperation and assistance extended by the various agencies and offices to the task of identifying and gathering data and documents.

These are the following:

Office of the President
Congress of the Philippines
Department of Interior and Local Government
Department of Agriculture
Department of Agrarian Reform
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Department of Health
Department of Justice
Commission on Audit
CD Technologies Asia, Inc.