



**Malacañan Palace  
Manila**

**MESSAGE**

*T*he sum of the parts is greater than the whole. This is what comes to mind as one considers the greater good that springs from the model practices in barangay governance contained in this *Husay Balangay* compilation. When each of the 42,000 barangays nationwide excels in just but one exemplary practice, or better still, if each of them comes to learn and replicates the best in others, there may be a resultant bigger, better, and vibrant Philippines than what we now see or even try to imagine. When there is synergy - by getting our acts together - this is what would likely happen.

For this reason, I urge the upcoming new set of barangay officials who enter into a sacred covenant with their constituencies to learn and profit from the experiences as highlighted here. Whenever appropriate, apply these practices in your respective barangays, mindful of your constituents not only as direct beneficiaries but as partners as well. Let these models serve as part of the building blocks for more innovative barangay governance.

I congratulate the Local Government Academy, Department of the Interior and Local Government, for this attempt to showcase model barangay practices. Let there be more of these for the benefit of our people.

  
**H.E. GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**  
President  
Republic of the Philippines



## MESSAGE

*T*he development of our barangays is a priority concern - for one big reason - there are roughly 42,000 of them making up the entire country. When we go back to the essence of local governance, we see the barangays in the forefront. The barangays and good local governance are inseparable in the context of program/project implementation at the local level and in the delivery of basic services that their constituents need.

We would like to see our barangays as primary catalysts of development in the countryside for their continuing and responsive innovations highlighting excellence in local governance.

We hope that through this publication of HUSAY BALANGAY, we are able to showcase the best in the barangays - so that our new set of barangay officials in July 2002 would learn and profit from the experiences of around 80 barangays as featured.

We urge them to translate them into actual practice in their respective barangays.

Sa Diyos, sa tao, serbisyong totoo!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jose D. Lina Jr." in a cursive style.

**JOSE D. LINA JR.**

Secretary

Department of the Interior and Local Government

and

Chairman

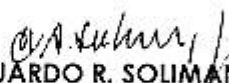
LGA Board of Trustees



## MESSAGE

*T*his HUSAY BALANGAY is a showcase of best barangay practices. We recommend that every barangay official reads it. For a re-elected barangay official, this book is an inspiration to perform even more. For the newly-elected barangay official, this is an eye-opener on the endless opportunities to bring out the best in local governance. To both, let this compilation be used as models towards sustainable development. With these best practices as a starting point, may they continue to advance excellence in barangay governance.

My congratulations to the Local Government Academy for this pioneering work on barangay best practices.

  
**EDUARDO R. SOLIMAN JR.**  
Undersecretary for Local Government



## MESSAGE

When we started compiling the HUSAY BALANGAY articles, we were aware that we might be doing injustice to barangays that, despite their model innovative practices, were not recognized due to distance, scanty information and time constraints. But this pioneering issue has to come out in print if we are to reach out to the new set of barangay officials.

It is timely that we focus on the best practices of the barangays in this compilation. As a reading supplement, barangay officials will find in its pages various models of innovative practices for possible replication, mindful of serving the best interest of their constituents.

In the context of globalization, empowerment of the barangays - totalling almost 42,000 - should take priority attention. Barangays have to take center stage to chart development initiatives for their constituents. What is best for the barangay is best for the country, and for that matter, collectively, will bring out the best of the Philippines globally.

The list of initiatives could be endless, but we hope our humble compilation may have served its purpose - that all barangays nationwide profit from these experiences by mixing the right ingredients for them to become models of good barangay governance resulting in better quality of life for everyone.

  
**MARIVEL C. SACENDONCILLO**  
Executive Director



## MESSAGE

We at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) believe that decentralizing governance can be an effective means of achieving sustainable human development. Decentralization is the logical application of the core characteristics of good governance at the sub-national and local levels. When institutions and power are structured and distributed in a way that gives real voice to the people, especially the poor and the marginalized, they are able to exercise their fundamental right to participate in the decisions that affect their lives.

As such, UNDP welcomes this opportunity to collaborate with the Philippine Government in providing knowledge and ideas on local governance through *Husay Balangay*. This publication compiles the best practices in the smallest political unit in the Philippines—the *barangays* or villages. Only by working towards stronger local governance can decentralization empower ordinary citizens.

We wish to congratulate the Local Government Academy of the Department of the Interior and Local Government for this noteworthy endeavour. May every barangay official be encouraged to use the information shared in this publication to effectively and efficiently manage their communities. It is our sincere hope that your communities be transformed to put people—the beneficiaries and agents of development—at the core of your efforts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Ricarda L. Rieger', is positioned above the printed name.

**RICARDA L. RIEGER**

Resident Representative a.i.  
United Nations Development Programme