



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 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 the annual budget appropriation;
3. Appropriate funds for the BHRAC operationalization and BHRAOs 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 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 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 (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 (BHRAC Handbook). Incumbent BHRAOs 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 BHRAOs 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

BHRAC Monitoring Form

Established Barangay Human Rights Action Centers and
Elected Barangay Human Rights Action Officers
Region _____

Province/HUCs	City/Municipality	Barangay	BHRAO

Submitted by:

Noted:
