

A PIECE OF PEACE

STORIES OF PEACE AND HARMONY FROM
YOUR LUPONG TAGAPAMAYAPA

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LUPONG TAGAPAMAYAPA INCENTIVES AWARDS

In its inaugural edition of “A Piece for Peace,” the Bureau of Local Government Supervision spotlights three Barangays and their innovative Settlement Techniques—strategies that serve as vital stitches in expediting mediation, conciliation, or arbitration processes, all while preserving the integrity of KP, as outlined in DILG Memorandum Circular 2023-022. Together, these efforts create a harmonious weave, demonstrating how local justice can foster unity and progress in our communities.

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MESSAGE NATIONAL AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON



The publication of this LTIA Magazine dubbed as “A Piece of Peace: Stories of Peace and Harmony from Your Lupong Tagamapayapa” in celebration of the “Linggo ng Lupong Tagapamayapa” is a timely appreciation for our Lupong Tagapamayapa in every barangay.

In the recent awarding ceremony for lupons, it was highlighted that the efforts of our lupons nationwide have resulted in the significant reduction in the number of cases handled by courts, saving the Philippine Government an estimated P4.3-billion in litigation costs in 2023 alone.

This magazine contains the narratives of lupons and the unique yet effective methods they employ in their mission to push for the speedy and effective resolution of community altercations. These stories capture their actual experiences, innovative solutions and the tedious process that they carry out to maintain harmony in the communities, taking into account relevant laws and issuances on Katarungang Pambarangay.

It is my hope that this magazine will further inspire our lupons to continue to serve as vanguards of peace and harmony in the barangays. This publication may also be a platform for sharing best practices, experiences and solutions which can be replicated by other lupons all over the country. We also expect that with President Ferdinand E. Marcos, Jr. signing Executive Order No. 68, which strengthens the LTIA system, more and more barangays will be driven to reinforce their lupons for an accessible, inclusive and speedy barangay justice system.

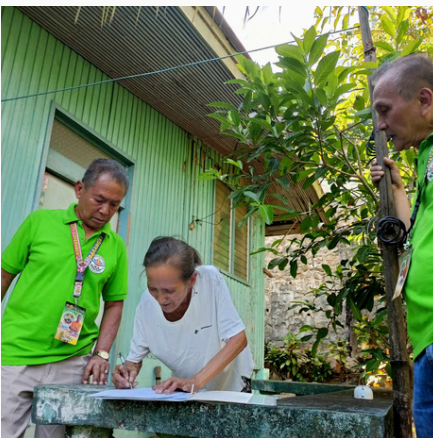
As we continue weaving this tapestry of peace, let us remember that every thread counts. Each mediation and dialogue adds vibrant hues to our collective fabric in building a stronger, more harmonious society—one that values collaboration, understanding, and respect for one another.


JUANITO VICTOR C. REMULLA
Secretary



LUPONG TAGAPAMAYAPA INCENTIVES AWARDS

Established under Section 406 (b) of the Local Government Code and Executive Order No. 394, series of 1997, the Lupong Tagapamayapa Incentives Awards (LTIA) embody a tapestry of peace, celebrating the exceptional Lupons who weave together best practices in the promotion and implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay (KP). This prestigious Presidential accolade highlights the Department of the Interior and Local Government's (DILG) commitment to the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, which emphasizes that peace and security are essential threads in the fabric of community development.



A TAPESTRY OF PEACE:

Weaving Best Practices in Barangay Justice

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Collaborators: LGOO V Joanna Marie Cruz, LGOO V Mark Angelo Pumares, LGOO II Ma. Fabiana Garcia, LGOO VI Raymund C. Olivo; Layout by: PDO III Jouanna Marie Dabu

In the heart of every community lies a delicate tapestry, intricately woven from threads of peace, order, and justice. In barangays across the Philippines, this tapestry takes shape through the collective efforts of residents, particularly of our Lurons, to foster harmony and resolve conflicts. This year's theme serves as a guiding principle, highlighting the essential role of barangay justice systems as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism and a foundation for peace-building strategies.

“Transforming the age-old pursuit of justice into a vibrant tapestry of peace...”

In evaluating the top-performing Barangays for the implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay, a key criterion is the creativity of our Lurons in utilizing diverse settlement techniques. This creativity highlights the beauty and effectiveness of local dispute resolutions, enriching the fabric of peace within the community.

This year, three Barangays have redefined conflict resolution by introducing innovative approaches that resonate with their residents. By blending traditional practices with modern and practical techniques, they are transforming the age-old pursuit of justice into a vibrant tapestry of peace, demonstrating that effective conflict resolution strengthens community bonds and fosters inclusivity.



KPHAN WITH LUPON:

Brewing Peace, One Cup at a Time

BARANGAY SANTA LUCIA, SAMAL, BATAAN



In the quiet mornings of Barangay Sta. Lucia, Samal, the familiar scent of freshly brewed coffee drifts through the air, offering warmth and calm. Coffee has always been more than just a drink in Filipino culture—it is an invitation to pause, reflect, and connect. And in this small community, the humble cup of coffee has taken on an even greater role. Since 2022, it has become a key to resolving conflicts, bridging differences, and bringing neighbors together.

What started as a simple initiative—called KPhan with Lupon—has grown into a remarkable method of mediation. Inspired by scenes from classic Fernando Poe Jr. movies, where tough characters take a moment to ponder over a cup of coffee, the program transforms this everyday ritual into an instrument for peace. It is based on the belief that a shared brew can ease tension, create understanding, and ultimately help settle disputes.

At the heart of the initiative is the Lupon Tagapamayapa, led by the Punong Barangay, who serve as mediators within the community. When conflicts arise, they do not immediately jump into formal procedures. Instead, they bring something more familiar: coffee. The program's tagline, "Kwentuhan tayo at pag-usapan natin ang naging problema sa harap ng mainit na kape," reflects this philosophy—inviting people to sit down, take a sip, and share stories through their differences.





The first component of KPhan with Lupon is its community outreach. Lupon members regularly visit different sitios, armed with thermoses of hot coffee, offering it to residents while explaining the Katarungang Pambarangay (KP) process. This casual approach builds trust and makes the Lupon more approachable. By sitting together on a "papag" or makeshift table, these conversations become more than just lessons on legal procedures— they are opportunities to strengthen bonds within the community.

The second, and more transformative, aspect of KPhan is its role in settling disputes. When neighbors find themselves at odds, the Lupon members arrive not with judgment, but with cups of coffee in hand. The Punong Barangay takes the lead, inviting all parties to talk things over with coffee. As the scent of coffee fills the air, tensions ease, and conversations begin to flow. The steam rising from their cups is like the heated emotions—slowly drifting away, carried off into the wind, leaving the air clearer and lighter. Just as the smoke from the coffee swirls and vanishes, so too do frustrations, dissolving in the warmth of shared understanding.

“Peace is best brewed slowly, over a cup of coffee, with neighbors who listen.”



This informal, personal touch has proven effective in de-escalating conflicts. What begins as a tense situation over grievances gradually becomes a conversation that leads to understanding. As they sip their coffee, the act of sharing something familiar and warm softens the atmosphere, and tensions ease. The Lupon members have witnessed countless moments where anger melts away and reconciliation takes its place, guided by the gentle process of shared conversation.

KPhan with Lupon has not only transformed how disputes are resolved but also reinforced the sense of community in Sta. Lucia. Its success lies in its simplicity—reminding us that sometimes, peace is best brewed slowly, over a cup of coffee, with neighbors who listen.

As the program continues to thrive, it serves as an inspiration for other barangays, offering a timeless lesson: sometimes, all it takes to bridge divides is a warm cup, a quiet space, and a conversation waiting to be had.

KALINAW. KAHAPSAY. KALAMBUAN

BARANGAY POBLACION ZONE 20, BAYBAY
CITY, LEYTE



In the heart of Baybay City, a vision of peace and development resonates deeply among its people, embodied in the mantra that guides their lives. At the forefront of this movement is the Lupong Tagapamayapa, a vital community mediation body that operates within the city's 92 barangays, fostering harmony and resolving conflicts at the grassroots level.



In Poblacion Zone 20, this commitment to peace is personified by Punong Barangay Carmelita C. Tito. A steadfast advocate for calm and constructive conflict resolution, PB Tito believes that disputes can be effectively addressed through open communication and the guiding hand of a God-fearing mediator. Her approach emphasizes the importance of resolving conflicts amicably, steering clear of lengthy court battles.

The dedication of the Lupong Tagapamayapa in Poblacion Zone 20 has not gone unnoticed. In 2023, they achieved a perfect score of 100 points in the Lupong Tagapamayapa Incentives Award (LTIA) City Level Assessment, earning the title of Provincial Nominee from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Leyte Province following an onsite validation in April.

“Ang pagconnect sa star murag nakahatag og connection sa among pagsinabtanay sa complainant.”

In a recent interview, PB Tito reflected on the success of her team, attributing it to innovative settlement techniques that are continually adapted to meet the needs of the community. Among these are two standout methods that have garnered attention during assessments: the Star of Hope and the Wall of Peace.

The Star of Hope, conceived by PB Tito in 2022, symbolizes the promise of reconciliation. Collaborating with DILG Baybay's CLGOO Juvy C. Pedrera and LGOO II Ma. Fabiana B. Garcia, PB Tito crafted this idea during a series of brainstorming sessions. Initially titled "Spark of Hope," the name was revised to symbolize a guiding star that connects disputing parties upon reaching an agreement, igniting hope for a fresh start.

The Wall of Peace, inspired by concepts shared by DILG Leyte Provincial coaches, adds another layer to the settlement process. After resolving a conflict, both parties sign a designated wall, a physical testament to their newfound understanding and commitment to peace.

These techniques may seem straightforward, but they have proven remarkably effective. Since implementing these methods, Poblacion Zone 20 has achieved a 100% success rate in amicably settling disputes reported to them in 2023.

Estrella Lapiz, a resident who benefited from this mediation process in 2024, expressed the transformative power of the Star of Hope: “Ang pagconnect sa star murag nakahatag og connection sa among pagsinabtanay sa complainant,” she shared, translating to, “Connecting the stars strengthened my understanding with the complainant.”



Looking ahead, PB Tito is eager to continue innovating within the realm of conflict resolution. She hopes to incorporate best practices from other Lupong Tagapamayapa groups and remains open to hosting visitations and collaborative benchmarking activities.

As Poblacion Zone 20 tirelessly strives for “Kalinaw, Kahapsay, Kalambuan” (Peace, Order, and Development), it is evident that with visionaries like PB Tito leading the charge, the community's foundations of peace and order will only grow stronger in the years to come. The spirit of cooperation and understanding fostered by the Lupong Tagapamayapa in this vibrant barangay serves as a beacon of hope for others, showcasing the profound impact of grassroots initiatives in cultivating a harmonious society.



HARMONY RESTORED:

INNOVATIVE CONFLICT RESOLUTION OF THE LUPONS OF BARANGAY RIZAL

BARANGAY RIZAL, BANSALAN, DAVAO DEL SUR



In Barangay Rizal, nestled within the vibrant community, a transformative approach to conflict resolution has taken root, spearheaded by the Lupong Tagapamayapa under the guidance of Punong Barangay Danilo R. Soberano. With a steadfast commitment to fostering understanding and restoring relationships, this dedicated team has achieved an impressive 100% conflict settlement rate through two unique techniques: the Recess Counseling Approach and the Resolution Focus Approach.

Conflicts often arise in the heat of the moment, creating an atmosphere that can escalate tensions between parties. Understanding this challenge, the Lupong Tagapamayapa employs the Recess Counseling Approach as a vital tool during mediation sessions. When discussions become heated, the mediator calls for a recess, inviting both parties to the White Room, a calming space designed to facilitate reflection. Here, trained members, often affiliated with local churches, offer spiritual guidance and refreshments. This moment of pause allows participants to process their emotions, creating a conducive environment for empathy to flourish.

Punong Barangay Soberano emphasizes the importance of this approach. "When



emotions run high, it's crucial to provide a safe space where people can cool down and gain perspective," he explains. By allowing disputants to step back from their immediate frustrations, the mediation process becomes more constructive.



Complementing the Recess Counseling

Approach is the Resolution Focus Approach, which reframes the conversation around finding justice rather than dwelling on past grievances. Many complainants come seeking resolution, and this approach ensures that discussions center on their specific needs and desired outcomes. During mediation, the focus shifts away from recounting painful stories and instead highlights the relief and justice sought by the complainants. This technique not only prevents the reopening of old wounds but also fosters a collaborative atmosphere where both parties can work together toward a mutually agreeable solution.

The goal is to keep the discussion forward-looking," says Soberano. "We encourage participants to concentrate on how they can resolve the issue, rather than getting lost in the past."

The impact of these innovative techniques has been significant. Data shows a marked decrease in the frequency of conflicts within Barangay Rizal, allowing local leaders to focus more on community services and social initiatives. Residents have even begun to resolve disputes at the purok level, fostering stronger bonds and a sense of solidarity during community events.

Florencia Sarda, who filed a complaint for slight physical injury, reflects on her experience with the Lupong Tagapamayapa. "If I had been given the chance to tell my full story, it might have made it harder for me to forgive," she admits. Her insights highlight the effectiveness of the Resolution Focus Approach in promoting healing rather than reopening old wounds.



As Barangay Rizal continues to embrace these innovative conflict resolution techniques, the future looks promising. With leaders like Punong Barangay Soberano at the forefront, the community is not only enhancing relationships among residents but also setting a powerful example for neighboring barangays.

The Lupong Tagapamayapa represents a beacon of hope, demonstrating how community-driven solutions can cultivate an environment where justice, understanding, and harmony thrive. In Barangay Rizal, the commitment to empathy and constructive dialogue is paving the way for a peaceful and unified community.

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