

# [ PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 528, August 05, 1974 ]

## **VESTING ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN BARANGAYS (CITIZENS' ASSEMBLIES)**

**WHEREAS**, to broaden the base of citizen participation in nation building, Presidential Decree No. 86, dated December 31, 1972, was promulgated creating Barangay (Citizen Assembly) in each barrio in every municipality and municipal district and in each district in every chartered city:

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 299, dated September 19, 1973 a barangay chairman shall be deemed a person in authority while a barangay leader shall be deemed an agent of a person in authority;

**WHEREAS**, to improve peace and order and enhance the security of life and property at the local level, it is imperative that barangay officials participate more actively in the vital task of preserving public order and repressing criminality, commensurate with their status as persons in authority or agents of such persons;

**WHEREAS**, to avoid possible ambiguity about the role of barrio and barangay officials in the maintenance of peace and order, there is need to amend further Article 152 of Act No. 3815, otherwise known as the Revised Penal Code as amended;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I FERDINAND E. MARCOS**, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, and pursuant to Proclamation No. 1081, dated September 21, 1972 and No. 1104, dated January 17, 1973 and General Order No. 1, dated September 22, 1972, do hereby order and decree as follows:

**SECTION 1.** The barangay Chairman, barrio captain, barangay leader and barrio council members shall, within their respective districts or barrios, assist the regular police agencies in the maintenance of peace and order. For this purpose, such barangay or barrio officials shall, in addition to their other functions, discharge or perform their following responsibilities or duties.

- a. To report immediately to the law enforcement police authorities concerned, the occurrence of any crime, accident, public disturbance or public nuisance of which he has personal knowledge or which may have been brought to his attention.
- b. To report immediately to the law enforcement police authorities the presence of any known criminal or suspicious character in his jurisdiction;
- c. To conduct surveillance on suspicious activities or group movements in his district or barrio or to report immediately to the police authorities any positive finding or information he might gather;
- d. To conduct surveillance of crime breeding areas in the barangay and report his observation to the law enforcement/police authorities.
- e. To assist law enforcement/police authorities in tracing the whereabouts of missing persons, arresting escaped prisoners and other fugitives from justice and in recovering stolen properties or confiscating contrabands.