

**[PHIC PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR NO. 08, S. 2003,
February 03, 2003]**

**GUIDELINES ON THE COVERAGE OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS,
PERSONNEL AND VOLUNTEERS UNDER THE FORMAL OR
EMPLOYED SECTOR OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE
PROGRAM (NHIP)**

1. RATIONALE

Pursuant to Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines, *"the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all at affordable cost."* In response to this constitutional mandate, Congress enacted Republic Act 7875, instituting the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP).

The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with PhilHealth and issued Memorandum Circular No. 2002-66 for the enrollment of barangay officials, personnel and volunteers to the NHIP whose coverage under the Program shall be governed by the following statutory enactments and administrative issuances:

1.1 Composition of Barangay Officials

Section 387 of the Local Government Code of 1991 (LGC) provides that the officials of the barangays are as follows: Punong Barangay, Seven (7) Sangguniang Barangay Members, Sangguniang Kabataan Chairperson, Barangay Secretary and Barangay Treasurer. In addition, *"there shall also be in every barangay a Lupong Tagapamayapa."*

1.2 Other Barangay Officials as Designated by Law or Ordinance

Section 388 of the LGC provides that barangay officials *"....shall be deemed as persons in authority in their jurisdictions...."* and classifies barangay tanods and other barangay volunteers as *"...other barangay officials and members who may be designated by law or ordinance and charged with the maintenance of public order, protection and security of life and property, who shall be deemed agents of persons in authority.."* Section 396 likewise provides for other appointive barangay officials whose qualifications, duties and functions *"...shall be governed by the provisions of the Local Government Code and other laws or barangay ordinances.."*

1.3 Barangay Personnel as Government Employees and Public Officials

The aforementioned officials and personnel of the barangay are considered public officials/employees under Section 2(d) of the New GSIS Act or R.A. 8291 which provides that *"...an employee is any person receiving compensation whether by*

election or appointment, irrespective of status of appointment including sanggunian and barangay officials."

Relatedly, Rule 1, Section 1 of the Implementing Rules of R.A. 6713 or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees provides that:

"These Rules cover all officials and employees in the government, elective and appointive, permanent or temporary, whether in the career or non-career service, including military and police personnel whether or not they receive compensation regardless of amount."

1.4 Benefits for Barangay Officials and Personnel

Barangay personnel, including duly appointed barangay tanod brigades, may be provided with benefits and privileges to improve their economic and social well-being as provided for under Section 393 of the Local Government Code of 1991, to wit:

"Barangay officials including barangay tanods and members of the lupong tagapamayapa shall receive honoraria, allowances, and such other emoluments as may be authorized by law or barangay, municipal or city ordinances..."

1.5 Enrollment of Barangay Officials and Personnel to the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP)

In line with the aforementioned enactments and legal issuances, DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2002-66 specifically *"... reiterates and encourages all barangays to enroll their barangay officials and personnel including volunteers to the PhilHealth Program during their tenure to be paid out of barangay funds, the number of enrollees depending on their capacities to pay."*

2. COVERAGE

These Guidelines are hereby prescribed for the coverage of the following barangay officials and personnel:

2.1 Barangay Officials

- 2.1.1 Punong Barangay
- 2.1.2 Seven (7) Sangguniang Barangay Members
- 2.1.3 Sangguniang Kabataan Chairperson
- 2.1.4 Barangay Secretary
- 2.1.5 Barangay Treasurer

2.2 Lupong Tagapamayapa

2.3 Barangay Tanod Brigades

2.4 Other Barangay Volunteers

3. ENROLLMENT SCHEME

Barangay Officials, Lupong Tagapamayapa, Barangay Tanods and Volunteers shall be covered under the Medicare for the Employed Government Sector with the barangay as LGU-employer. Those receiving income of less than P3,500 shall be covered under the Medicare for the Employed as Bracket 1 of the approved NHIP Monthly Premium Contribution Schedule for the formal sector. Those receiving income of