



Republic of the Philippines  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**  
DILG-NAPOLCOM Center, EDSA cor. Quezon Avenue, West Triangle, Quezon City  
[www.dilg.gov.ph](http://www.dilg.gov.ph)

**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR**  
**No. 2023-001**

**TO : ALL PROVINCIAL, CITY, MUNICIPAL, AND BARANGAY GOVERNMENTS, DILG REGIONAL OFFICES, BARMM MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT : IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HALINA'T MAGTANIM NG PRUTAS AT GULAY (HAPAG) SA BARANGAY PROJECT**

**DATE : JAN 03, 2023**

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**1.0 Background**

- 1.1 The economy of the Philippines depends heavily on the agricultural sector, thus challenges encountered, especially by farmers, have negative effects on the food security in the country. Given its geographic location, the Philippines experienced numerous threats to food security brought about by strings of natural calamities that have rendered farm produce unusable or increased food prices due to food shortage.
- 1.2 Further, the COVID-19 pandemic has further worsened the country's food insecurity, disrupting the availability and access to fresh and nutritious foods at affordable prices. When people are severely food insecure<sup>1</sup>, they most likely experience hunger<sup>2</sup>.
- 1.3 Related to this, the Philippines ranks 68th of the 116 countries assessed for experiencing hunger globally. With a score of 16.8, the Philippines has a moderate level of hunger (2021 Global Hunger Index (GHI)<sup>3</sup>. In addition, the result of the latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) National Survey released on September 11, 2022, with 1,500 respondents shows that 11.6% of Filipino families, or about 2.9 million households have

<sup>1</sup> A person is food insecure when he/she lacks regular access to enough safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and an active and healthy life. (source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)

<sup>2</sup> Hunger is an uncomfortable or painful physical sensation caused by insufficient consumption of dietary energy. (source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)

<sup>3</sup> Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a tool designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger at global, regional, and national level.

experienced involuntary hunger<sup>4</sup> in the past three months. Accordingly, Metro Manila has the highest percentage of hunger (14.7%), followed by Mindanao at 14%, Luzon (outside Metro Manila) at 11.9%, and the Visayas at 5.7%.

- 1.4 To address the problem of hunger and food insecurity in the Philippines, the national government enacted several laws and implemented various initiatives and strategies to ensure sustainable and resilient production and food availability throughout the country. However, food insecurity remains a challenge in the country due to food shortage and rising food prices brought by natural calamities and disasters, health crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, among others, hindering economic growth and national development.
- 1.5 Thus, in support to the thrust of the current administration and cognizant of the role of barangays as essential partners of the national government in contributing to addressing hunger, and ensuring food security in the country, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) is introducing the **Halina't MAgtanim ng Prutas At Gulay (HAPAG) sa Barangay Project**.

This Project aims to strengthen the capacities of barangays towards sustainable agriculture initiatives. One of which is the intensification and fostering of agricultural activities such as barangay community gardening, wherein households and communities will be encouraged to produce fresh, healthy and affordable fruits and vegetables from their backyards and spaces, through the establishment of community gardens in barangays with vacant areas.

## **2.0 Legal Bases**

- 2.1 Section 17 of the Local Government Code of 1991;
- 2.2 Pronouncement of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. on his 1<sup>st</sup> State of the Nation Address (SONA);
- 2.3 Executive Order No. 138, series 2021 (Full Devolution of Certain Functions of the Executive Branch to Local Governments, Creation of a Committee on Devolution, for Other Purposes); and
- 2.4 Ambisyon Natin 2040

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<sup>4</sup> Involuntary hunger means being hungry and not having anything to eat at least once in the past three months (source: Social Weather Stations)



### 3.0 Purpose

This Memorandum Circular is hereby issued to provide guidelines for the establishment of a Barangay Community Garden that will serve as a strategy to diversify the food source and contribute to ensuring food security in the community.

### 4.0 Scope/Coverage

All Provincial, City, Municipal, and Barangay Governments, DILG Regional Offices, BARMM Minister of the Interior and Local Government, and all others concerned.

### 5.0 Definition of Terms

- 5.1 **Barangay Community Garden** – The barangay community garden shall refer to a piece of land or several patches of land operated and cultivated by the barangay for the purpose of planting and growing vegetables and fruit-bearing trees.
- 5.2 **Aeroponics** – an integration of aquaculture (fish farming) with hydroponics. Creates symbiotic relationships between the plants and the fish. It uses the nutrient-rich waste from fish tanks to “fertigate” hydroponic production beds, and hydroponic bed cleans water for fish habitats.
- 5.3 **Aquaponics** – A bio-system that incorporates recirculated aquaculture (fish farming) with hydroponic vegetable and herbs production to create symbiotic relationships between the plants and the fish. The symbiosis is achieved using the nutrient-rich waste from fish tanks to “fertigate” hydroponic production beds. In turn, the hydroponic beds also function as bio-filters that remove gases, acids, and chemicals, such as ammonia, nitrates, and phosphates, from the water.
- 5.4 **Container Gardening** – refers to a micro model farming where a family unit or household is producing fruits and vegetables in special containers for personal consumption.
- 5.5 **Fruit-Bearing Tree Planting** - refers to the planting of fruit-bearing trees for food production purposes such as papaya, bananas, mango, avocado, santol, jackfruit, guyabano, coconut, guava, lemon, mulberry, etc.
- 5.6 **Hydroponics** – a method of growing food using mineral nutrient solutions in water without soil (soilless-based).
- 5.7 **Square Foot Gardening** - is a simple method of creating small, orderly, and highly productive kitchen gardens.
- 5.8 **Vertical Gardening** – refers to a special kind of urban gardening suitable for small spaces, particularly for decorating the walls and roofs

in various styles. It is an alternative method for gardening by expanding the scope of growing plants in a vertical space.

## **6.0 Policy Content and Guidelines**

### **6.1 Establishment of Barangay Community Garden**

- 6.1.1 The community garden shall be established in an available site to be determined by the barangay. It shall have at least a minimum of two hundred (20) square meters<sup>5</sup> of land area or its equivalent in several patches of land.
- 6.1.2 In establishing the community garden, the barangay shall identify which vegetable plants (e.g., leafy vegetables, cruciferous vegetables, fruit-bearing plants, legumes, etc.) herbal plants, root crops (e.g., sweet potato, cassava, taro, carrots, radish, potato, garlic, etc.), they wish to grow.
- 6.1.3 Barangays with suitable spaces are hereby encouraged to plant bamboos (*kawayan*).
- 6.1.4 Barangays that do not have vacant areas, shall implement alternative gardening such as container gardening, vertical gardening, square foot gardening, hydroponics, aquaponics, and aeroponics.
- 6.1.5 Further, the barangays are encouraged to coordinate and request from the concerned city/municipal government for any vacant property owned by the local government or with private individuals who own a certain vacant lot that can be used to establish the barangay community garden.
- 6.1.6 Moreover, the barangays shall encourage their residents to set up their family vegetable garden and/or plant fruit-bearing trees in available open spaces.

### **6.2 Roles and Responsibilities of Local Government Units**

#### **6.2.1 Province, City and Municipality**

- 6.2.1.1 Ensure the formulation, or if existing, revision/updating of the local nutrition plan of action, to include and support the establishment of and maintenance of community gardens (this includes both the barangay and household gardens);

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<sup>5</sup> Department of Agriculture, Memorandum Circular No. 06, Series of 2019, "Amended Guidelines on the implementation of Gulayan sa Paaralan (GSP).



- 6.2.1.2 Implement, monitor, and evaluate their respective local nutrition plans which include, but are not limited to the provision of technical assistance to barangays to promote basic agriculture through natural farming to serve as food baskets or main source of vegetables to sustain the dietary needs of the community as well as households, provision of agricultural services and facilities to the barangays;
- 6.2.1.3 Include in their respective Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan and Comprehensive Development Plan for provinces and cities and municipalities respectively, as well as in their local development and annual investment programs, applicable programs and activities to promote nutrition such as the establishment and maintenance of barangay community gardens, to ensure adequate funding for nutritional impact;
- 6.2.1.4 Ensure the organization, reorganization, and strengthening of the Local Nutrition Committees at the Provincial, City, and Municipal level with the local chief executive as chairperson through the enactment of a local ordinance. The list of the indicators for a functional local nutrition committee is provided in DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2018-42 dated March 26, 2018 or the Adoption and Implementation of the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN) 2017-2022.
- 6.2.1.5 Designate a Nutrition Action Officer, preferably on a full-time basis with the corresponding staff support to coordinate nutrition action and implement one or more components of the local nutrition action plan, as may be needed;
- 6.2.1.6 Provide technical and financial assistance to barangays, particularly in the implementation of agricultural activities and provision of agricultural support services;
- 6.2.1.7 Provide agricultural support services and facilities to the barangays such as, but not limited to, vegetable seed farms, fruit-tree and other kinds of seedling nurseries; improvement and development of local distribution channels, preferable through cooperatives; inter-barangay irrigation system; prevention and control of plant pests and diseases, assistance in the organizations of cooperatives; among others;
- 6.2.1.8 For cities and municipalities, ensure the establishment of community gardens in their respective barangays;

- 6.2.1.9 For cities and municipalities, enact an ordinance that would enjoin the setting-up and operations of barangay community gardens;
- 6.2.1.10 Promote vegetable production and consumption of crops existing naturally in the area; and
- 6.2.1.11 Encourage the residents in the barangay to set up their family vegetable garden and/or plant fruit-bearing trees in available open spaces.

#### **6.2.2 Barangay**

- 6.2.2.1 Ensure the organization, reorganization, and strengthening of the Barangay Nutrition Committee;
- 6.2.2.2 Include in their respective Barangay Development Plans and Annual Investment Programs, applicable nutritional programs, projects, and activities to ensure adequate funding for nutritional impact;
- 6.2.2.3 Ensure the formulation, or if existing, revision/updating of the barangay nutrition action plan in line with the full devolution, to include the establishment and maintenance of Barangay Community Garden, provision of seeding materials and agricultural equipment and facilities, among others;
- 6.2.2.4 Designate one (1) Sangguniang barangay member, preferably the one who handles the environmental concerns, to lead and manage the establishment and maintenance of the barangay community garden, through an Executive Order;
- 6.2.2.5 The Punong Barangay shall also designate personnel from among the barangay officials and staff, including the Barangay Nutrition Scholar, who shall assist in the operations and maintenance of the barangay community garden;
- 6.2.2.6 Identify the area/s where the barangay community garden shall be established;
- 6.2.2.7 Set-up a community garden in a vacant area, preferably owned by the barangay or local government concerned;
- 6.2.2.8 Together with the designated Sangguniang barangay members, coordinate with their respective City/Municipal Agricultural Offices or its equivalent for



any available agricultural, training, seminars, and capacity-building services, as well as seeding materials and other agricultural equipment and facilities, that would help them in the operations of their barangay community garden;

- 6.2.2.9 Lead the promotion of barangay community gardening to their community, including its importance and benefits as well as the products produced through the community garden;
- 6.2.2.10 Promote agribusiness, especially for high-value products in the area;
- 6.2.2.11 Keep a record of the overall operations of the community garden such as the types of seedlings planted, number of seedlings per plant planted, and number of vegetables and fruits harvested (e.g. per sack, per piece, per kilo, etc.), among others;
- 6.2.2.12 Ensure the adequate provision of agricultural services and facilities in the barangay pursuant to Section 17 of the Local Government Code of 1991;
- 6.2.2.13 Enact an ordinance regarding the setting-up and operations of barangay community gardens and allocate funds to sustain its operations;
- 6.2.2.14 Establish a group of volunteers in the community to help in the establishment of and maintenance of the barangay community garden as well as spread the information in setting-up household vegetable gardening and/or planting fruit-bearing trees; and
- 6.2.2.15 Submit necessary reports to the respective DILG City/Municipal Field Offices on their compliance with the establishment of the barangay community garden.

### **6.3 Roles and Responsibilities of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)**

#### **6.3.1 DILG Central Office - National Barangay Operations Office**

- 6.3.1.1 Develop guidelines and mechanisms to ensure the effective implementation of and monitoring of the compliance of barangays with this Memorandum Circular;

- 6.3.1.2 Develop educational module and information, education, and communication (IEC) materials for the capacity-building activities and awareness campaign of the project;
- 6.3.1.3 Monitor the compliance of barangays with this Memorandum Circular; and
- 6.3.1.4 Develop guidelines for the establishment of recognition and awards to barangays with exemplary performance.

#### **6.3.2 DILG Regional Office**

- 6.3.2.1 Cause the immediate and widest dissemination of this Memorandum Circular to all local government units within their respective regional jurisdiction;
- 6.3.2.2 Designate a focal person to monitor the implementation of the HAPAG sa Barangay Project;
- 6.3.2.3 Provide technical assistance to DILG Field Offices in the implementation of the HAPAG sa Barangay Project, when necessary; and
- 6.3.2.4 Prepare and submit the Regional Monitoring Report to DILG Central Office, through the National Barangay Operations Office (NBOO), using the attached HAPAG sa Barangay Project Monitoring Form 3 and submit to DILG Central Office.

#### **6.3.3 DILG Provincial Office**

- 6.3.3.1 Designate a focal person to monitor the implementation of the HAPAG sa Barangay Project;
- 6.3.3.2 Provide technical assistance to DILG Field Officers and ensure compliance of the barangays in their respective jurisdiction; and
- 6.3.3.3 Prepare and submit the Provincial Monitoring Report to the DILG Regional Office, using the attached HAPAG sa Barangay Project Monitoring Form 2.

#### **6.3.4. DILG City/Municipal Office**

- 6.3.4.1 Provide technical assistance to their respective local government units, especially the barangays in the



implementation of the HAPAG sa Barangay Project;  
and

- 6.3.4.2 Monitor the compliance of the barangays to this policy and submit a report to the DILG Provincial Field Office or DILG Regional Office, in the case of highly urbanized cities (HUCs) and independent component cities (ICCs), using the attached HAPAG sa Barangay Project Monitoring Form 1.

## **7.0 Annex**

7.1 Annex A: HAPAG sa Barangay Project Monitoring Form 1 (For City/Mun.)

7.2 Annex B: HAPAG sa Barangay Project Monitoring Form 2 (For Province)

7.3 Annex C: HAPAG sa Barangay Project Monitoring Form 3 (For Region)

## **8.0 Effectivity**

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately.

## **9.0 Feedback**

For related inquiries, kindly contact the National Barangay Operations Office at Trunkline No.: (02) 8876-3454 loc. 4404 or send an email at [nboocdd.hapagproject@gmail.com](mailto:nboocdd.hapagproject@gmail.com).

## **10.0 Approving Authority**

**ATTY. BENJAMIN C. ABALOS, JR.**  
Secretary

OSEC/BCA/NBOO/jpb



**MONITORING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Calendar Year: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Municipality: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Total No. of Barangays</b>	<b>Total No. of Barangays with Ordinance on the Establishment of Barangay Community Garden</b>	<b>Total No. of Barangays with Established Community Garden</b>

Submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Director/C/MLGOO



**MONITORING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Calendar Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Province: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>City/Municipality</b>	<b>Total No. of Barangays</b>	<b>Total No. of Barangays with Ordinance on the Establishment of Barangay Community Garden</b>	<b>Total No. of Barangays with Established Community Garden</b>

Prepared by:

Submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Provincial Focal Person\_\_\_\_\_  
Provincial Director

**MONITORING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Calendar Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Region: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Province</b>	<b>Total No. of Barangays</b>	<b>Total No. of Barangays with Ordinance on the Establishment of Barangay Community Garden</b>	<b>Total No. of Barangays with Established Community Garden</b>
<b>Total</b>			
<b>Highly-Urbanized City</b>	<b>Total No. of Barangays</b>	<b>Total No. of Barangays with Ordinance on the Establishment of Barangay Community Garden</b>	<b>Total No. of Barangays with Established Community Garden</b>
<b>Total</b>			

Prepared by:

Submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Regional Focal Person\_\_\_\_\_  
Regional Director