

The LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW

Monthly Organ to Promote the Welfare and Prosperity of the Provinces,
Cities and Municipalities and their Inhabitants.

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Editorial—

NEGLECTED FACTORS IN MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

Let us design local administration afresh and enrich municipal life so as to bring it more in accord with modern aspirations and developing social needs. Only in this way can the machinery of government be kept responsive to public opinion especially in the rural communities.

One vital step in the process would be to grant reasonable compensation to municipal councilors and their barrio lieutenants. Historically, these municipal officials occupy positions considered as honorary. But how far should civic spirit or historical tradition be permitted to ignore the demands of public efficiency and family or personal needs for earthly existence?

Modern psychology points out that the true means of inducing others and of getting the best results from their efforts lies fundamentally in providing compensation which would result in a permanent underlying enthusiasm. Hence, historical tradition must yield to the expediency of securing a more enthusiastic consciousness of service, particularly on the part of municipal councilors and barrio lieutenants.

Thus, for municipal councilors, we urge payment of graduated per diem compensation in accordance with the class of their respective municipalities, say ₱5 for 1st class, ₱4 for 2nd class, ₱3 for 3rd class and ₱2 for 4th and 5th class, instead of the present rate of ₱2 permissible irrespective of the class of municipalities.

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MESSAGE

Social and economic progress is inseparably linked with municipal institutions. Local governments constitute the base upon which the foundations of democracy and of orderly civilized living are rooted. From them the nation draws strength, vigor and vitality.

There is nothing with which the citizen comes into more intimate contact, or brings him closer to the Administration than the local government. It touches the daily life of the citizen in its ramified aspects, influences his thoughts and sentiments, builds his traditions, and develops in him his capabilities for sound and responsible citizenship. De Tocqueville's dictum has become a classic: "A nation may establish a system of free government, but without the spirit of municipal institutions it cannot have the spirit of liberty."

The improvement and invigoration of local government administration is a continuing task. A just and progressive execution of the laws and policies of the Republic in the interest of our people needs an equipment of vital, up-to-date information on the facts and problems of local government administration. The LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW should fill that need. It should act as a feeler and a registering medium to record the progress we are making in the task of directing local governmental work so that it may be responsive at all times to the will and the aims and the aspirations of our people.

I wish to congratulate the editors of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW for initiating the publication of this worthy magazine.

PIO PEDROSA
Secretary of Finance

February 26, 1949

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Neglected Factors . . .

For barrio lieutenants, a recognition of their activities is a tribute which the proper authorities would do well to pay in fuller measure. They are the most neglected factors in rural life administration. While they spearhead campaigns for peace and order, extermination of locusts, pests and animal diseases, collection of taxes and food production, and do many errands, they get nothing tangible in return except free residence tax and the satisfaction of serving their people faithfully. On their behalf, we advocate that municipal councils be vested with discretionary or permissive power to provide them with compensation which should be lower than that which may be authorized for the councilor of the barrio or barrios concerned, upon the recommendation of the Rural Council in such barrio or barrios, so that this rural unit of local administration may be revitalized.—JFR.