

A Dream Come True: The Creation of MCLCs in Each Barangay

I would like to thank the City Council for the passage of Ordinance No. 09-098 entitled "*An Ordinance Creating the Muntinlupa City Barangay Literacy Council (MCBLC) for each of the nine (9) Barangays, Defining Its Duties and Responsibilities Thereof*". Sponsored by the Education Committee Chairman, Atty. Rey E. Bulay, the City Government of Muntinlupa recognizes that literacy is a fundamental right of every Muntinlupeño which can empower them to lead active and productive lives. Thus, the MCBLC in each barangay is tasked to initiate literacy programs and projects through advocacy and social mobilization activities, networking and linkaging with various sectors in the community to be able to reach out not only to out-of-school youth and adults but also to in-school children if needed. In effect, MCBLCs strengthen and support the City Literacy Council's goal of eradicating illiteracy in the City. Its mandate is not only to enable persons who do not have the ability to read and write with understanding, a simple message in any language or dialect (simple literacy), to develop these basic skills but for those who are beyond this level, to develop a range of skills and competencies, cognitive, affective and behavioral, which enable individuals to live and work as human persons. These include opportunities to develop their potential; make critical and informed decisions; function effectively within the context of one's environment/community in order to enjoy an empowered quality of life.

The idea of a barangay-initiated community-based literacy project/program necessitates a barangay database on literacy continuing education. In this regard, there is a need for the MCBLCs to generate data on the number of out-of-school youth and adults in their own barangays so that the MCBLCs can identify the extent and depth of the literacy needs of their areas. It can also help them in planning the kinds of programs/projects they can

implement to address the literacy needs of their communities. To minimize cost, I suggest that the mapping be done by puroks through the purok chairmen or a member of each household can go to the Barangay Hall, to fill in the mapping form on scheduled dates for each purok. The Purok Chairman can monitor households which have responded to this activity to ensure maximum registration. Another alternative is for the Purok Chairman and his staff to leave the forms in each household and retrieve them on designated dates. These are just recommendations and I believe the MCBLCs will be very creative and innovative in coming with this database requirements

I hope and pray that this basic step shall be done to ensure the generation of a databased profile of literacy in the City!