Republic of the Philippines HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Ouezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESSFirst Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO.

2647



INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE CHERYL P. DELOSO-MONTALLA

AN ACT

POSTPONING THE MAY 2020 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10632, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10656, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10923 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10952, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The barangay is the basic political unit of the country. It serves as the primary planning and implementing unit of government policies, plans, programs and projects. It also provides a platform for every resident to actively participate in the community. On the other hand, the sangguniang kabataan was instituted to ensure that the youth would be active and well-represented in the grassroots.¹

The synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections is set by law on May 2020. However, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, in his 4th State of the National Address, implored Congress to postpone the said forthcoming election "to rectify the truncated terms" of incumbent barangay officials and "... provide them with the ample time to finish their programs and projects."

This bill is in response to that call of President Duterte knowing fully well the crucial role of the barangay in nation building and national development.

Immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

CHERYL P. DELOSO-MONTALLA

Representative

2nd District, Zambales

¹ Explanatory Note of House Bill No. 7217 authored by Hon. Edgar Mary Sarmiento during the 17th Congress and was filed on February 21, 2018.

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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 9164, as amended by the Republic Act No. 9340, Republic Act No. 10632, Republic Act No. 10656, Republic Act No. 10923 and Republic Act No. 10952, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 1. Date of Election. - There shall be synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections, which shall be held on July 15, 2002. Subsequent synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections shall be held on the last Monday of October 2007 and every three (3) years thereafter: Provided, That the barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections on October 23, 2017 shall be postponed to the second Monday of May 2018. Subsequent synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections shall be held on the second Monday of [May 2020] October 2022 [and every three (3) years thereafter]. Provided, further, That the subsequent synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections shall be held on the second Monday of May and every three (3) years."

SECTION 2. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9164, as amended by Republic Act No. 9340, Republic Act No. 10632, and Republic Act No. 10923, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 4. Assumption of Office. - The term of office of the barangay and sangguniang kabataan officials elected under this Act shall commence at noon of June 30 next following their election: *Provided, however,* That the term of office of the barangay and sangguniang kabataan officials elected in the [May 2020] October 2022 elections [and subsequently thereafter], shall commence at noon of [May] November 30 next following their elections."

SECTION 3. Hold Over. - Until their successors shall have been duly elected and qualified, all incumbent barangay officials shall remain in office, unless sooner removed or suspended for cause: Provided, That barangay official who are ex officio members of the sangguniang bayan, sangguniang panglungsod, or sangguniang panlalawigan, as the case may be, shall continue to serve as such members in the sanggunian concerned until the next barangay election. The Liga ng mga Barangay at the municipal, city, and provincial levels shall not later than [July 31, 2018] **December 31, 2022**, conduct elections for ex officio positions in the sangguniangs under the supervision of the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

- **SECTION 4.** Ban of Government Projects. The construction or maintenance of barangay-funded roads and bridges shall be prohibited for the period of ten (10) days immediately preceding the date of election, the provision of Section 261, paragraphs (v) and (w) of the Omnibus Election Code to the contrary notwithstanding.
- SECTION 5. Prohibition on Appointments of Government Officials and Employee. The appointment or hiring of new employees, creation of new position, promotion, or giving of salary increases, remuneration or privileges in the barangay shall be prohibited for the period of ten (10) days immediately preceding the election, the provisions of Section 261, paragraph (g), of the Omnibus Election Code to the contrary notwithstanding.
- **SECTION 6.** *Use of Appropriations.* The amount of provided by law for the conduct of the May 2020 synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections shall be considered as continuing appropriations and shall be used exclusively for the conduct of the barangay and sangguniang kabataan registration and elections in May 2022.
- **SECTION 7.** *Use of Sangguniang Kabataan Fund.* Until the new sangguniang kabataan officials shall have been duly elected and qualified, the sangguniang barangay shall not use the sangguniang kabataan fund except for youth development and empowerment programs as provided in Republic Act No. 10742, otherwise known as the "Sangguniang Kabatan Reform Act of 2015".
- **SECTION 8.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Commission on Elections shall, within fifteen (15) days after the effectivity of this Act, promulgate such rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.
- **SECTION 9.** *Repealing Clause.* All other laws, acts presidential decrees, executive orders, issuances, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are contrary to and inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.
- **SECTION 10.** Separability Clause. If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.
- **SECTION 11.** *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect immediately following the completion of its publication either on the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines. Approved.