

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4052



Introduced by **HON. RENE L. RELAMPAGOS**
First District, Bohol

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Filipino youth comprises almost one-third of the country's total population. Given their large share in our population, the youth increasingly plays a huge role in the development of our nation. Hence, Dr. Jose Rizal's infamous adage, "The youth is the hope of our motherland." It is therefore important to ensure that they are fully engaged in decisions that affect their daily lives and trained to leadership and public service.

The United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) recognizes youth participation as a right of all children and young people. Moreover, the 1987 Constitution, in its declaration of principles and state policies, explicitly states that: "The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs." (Article II, Section 13).

While existing laws on youth participation are set in place and implemented, the growing complexities of problems surrounding the youth such as "old-style" or "traditional politics," undermine the true spirit of youth participation in local governance as evidenced by the growing criticisms questioning the wisdom and practicability of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) which has eventually become a breeding ground for corruption and nepotism.

Thus, this bill seeks to establish Youth Development Councils in each barangay, city/municipality and province all over the country. The Councils shall be composed of different youth leaders or representatives from the broadest pool of youth organizations irrespective of the nature whether school-based, faith-based and work-based, among others. The members, meanwhile, shall be accredited by Barangay Development Councils, City/Municipal and Provincial Boards.

There really has to be a genuine space for youth participation in order to make meaningful reforms. Hence, this measure aims to broaden the influence and participation of the youth in community and local affairs by providing them the autonomy to come up with programs and projects that will truly benefit them and the nation as a whole.


RENE LOPEZ RELAMPAGOS

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4052

Introduced by **HON. RENE L. RELAMPAGOS**
First District, Bohol

“YOUTH EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 2016”

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Youth Empowerment Act of 2016.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to foster and promote the physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being of Filipino youth, inculcating in them patriotism and nationalism, and encouraging their participation in public and civic affairs.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act, the following terms are referred to as follows:

1. Youth – refers to those persons between the ages of fifteen (15) and twenty-four (24) years old as defined by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
2. Youth Organization – refers to a local organization composed of members between the ages of fifteen (15) and twenty-four (24) years old and which represents, among others, the following sectors: in-school-youth, out-of-school-youth, working youth, faith-based, farming, youth with special needs.
3. Council – refers to the Youth Development Council (YDC) as provided herein.
4. Committee – shall refer to the youth organization accreditation committee composed of three members: one (1) from the local government unit concerned; one (1) from the Department of Education or the Commission on Higher Education; and one (1) from the private sector. The Committee shall

be primarily tasked to accredit youth organizations in the barangay/municipality/city/provincial level as the case may be.

5. Youth Development Officer – the member of the Sanggunian in-charged of the youth committee shall automatically be the youth development officer who will be responsible in implementing the youth development plan of the Council in their respective areas of jurisdiction;

SECTION 4. Youth Development Council – There shall be created a Youth Development Council (YDC) in every barangay, city/municipality and province which shall be responsible for the formulation of policies and implementation of youth development programs, projects and activities in their respective areas of jurisdiction in coordination with various government and non-government organizations.

After the accreditation by the Committee of the youth organizations in their respective areas of jurisdiction, the youth development officer shall call for an assembly to be attended by the president, vice president, secretary and treasurer of each youth organization in the local area concerned. The assembly shall then choose from among themselves members of the Youth Development Council which shall not be more than nine (9) from the barangay youth development council, eleven (11) for the municipality, thirteen (13) for the city and fifteen (15) for the provincial. Thereafter, the members of the council shall elect, from among themselves, their own set of officers, comprising of the following:

1. President - shall be in charged with the administration of affairs of the Youth Council with assistance from Adult Advisors, and/or Council Members. He/she shall preside over all meetings of the Youth Council and shall appoint committees when necessary to research issues.
2. Vice President - shall assume the duties of the President during the President's absence. He/she shall prepare an annual report with assistance from the Council Members, summarizing the activities of the Council.
3. Secretary - shall record and maintain the minutes of all Youth Council meetings and file them with the copies of previous minutes. He/she shall prepare and receive correspondence for the Youth Council and perform other duties as ordinarily pertain to the office.
4. Communications Officer - shall manage the Youth Council's social media accounts. He/She shall provide and manage the communication process between Council, subgroups and general members and announce all important activities to the public.
5. Treasurer – oversee and presents budgets, accounts and financial statements. He/she shall liaise with the members of the Council about financial matters and ensure record keeping of accounts.
6. Such other officers as may later be provided.

SECTION 5. Objectives – The Council shall have the following objectives:

1. General Objectives:
 - a. To develop and harness the full potential of the youth as responsible partners in nation building;
 - b. To encourage intensive and active participation of youth in all government and non-government programs, projects and activities affecting them;
 - c. To harmonize all government and non-government initiatives or the development of youth sector; and
 - d. To supplement government appropriations for youth promotion and development with funds from other sources;
2. Specific Objectives:
 - a. To broaden and strengthen the services provided by national government agencies, local government units and private agencies to young people;
 - b. To provide information mechanisms on youth opportunities on the area of education, employment, livelihood, physical and mental health, capability building, networking and climate change;
 - c. To increase the spirit of volunteerism among the Filipino youth particularly in the maintenance of peace and order and the preservation, conservation and protection of the environment and natural resources within their locality;
 - d. To provide monitoring and coordinating mechanisms for youth programs, projects and activities; and
 - e. To provide a venue for the active participation of the youth in cultural and eco-tourism awareness program.

SECTION 6. Powers of the Council. – The Council shall, among others, have the following powers and functions:

- a. Formulate the youth development plan;
- b. Represent the youth in all matters affecting them. For this purpose, the council shall choose among themselves who shall represent them in the peace and order council, development council, nutrition council and in such other local bodies of the local government unit they represent;
- c. Participate in the deliberations and discussions of the barangay/municipal/city and provincial councils on all policy measures affecting them;
- d. Submit to the National Youth Commission their youth development plan;
- e. Perform such other functions as may be necessary to ensure participation of the youth in all matters affecting them.

Members of the Council shall not receive honorarium except reasonable per diem when they serve as members in various local bodies in their respective local government units.

SECTION 7. Youth Development Plan. – The Council shall formulate and adopt a five-year barangay/city/municipal/provincial youth development plan which shall be duly supported by an ordinance enacted by the Sangguniang Barangay/Bayan/Panglungsod/Panlalawigan. The said plan shall be the basis for the implementation of local youth development programs and services in coordination with concerned agencies. These shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Youth Development Programs

- a. Scholarship and Exchange Program - Local and international scholarship and exchange programs, grants, and subsidies;
- b. Sports and Recreation - Trainings/conferences, seminars, sports clinics, competitions and other sports activities;
- c. Livelihood Developments - Trainings on livelihood skills, basic business management, formal and non-formal skills, market linking, business development, value orientation, credit facility and job placement sourcing;
- d. Training and Capability Building Programs - Leadership, advocacy, value formation, governance, entrepreneurship, information technology and other relevant programs;
- e. Youth Cooperatives - Organization of youth cooperatives, technical assistance and financial support from appropriate government agencies;
- f. Culture and the Arts - Cultural programs and activities, workshops, art classes; and
- g. Environment and Climate Change - Trainings, fora and various activities on the care and preservation of the environment including mitigation of climate change.

2. Other Services

- a. Information Resource Services - Internet, E-mail, websites and information on job opportunities, scholarships, trainings, local and international networking, and copies of all Laws, Executive Orders, Presidential Decrees, Rules, Regulations and other issuances pertinent to the youth sector, including youth related measures filed in both Houses of Congress;
- b. Adolescent Health - Counseling, Services, Orientation, Seminars, Trainings on health-related matters, and referrals to appropriate government clinics, hospitals, rural health units and institutions;
- c. Youth Hostels and Training Center Facilities - Access to hostels, dormitories, affiliated half-way houses, temporary shelter and training centers;

- d. Legal Assistance - Access to free or affordable legal services such as counselling, advice, court hearings, preparation of legal documents, and referrals to appropriate agencies;
- e. Eco Tourism - Promotional campaign designed to promote local tourism destinations, and information on travel guides, seminars, conferences, and other similar activities;

SECTION 8. Local Youth Consultation/Congress. – The Council shall convene a local youth congress or conduct consultations with the youth at least once a year. All resolutions, declarations and proceedings of the local youth congress/consultations shall be submitted to the Council for appropriate action.

SECTION 9. Responsibility of the Local Government Unit Concerned. – It shall be the responsibility of the local chief executive in their respective barangay, city, municipality or province to ensure that the provisions of this Act are implemented to its fullest.

SECTION 10. Role of the National Youth Commission. – The National Youth Commission shall have the following duties and functions:

- a. Be responsible in consolidating all the youth development plans of the various youth development councils in the country;
- b. In close coordination with the local government concerned and the respective youth development officer, oversee the implementation of the youth development plan;
- c. Convene biennial national youth assemblies of all chairpersons of the provincial and city youth development councils. These assemblies shall serve as a venue for discussion of all youth concerns;
- d. Formulate the national youth agenda for submission to the Office of the President and Congress; and
- e. Closely work with the legislature on proposed policy measures for the youth;

SECTION 11. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to carry out the implementation of this Act shall be charged against each local government unit's Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) following the enactment of the law. Thereafter, ten (10%) percent of the local government unit's yearly IRA shall be dedicated solely to implement and fund the youth development plan and other activities and programs as mentioned in Section 7.

SECTION 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The National Youth Commission, in close coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, League of Cities, League of Municipalities and Provinces, Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, concerned committees of both Houses of Congress and other concerned agencies shall formulate the implementing rules and

regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days from its approval.

SECTION 14. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 15. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 16. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,