

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

04 JUL 29 P2:07

SENATE
S. B. NO. 1544

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 8044, otherwise known as the Youth in Nation-Building Act, defined officially "Filipino Youth" as those who are from 15 to 30 years old. Adopting this legal definition, based on the 2003 Census, the Filipino youth numbered about 34.4 million comprising almost a third of the country's population of more than 80 million.

The last few years manifests the truth that there seem to be no comprehensive policy on the Filipino youth. While we have the Sanggunian Kabataan (SK) instituted in all barangays of the Philippines, the issue of their being too politicized made a negative imprint for the rest of the young people. Thus, social ills continue to plague them: the menace of drug addiction, the grim reality accompanying child prostitution, the vice of internet gambling amongst students, among others. These are but proofs of their lack of guidance and absence of better attention to propel them to achieve a more fulfilling, rewarding and successful future. Government is thus given a unique role, as the engine to ensure an excellent quality of life for the young through a sustained, coordinated and nationwide implementation of youth programs.

The bill established a comprehensive Youth Corps Program. It seeks to promote the involvement of the youth in character-building and development activities for civic efficiency, self improvement and economic well-being. The program is composed of various components such as: sports development; educational assistance; entrepreneurship; business and livelihood training; cooperative organization; and ecological development opportunities to discover their social and economic potentials to become self-reliant, productive and responsible citizens of the country.

The early approval of this legislation is earnestly requested.



RAMON B. MAGSAYSAY, JR.

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AN ACT
PROMOTING THE PHYSICAL, INTELLECTUAL AND SOCIAL-WELL BEING
OF THE FILIPINO YOUTH THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH CORPS PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Title - This Act shall be known as "Philippine Youth Corps
Program of 2004."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy - It is declared the policy of the State to
recognize the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and project 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.

SEC. 3. The Program - There is hereby created a "Youth Corps Program",
hereinafter referred to as the Program, which shall promote the growth and development
of the youth through their involvement in character-building and development activities
for civic efficiency, self-improvement and economic well-being.

SEC. 4. Objectives - The program shall have the following objectives:

- a. To provide for the formulation of policies and in the setting of priorities and
direction of all youth development programs and activities;
- b. To encourage intensive and active participation of the youth in all
governmental and non-governmental programs, projects and activities
affecting them;
- c. To develop and harness the full potential of the youth as partners in nation
building; and
- d. To supplement government appropriation for youth promotion and
development with funds from other sources.

SEC. 5. Components - The Program shall have the following components:

- a. **Sports Development Program** - shall provide for the planning of nationwide
physical fitness, recreation, and health programs and shall also provide for the
construction of recreation facilities, playgrounds and sports centers in every
local government unit in the country. It shall likewise provide for the
formulation of a comprehensive national development program aimed at
training youth for national and international competitions.
- b. **Educational Assistance Program** - shall provide and generate funds for
scholarship grants to young but qualified individuals. It shall also provide for
the formulation of policies on the solicitation and expenditure of scholarship
grants: Provided, however, That donations, legacies, grants-in-aid and

contributions for the said Scholarship Program shall be exempt from taxation and shall be allowed as deductions for income tax purposes.

- c. **Entrepreneurship, Business and Livelihood Training Program** - shall provide for the development of the out-of-school youth and the youth in rural areas through a continuing non-formal skills development training for profitable employment ventures and/or agriculture-oriented production; the mechanics, management and operation of business and entrepreneurship.
- d. **Cooperative Program** - shall provide for the organization of cooperatives which shall be under supervision of and shall be assisted by the Cooperative Development Authority, among youth groups and students, for the primary purpose of helping members achieve their common cooperative purposes and objectives.
- e. **Environmental Developmental Program** - shall provide for ecological developmental modules where the youth can be taught to serve as volunteers to protect the country's fauna and flora, can be deputized as agents and learned the concept of sustainable development.

SEC. 6. Program Directors - Each component program shall be headed by a Program Director which shall have the following duties and functions: (a) Formulate and implement their respective components program throughout the country in coordination with various national agencies having youth-related programs and projects;

b. Coordinate and harmonize activities of all organizations engaged in youth development in the country by developing guidelines and standards governing their respective youth development program;

c. Develop initiate and provide support for the development and coordination of youth projects and design strategies to gain support and participation of the youth sector;

d. Perform such other functions as may be provided for by law. The Program Directors shall be under the control and supervision of the Executive Director of the National Youth Commission, as established under Republic Act No. 8044.

SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations - The Chairman of the National Youth Commission shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. Appropriation - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the following:

- a. Five percent (5 %) of the annual earnings of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO);
- b. Five percent (5%) of the annual earnings of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR); and
- c. One percent (1%) of the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) of the local government unit in addition to the regular allotment for Sangguniang Kabataan.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuance or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. Effectivity - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,