

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 848

RECEIVED BY: *ja*

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Filipino youth today faces a myriad of issues that needs to be addressed at the grass root level. Poverty, lack of education, drug or substance abuse, vice, crime and unemployment are among the many problems that continue to batter them. Likewise, recent issues on the rising number of street children in urban centers, child abuse, forced-labor and pedophilia are quite alarming, aggravating the plight of the youth.

As an immediate step towards a long range action plan for them, there is a need to establish, an integrated youth center in the fifteen (15) regions of the country. These youth centers are envisioned as half-way houses and/or transient shelters, lodging facilities with skills and training centers, to cater to the youth in difficult circumstances who are in need of immediate attention.

These centers shall also serve as one-stop youth activity centers, in terms of lodging and recreation facilities, venue for livelihood and skills training, community service and voluntary work, and extension offices and/or regional offices of the government's lead youth agency – the National Youth Commission.

In view of the foregoing considerations, approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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AN ACT
TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL YOUTH CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 "**National Youth Center Act of the Philippines of 2013**".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared a policy of the State in line with its constitutional mandate that the youth should be given the proper guidance and support in terms of their educational, physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being in order for them to properly assume their roles as productive members of society.

SEC. 3. Creation of Youth Centers. There is hereby created a National Youth Center in all the regions of the Republic of the Philippines that shall serve as institutions providing technical, educational and social support to the country's youth in order for them to fully develop their physical, emotional and social skills in addition to their training inside classroom and in the family.

SEC. 4. National Youth Center Secretariat. There is hereby created a National Youth Center Secretariat to be headed by an Executive Director and functionally attached to the National Youth Commission. Other positions within the said Secretariat shall be determined and approved by the Executive Board of the National Youth Center.

1. The Executive Director of the National Youth Center as Chairman;
2. The Chairperson of the National Youth Commission as member
3. The Secretary of the Department of Education as member;
4. The Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare as member;
5. The Secretary of the Department of Labor as member; and
6. The Secretary of the Department of Health as member;

The Executive Board shall be the policy-making body of the National Youth Center.

SEC. 5. Powers and Functions of the Center. The Center shall have the following functions:

1. Implement programs for the development of the physical, mental and social skills of the youth in addition to that being offered by educational and other institutions.
2. Implement programs for the interaction of other youth centers from other regions in order to develop the youth and prepare them for the civic duty.
3. Institute other programs that may be determined by the Executive Board.

SEC. 6. Appropriations. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 7. Separability Clause. If any portion or provision of this Act were to be declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. Effectivity. This Act shall effect fifteen days from the date of its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two newspapers of general circulations.

Approved,