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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1478

RECEIVED BY: *J. E.*

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The participation of the youth in critical decision-making processes is a crucial component of nation building. If the country were to chart its course as a politically and economically dynamic and thriving nation, it is important to encourage youth involvement in both public and civic affairs.

Since the Philippines is a very young country, with majority of the population belonging to the youth sector, it is imperative that government programs and policies should always take into account their impact on the youth, if only to guarantee their successful implementation.

The proposed measure, as it seeks to create local youth development councils in every city and municipality, hopes to achieve this end. In fact, its objectives are more or less designed along this line:

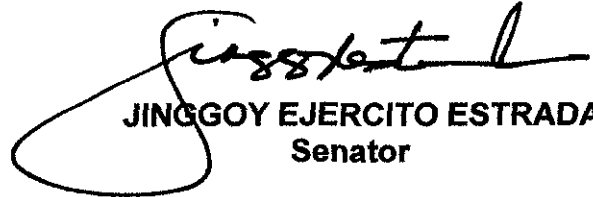
- a) To develop and harness the full potential of the youth as responsible partners in nation-building;
- b) To encourage intensive and active participation of youth in all government and non-government programs, projects and activities affecting them;
- c) To harmonize all government and non-government initiatives or the development of youth sector; and
- d) To supplement government appropriations for youth promotion and development with funds from other sources;

While existing laws for the youth, such as R.A. 8044, a.k.a Youth in Nation Building Act, and other youth development mechanisms are set in place and are in fact implemented, the growing complexities of problems relating to the youth and their seeming diversities in terms of educational background, work experience and societal upbringing necessitate the creation of local councils to fully reach out to them.

The National Youth Commission, albeit the noble efforts expended, encounters difficulties discharging its functions being the sole government agency pursuing the gargantuan task of formulating and implementing youth development initiatives. Through these local councils, the commission would be able to facilitate programs and policies for the youth even down to the grassroots

level, meeting their needs and engaging them as active participants in public and civic activities.

The bill, more than anything else, embodies the constitutional mandate to promote and protect the well-being of the youth. Hence, its immediate passage is earnestly sought.




JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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Senate Bill No. 1478

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AN ACT
TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM BY
CREATING LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS IN EVERY CITY
AND MUNICIPALITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 "**Local Youth Development Act of 2013**".

SEC. 2. Declaration of policy - It is the declared policy of the state to promote and protect the physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being of Filipino youth, inculcating in them patriotism and nationalism, and encouraging their involvement in public and civic affairs.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. As used in this Act, the following term shall mean:

1. Youth - refers to those persons whose age ranges from fifteen (15) to thirty (30) years as provided under Republic Act No. 8044. As defined in the National Youth Commission's medium term youth development plan, the youth shall include, but not be limited to, the following sub-sectors: In-School-Youth, Out-of-School youth, working youth, and youth with special needs.

2. Council – refers to the Local Youth Development Council as provided herein.

3. Center - refers to a multi-purpose or one-stop-shop facility as may be established by the local youth coordinating Council that shall provide development program and services to the youth.

4. Commission – refers to the National Youth Commission established by virtue of Republic Act No. 8044.

SEC. 4. Local Youth Development Council - There shall be created a Local Youth Development Council in every city and municipality 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.

SEC. 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 finds from other sources;

2. Specific Objectives:

- a) To broaden and strengthen the services provided by the national government agencies, local government units and private agencies to young people;
- b) To provide information mechanism on youth opportunities on the area of education, employment, livelihood, physical and mental health, capability building and networking;
- 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.

SEC. 6. Composition of the Council- The Council shall be composed of the following, to wit:

- a) City or Municipal Mayor -Chairman
- b) City or Municipal Program Development Officer - Member
- c) City or Municipal Local Government Operations Officer - Member
- d) City or Municipal Social Welfare and Development Worker - Member
- e) City or Municipal Health Officer - Member

f) Schools Division Superintendent or his duly designated representative
In the locality - Member

g) Three (3) youth organization representatives

1. President of the "Pambayan or Panglungsod na Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan – Member

2. Federation of Youth Organizations – Member

3. Federation of Student Councils - Member

h) Two (2) Youth Serving Organization Representatives

1. Church-based - Member

2. Community based - Member

SEC. 7. Functions of the Local Youth Development Council - The following shall be the functions of the Local Youth Development Council:

a) To formulate policies and component programs in their respective areas of jurisdiction in coordination with the various government agencies having youth-related programs, projects and activities;

b) To coordinate and harmonize activities of all agencies and organizations engaged in youth development programs in the locality;

c) To develop and provide support for the development and coordination of youth projects and design strategies to gain support and participation of the youth;

d) To accredit sports and recreational centers, hostels, training centers and other institutions providing services to the youth as identified in this Act;

e) To assist the national government and non-government agencies in the promotion of programs, projects and activities in the locality;

f) To assist various government and non-government agencies, in the programs, projects and activities,

g) To conduct fund raising programs and solicitations. It may enter into contracts with other government and non-government agencies necessary for the accomplishment of the objectives of this Act;

h) To recommend youth programs and project proposals to appropriate government agencies and non-government organizations;

i) To accredit training pools for the purpose of assisting line agencies in implementing the training and capability-building program;

j) To receive donations, bequests and contributions from any individual, non-government agencies, both local and international;

k) To create a research team that will formulate a mechanism to come up with Local Youth Situationer;

l) To establish youth centers as deemed necessary;

m) To monitor implementation of programs and projects at the local level to nominate its delegate to the National Youth Parliament; and

n) To perform such other functions as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 8. Youth Development Plan - The Council shall formulate and adopt a five-year city/municipal youth development plan which shall be duly supported by an ordinance enacted by the Sangguniang Panglungsod/Pambayan. 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:

A. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

- (1) Scholarship and Exchange Program - Local and international scholarships and exchange programs, grants, and subsidies;
- (2) Sports and Recreation - Trainings/conferences, seminars, sports clinics, competitions and other sports activities;
- (3) Livelihood Developments - Trainings on livelihood skills, basic business management, formal and non-formal skills, market linkaging, business development, value orientation, credit facility and job placement sourcing;
- (4) Training and Capability Building Programs - Leadership, advocacy, value formation, governance, entrepreneurship, information technology and other relevant programs;
- (5) Youth Cooperatives - Organization of youth cooperatives, technical assistance and financial support from appropriate government agencies; and
- (6) Culture and the Arts - Cultural programs and activities, workshops, art classes.

B. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

- (1) Information Resource Services - Internet, E-mail, websites and the like, materials and information on job opportunities, scholarships, trainings, local and international linkaging and 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;
- (2) Adolescent Health - Counseling, Services, Orientation, Seminars, Trainings on health-related matters, and referrals to appropriate government clinics, hospitals, rural health units and institutions;
- (3) Youth Hostels and Training Center Facilities - Access to hostels, dormitories, affiliated half-way houses, temporary shelter and training centers;

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

SEC. 9. 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.

SEC. 10. Meeting of the Council - The Council shall meet at least once a month or as often as it may deem necessary. The Chairman or his duly designated Convenor shall preside in all Council meetings.

SEC. 11. Reportorial Requirement - The Council shall submit the semiannual accomplishment reports, including youth situationer in their respective localities, to the National Youth Commission through the Office of the President of the "Pambansang Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan."

The President of the "Pambansang Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan" shall consolidate and evaluate the accomplishment reports submitted by all concerned Councils. It shall likewise submit the Councils' situationer reports to the National Youth Commission for appropriate action.

The National Youth Commission shall consolidate, evaluate and assess the Councils' Youth situationer report as basis for the preparation of a national youth situationer pursuant to Section 3 of R.A. No. 8044.

SEC. 12. Youth Center - The Local Youth Development Council may establish a Youth Center which shall be located in the city or municipal proper. The Youth Center shall operate as a multi-purpose center or a one-stop-shop facility.

For this purpose, the Council may assign, designate, detail, or appoint a center coordinator and, whenever necessary, additional personnel to assist the center coordinator.

SEC. 13. Roles, Duties and Responsibilities of Government Agencies
- The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Education (DepED), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Tourism (DOT), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), National Computer Center (NCC), National Commission on Culture and Arts (NCCA), National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), National Youth Commission, Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and other government agencies with youth development programs shall be mandated to perform the following:

- (1) To establish youth desk and designate a focal person in all their existing focal offices who shall facilitate and expedite the delivery of youth related programs and services in their respective offices. In the absence of local offices, such agencies shall designate a focal person in their respective national offices; and
- (2) To provide prototype Information Education Communication (IEC) materials in the barangay centers.

SEC. 14. Discount Privileges - To inculcate in the youth the ideals of self development in the areas of education, arts, culture, sports and recreation the youth shall be granted discount privileges as follows:

- 1) Ten percent (10%) discount from transportation services by air, sea, railway transportation system, and land except jeepneys, tricycle and other similar public utility vehicles that do not issue fare tickets;
- 2) A minimum of ten percent (10%) discount from hotels and similar lodging establishments, recreation and sports centers;
- 3) A minimum of ten percent (10%) discount on admission fees charged by theaters, concert halls, museums, parks, and other similar places of culture, arts, history and education.

Provided, That private establishments may claim the cost as tax deductions as defined under Section 16 of this Act.

For purposes of this Section, only youth whose age ranges from fifteen (15) to twenty one (21) years shall be entitled to discount privileges.

SEC. 15. Youth Identification Card. – To avail of the services and discounts in various establishments nationwide, the Council shall issue Youth Identification Card: *Provided*, That the Council may designate a committee that shall evaluate and process the application forms. Qualified youth cardholders shall present their individual Community Tax Certificate as a requirement for the issuance of their identification cards and may be required to pay the actual cost of the identification cards.

SEC. 16. Tax Incentives to Private Establishment - To encourage popular participation of establishments providing discounts to youth, all private establishments may claim the cost as tax deductions: *Provided*, That such tax deduction scheme shall be determined by the Department of Finance.

SEC. 17. Tax Deduction or Exemption of Donations and Contributions – All donations and contributions to the Council in support of its continuing youth development programs shall be exempt from the donor's taxes and shall be deductible in full in the computation of the taxable net income of the donor.

SEC. 18. Responsibility of the City/Municipal Mayor - It shall be the responsibility of the local chief executive in their respective city or municipality to ensure that the provisions of this Act are implemented to its fullest.

SEC. 19. Penalties - All establishments which shall not comply with the provisions of Section 14 of this Act shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding one (1) year or a fine not exceeding Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) or both. If the offender is a corporation, partnership or any juridical person, the penalty shall be imposed upon the president, owner or any responsible officer.

In case of two (2) or more violations, suspension or revocation of license or permit to engage in business shall be imposed when so warranted by the circumstances.

SEC. 20. Appropriations - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the budget of the National Youth Commission and concerned government agencies in the annual General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

Each city/municipality shall likewise appropriate the amount necessary for the continued operation of the Council and for the sustainability of its youth development programs and services.

SEC. 21. Implementing Rules and Regulations - The National Youth Commission, in coordination with League of Cities, League of Municipalities, "Pambansang Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan," 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.

SEC. 22. Separability Clause - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

SEC. 23. Repealing Clause - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified.

SEC. 24. Effectivity - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,