

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Diliman, Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2534

Introduced by **ATTY. MAGTANGGOL T. GUNIGUNDO I**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The purpose of this re-filed bill which is originally HB 1243 that we filed in the 14th Congress that was stalled in the Committee on Local Government, is to abolish the Sangguniang Kabataan, thereby repealing Sections 423 to 439 of RA 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991. Abolishing the SK is part of the new Aquino government's reform agenda.

Our national hero, Jose Protacio Rizal once said "*the youth is the hope of our nation*" but how could it be possible if the youth are so engrossed in involving themselves in political activities rather than giving more priority on their education?

We cannot entrust power and public funds to teenagers aged 15-17 years old who are just beginning to learn what responsibility and accountability are all about. Under our existing laws, minors who are below 18 years old cannot enter into agreements, sign contracts, enter into marriage, obtain drivers license, nor be prosecuted for criminal offense. They have not reached the age of majority or emancipation.

The fear that the youth might not be heard is baseless as persons 18 years old and above can be elected as a Barangay Kagawad, persons 21 years old and above can be elected in the City or Municipal Council and persons 25 years of age can be elected as member of House of Representatives.

Let it not be said that this bill is anti-youth. We firmly believe that the youth should be given more time to prepare and gradually realize what's behind the world they are entering. Great power comes with great responsibility. At this point in time, they are expected to devote more time to their studies.

President Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III and DILG Secretary Jesse Robredo stand pat in abolishing the SK. COMELEC Commissioner Rene Sarmiento followed suit, elaborating that the SK failed to be functional and effective in the delivery of basic services as provided under the Local Government Code.

In this light, the immediate passage of this Act is hereby requested.


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AN ACT
ABOLISHING THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN,
THEREBY REPEALING SECTIONS 423 TO 439 OF REPUBLIC
ACT 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CODE OF 1991

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the **"SK Abolition Act of 2010"**.

SECTION 2. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State, consistent with the Constitution, to give priority to the education of our youth. Towards this end, the State shall provide measures to assure that their education will be their primordial consideration.

SECTION 3. The Sangguniang Kabataan is hereby **abolished** and the provisions of Book III, Title I, Chapters Eight (8) and (9), particularly sections 423-439 of the Local Government Code of 1991 are hereby repealed accordingly.

SECTION 4. All acts, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, other issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are likewise hereby repealed, modified or amended.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) days after its publication either in the Official Gazette or in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation.

APPROVED.