

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

15th Congress
First Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 384

Submitted by the Committee on People's Participation on

01 DEC 2010

RE : **House Bill No. 3773**
Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 219

Sponsors : Representatives Benjamin DR. Asilo, Lorenzo R. Tañada III, Cinchona C. Gonzales and Cresente C. Paez

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on People's Participation to which was referred **House Bill No. 219** introduced by Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III, entitled:

"AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PARTICIPATION OF *BONA FIDE* PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, OR PRIVATE/CIVIC SECTOR GROUPS IN THE PUBLIC HEARINGS IN CONGRESS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS' BUDGET DELIBERATIONS"

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No. 3773 entitled:

"AN ACT INTITUTIONALIZING THE PARTICIPATION OF *BONA FIDE* CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs) IN BUDGET HEARINGS AND DELIBERATIONS IN CONGRESS, IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (NGAs), AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs)"

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 219 with Representative Lorenzo R. Tañada III as author and Representatives Tomas V. Apacible, Maria Isabelle G. Climaco, Benjamin DR. Asilo, Cresente C. Paez, Bernadette R. Herrera-Dy, Cinchona C. Gonzales, Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, Edwin DL.

Olivares, Christopher S. Co, Mark Aeron H. Sambar and Arnel U. Ty as co-authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



BENJAMIN DR. ASILO
Chairman

Committee on People's
Participation

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

THE COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION
ON THE SUBSTITUTE BILL TO HB 219
(POs PARTICIPATION IN BUDGET DELIBERATION ACT)

For the Majority:

1. HON. CINCHONA C. GONZALES
2. RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA
3. HON. EDWIN DL. OLIVARES
4. HON. CRESENTE C. PAEZ
5. HON. NEIL BENEDICT A. MONTEJO
6. HON. GODOFREDO V. ARQUIZA
7. HON. MARK AERON H. SAMBAR
8. HON. CHRISTOPHER S. CO
9. HON. WINNIE T. CASTELO
10. HON. EMMANUEL D. PACQUIAO
11. HON. RAFAEL V. MARIANO
12. HON. TEDDY B. BAGUILAT, JR
13. HON. CATALINA G. LEONEN-PIZARRO
14. HON. ANTONIO A. DEL ROSARIO
15. HON. JOAQUIN CARLOS RAHMAN A. NAVA
16. HON. ARNEL U. TY
17. HON. SALVADOR P. CABALUNA III

Handwritten notes and signatures:
Gonzales
Include TVs as a separate group.
[Signatures of majority members]

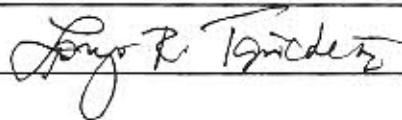
For the Minority:

18. HON. JUAN MIGUEL MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
19. HON. REENA CONCEPCION G. OBILLO
20. HON. ARTHUR C. YAP

Handwritten signature:
[Signature]

Ex-officio Members:

1. HON. FELICIANO R. BELMONTE, JR.
2. HON. RAUL A. DAZA
3. HON. LORENZO R. TAÑADA III
4. HON. PABLO P. GARCIA
5. HON. ARNULFO P. FUENTEBELLA
6. HON. JESUS CRISPIN C. REMULLA
7. HON. MARIA ISABELLE "BENG" G. CLIMACO
8. HON. NEPTALI M. GONZALES II
9. HON. JANETTE L. GARIN
10. HON. ROMAN T. ROMULO
11. HON. RODOLFO C. FARIÑAS
12. HON. MAR-LEN ABIGAIL BINAY
13. HON. MAGTANGGOL T. GUNIGUNDO I
14. HON. DAISY A. FUENTES
15. HON. JORGE JOHN B. BANAL, JR.
16. HON. ROMERO FEDERICO "MIRO" S. QUIMBO
17. HON. EDCEL C. LAGMAN
18. HON. DANILO E. SUAREZ
19. HON. AUGUSTO BOBOY SYJUCO, Ph.D.
20. HON. CARLOS M. PADILLA
21. HON. MA. AMELITA C. VILLAROSA
22. HON. MARC DOUGLAS C. CAGAS IV
23. HON. FLORENCIO "BEM" G. NOEL



FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 219

PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN BUDGET DELIBERATION ACT OF 2010

Introduced by : Reps. Lorenzo R. Tañada III, Cresente C. Paez,
Benjamin DR. Asilo, Cinchona C. Gonzales,
Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, Edwin DL.
Olivares, Christopher S. Co, Mark Aeron H.
Sambar, and Arnel U. Ty

Committee Referral : Committee on People's Participation
Committee Chairperson: Rep. Benjamin DR. Asilo

OBJECTIVES:

- To institutionalize people's participation in budget deliberation in national and local levels of government.
- To allow the exercise of the people's right to participate in public decision-making and in the process, enhance accountability on the use of taxpayers' money.

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Mandates that the application for accreditation shall be filed in the Office of the Secretary of the Senate or the Secretary General of the House of Representatives or the Local Sanggunian of Local Government Units (LGUs).
- Authorizes the Secretaries of both Houses of Congress and the respective Local Sanggunians to cancel the certificate of accreditation of any people's organization (PO) and non-government organization (NGO) which have been found guilty of having procured their certificate by fraud or deceit or through error.
- Provides an accredited PO or NGO the following rights and privileges at the legislative body where they are accredited:
 1. Receive notices of hearings and consultations and/or call for written submissions;
 2. Participate through duly authorized representatives in regular and consultative meetings or hearings concerning annual budget deliberations;
 3. Submit its own alternative or position paper and alternative sources of financing on the projects, programs, and activities.

4. Gain access to copies of bills or budget proposals and to the data coming from the Senate, the House of Representatives, and/or the Local Sanggunian, as applicable; and.
 5. Present position papers or written proposals.
- Enumerates the following guidelines in choosing the representatives for accredited POs and NGOs: a) Nominated representatives shall be members of the PO/NGO or sectoral/multi-sectoral group that they represent, and b) Selected representatives shall serve at the pleasure of their accredited organizations. The Senate and the House, in consultation with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), POs, NGOs, and other agencies deemed necessary to consult, shall issue the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).
 - Directs Congress and LGUs to post on the worldwide Web and on their local bulletin boards pertinent documents of the proposed budget, as enumerated in the measure.
 - Penalizes any person who shall violate the provisions of the measure with a penalty of suspension ranging from one (1) month to three (3) months, and/or a fine of Thirty Thousand Pesos (P30,000.00) to Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00).

RELATED LAWS:

- Article XIII, 1987 Constitution
- Local Government Code of 1991

1 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this Act:

2 a) **Accreditation** refers to the process by which the Senate or the House of Representatives, NGAs,
3 and Local Sanggunians shall recognize, register, and allow the CSOs to participate in the budget
4 deliberation. The accreditation of POs and NGOs shall not confer juridical personality on the
5 organizations;

6 b) **Civil Society Organization** refers to any organized citizens' group including People's Organizations
7 (POs) and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) such as community groups, labor unions, indigenous
8 groups, charitable organizations, faith-based organizations, professional associations, and foundations;

9 c) **Government entity** refers to any government agency or instrumentality, including local government
10 units (LGUs), with which the POs and NGOs have legitimate concerns;

11 d) **Non-government organization** refers to an independent private and non-profit organization formed
12 primarily for social and economic development with none of its officers or members occupying
13 elective government positions;

14 e) **Participation mechanism** refers to the means by which POs and NGOs could participate effectively
15 and meaningfully in the government process of deliberating an annual budget to ensure that it is
16 responsive to the needs of different sectors in the community; and

17 f) **People's organization** refers to a bona fide cooperative or association of citizens organized for
18 purposes not contrary to law with demonstrated capacity to promote the public interest and with
19 identifiable leadership, membership, and structure with none of its officers and members occupying
20 elective government positions.

21 **SEC. 4. Coverage.** – All CSOs may be allowed to participate and play a significant role in the
22 congressional, national, as well as local annual budget deliberations: *Provided*, That they undergo the
23 mandatory accreditation process and comply with the implementing rules and regulations issued by
24 Congress and/or concerned NGAs, and Local Sanggunians, pursuant to Section 5 of this Act.

1 Both Houses of Congress shall, through the Senate President and the Speaker, allow the active
2 participation of accredited POs and NGOs in the deliberation of the annual national budget by inviting
3 their duly authorized representatives as resource persons, subject to such internal rules and
4 regulations as the Senate and the House of Representatives or its concerned committee may provide.

5 All NGAs are required to conduct public consultations among their stakeholders, including
6 concerned CSOs, on their agency's proposed budgets before they are submitted to the Department of
7 Budget and Management (DBM).

8 The Local Chief Executives (LCEs) and/or the Local Finance Committees shall hold consultations
9 on the proposed budgets of the LGUs with their constituents prior to submission to the Local
10 Sanggunian.

11 The Local Sanggunians shall also allow the active participation of the POs and NGOs during their
12 annual budget deliberations. The CSOs are allowed to participate in the Local Development Councils'
13 formulation of the Annual Investment Plan (AIP); Provided that such participation is subject to the
14 limitations provided by law, ordinances, rules, and regulations.

15 **SEC. 5. Application for Accreditation.** – Within thirty (30) days upon the ratification of this Act,
16 and on future periods where a newly elected Congress and Local Sanggunians are established, the
17 respective Secretaries of the legislative bodies shall send notices to CSOs, informing them that they
18 may apply for accreditation to enable them to participate in the annual budget deliberations.

19 The application for accreditation shall be filed with the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, the
20 Secretary General of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the NGA concerned, and the
21 Secretary to the Local Sanggunian in the form prescribed by such offices for the purpose, with the
22 following documents as attachments:

23 a) Articles of Incorporation and by-laws of the applicant POs and NGOs;

b) Certificate of Registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or other government accrediting agencies;

c) Affidavit describing the organization, its work, and operations showing:

1. The character of the organization;
2. The purpose for which it is organized;
3. The list of activities or projects for the past two (2) years; and
4. List of officers, directors, trustees, and members.

d) Certificate of Good Track Records and Standing from the proper authority or concerned office, and

e) Duly audited financial statements for the past two (2) years showing the assets and liabilities of the organization; and

f) Board Resolution or any other form of legal evidence to prove that the respective organization has the desire and is mandated by its representation to apply.

SEC. 6. Action on Accreditation. All applications for accreditation shall be acted within a period of ten (10) working days. Upon approval of the application by the Secretary of the Senate, the Secretary General of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of Concerned NGA, or the Local Sanggunian, a certificate of accreditation shall be issued to the organization which shall be valid for three (3) years upon approval. In case of disapproval, a notice shall be sent to the CSO concerned. The notice shall include the date of hearing to allow the CSO to appeal the disapproval. The final decision shall be rendered within ten (10) days after the issuance of the said notice.

SEC. 7. Guidelines for Choosing the Representatives for Accredited POs and NGOs. Accredited POS and NGOS shall submit the name of their representative in the budget exercise who shall serve at the pleasure of the accredited organizations. Nominated representatives of accredited CSOs should be bona fide members of the organizations they represent.

1 Nominated/elected representatives of accredited CSOs shall be allowed to participate during
2 budget deliberations in the national and the local levels of government and shall be chosen based on
3 their prior engagement in budget deliberation or other related experiences.

4 **SEC. 8. Cancellation of Accreditation.** – Upon verified complaint in writing charging the holder of
5 a certificate of accreditation of having procured their certificate of accreditation by fraud or deceit or
6 through error, the Secretary of the Senate, the Secretary General of the House of Representatives, the
7 Secretary of concerned NGA, and the Local Sanggunian shall have the power to cancel the certificate of
8 accreditation: *Provided*, That no accreditation shall be cancelled without due notice and hearing by the
9 proper authority. Inaction on the verified complaint by the proper authority within fifteen (15) days
10 shall be construed in favor of the POs or NGOs involved.

11 **SEC. 9. Rights and Entitlements.** – An accredited PO or NGO shall enjoy the following rights and
12 entitlements:

13 a) Receive notices of the hearings and consultations and/or calls for written submissions from the
14 Senate, the House of Representatives, concerned NGAs, and the Local Sanggunians to ensure their
15 active participation in the budget deliberations.

16 b) Participate through its duly authorized representative in any regular and consultative public
17 meetings, hearings, conferences, dialogues, debates, or deliberations relating to the government's
18 annual budget, whether sponsored by either House of Congress, national agencies, or other LGUs.

19 Accredited organizations must inform the secretariat of the appropriations committee of the
20 House of Representatives or the finance committee of the Senate of their intent to participate in the
21 budget hearings of a specific agency.

22 c) Submit its own alternative or proposed budget and alternative sources of financing of the
23 department or agency with which the sector or organization it represents is concerned;

- 1 d) Gain access to copies of the bills or budget proposals filed in both Houses or LGUs concerned and all
2 information and submissions relative thereto;
- 3 e) Present position papers or written proposals on projects and programs of the government entities
4 which budget is under deliberation;
- 5 f) Gain access to and make copies of the data coming from both Houses and concerned NGAs and
6 LGUs; and
- 7 g) Serve as resource persons during budget oversight.

8 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to deprive POs and NGOs of their rights, privileges, and
9 incentives being enjoyed by them as mandated by the Constitution, existing laws, executive orders,
10 regulations, and other issuances.

11 **SEC. 10. Suspension of Entitlements of POs and NGOs.** – POs and NGOs whose accreditation
12 have been suspended shall not be allowed to engage or participate in the Congressional, national, and
13 local annual budget deliberations in any manner, whether directly or indirectly.

14 **SEC. 11. Non-Accredited POs and NGOs.** – POs and NGOs that are unable to get accreditation
15 may still participate in the process by submitting position papers for Congress', NGAs', and Local
16 Sanggunians' consideration, and by attending and observing public consultations. They may be invited
17 to expound on their critique or proposals when the institutions deem it fit.

18 **SEC. 12. Public and Timely Disclosure of Budget Proposals.** – In order for citizens to participate
19 in an informed manner, Congress, concerned NGAs, and LGUs shall post on the web, and/or other
20 public posting areas, or otherwise make available proposed budget documents as well as actual
21 expenditures made in the past year. The DBM and LGUs shall post all the developments in the budget
22 process following the budget calendar. In time with the budget calendar, the DBM shall immediately
23 post the Budget Call, Budget Message, National Expenditure Program, Budget of Expenditures and
24 Sources of Financing, Details of Programs and Projects, and Staffing Summary on the annual budget of

1 the national government in the first week of September of each year. Concerned government agencies
2 shall be required to post their budget presentations to Congress a week before the budget hearings at
3 the committee on appropriations start.

4 **SEC. 13. Monitoring and Evaluation System.** – The offices of the Senate Secretary, House
5 Secretary General, concerned Department Secretary, and the Secretary to the Local Sanggunian shall
6 be tasked with the establishment of an effective monitoring and evaluation system for civil society
7 accreditation and participation mechanisms.

8 An assessment tool mechanism for civil society participation shall be constituted and afforded for
9 the adequate, timely, and relevant feedback mechanism on the progress and status of budget
10 implementation.

11 **SEC. 14. Penal Provision.** - Any person who shall willfully restrain or prevent a representative
12 of a PO or NGO from exercising rights granted under this Act, or violate any of the provisions hereof,
13 shall suffer a penalty of suspension of one (1) month to three (3) months, or a fine of not less than
14 Thirty Thousand Pesos (P30,000.00) but not more than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50, 000.00), or both at
15 the discretion of the court.

16 **SEC. 15. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The DBM, in consultation with the Senate and
17 the House of Representatives, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), POs,
18 NGOs, and other agencies deemed necessary for the purpose, shall issue the Implementing Rules and
19 Regulations (IRR) within ninety (90) days after the approval of this act.

20 **SEC. 16. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same
21 shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

22 **SEC. 17. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders and issuances or portion thereof, which
23 are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

1 SEC. 18. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least
2 two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

3 Approved,
4

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 219

Introduced by Representative Lorenzo R. Tañada III

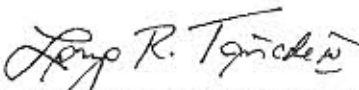
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill is an offshoot of House Resolution 120 which was adopted by the House of Representatives during the First Regular Session of the Fourteenth Congress. Said resolution allowed the participation of non-government organizations in the Congressional processes and deliberations of the national government budget.

Led by Social Watch Philippines and participated in by more than 40 NGOs with expertise in agriculture, environment, education, health, debt and macroeconomic analysis, the partnership and open dialogue with legislators have been quite helpful in crafting a national budget that is a bit more responsive in meeting the Millennium Development Goals compared to what was originally proposed by the Executive.

Inspired by the fruitful experience, this bill aims to **institutionalize** people's participation in budget deliberations in various levels of government – national, provincial, municipal down to the barangay level. Without underestimating and undermining the capacities of elected representatives in crafting a budget that is most needed by a particular locality, this bill gives full play to the people's right to participate in at all levels of social, political and economic decision-making. Further, it institutionalizes people's access to information with regard to how the taxpayers' money is being spent. In a way, this is likewise an anti-corruption measure.

With these objectives in mind, the early passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


REP. LORENZO R. TAÑADA III
4th District, Quezon Province

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

Fifteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 219

Introduced by Rep. Lorenzo R. Tañada III

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PARTICIPATION OF *BONA FIDE* PEOPLE'S
ORGANIZATIONS, NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, OR PRIVATE/CIVIC
SECTOR GROUPS IN PUBLIC HEARINGS IN CONGRESS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
UNITS' BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

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 “*People's Participation in Budget Deliberation Act of 2010.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize the role of independent people's organizations and non-government organizations as effective participants in all levels of social, political, and economic decisionmaking. The State respects their right to pursue and protect “within the democratic framework, their legitimate and collective interests and aspirations through peaceful and lawful means,” as provided in Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution. For this purpose, the State shall guarantee the participation of people's organizations and non-governmental organizations in the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of the national budget to ensure that the annual appropriations will be an instrument of development and reflective of national objectives, strategies and plans.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act:

- a) “*Accreditation*” refers to the process of evaluation by which the Senate or the House of Representatives and Local Legislative Councils shall recognize, register and allow the people's organizations (POs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to participate in the budget deliberation. The Register of accredited POs and NGOs shall not confer juridical personality on the organizations;
- b) “*Government entity*” refers to all government agencies and instrumentalities, including local government units (LGUs), with which the POs and NGOs have legitimate concerns;
- c) “*Non-government organizations*” refers to independent private and non-profit organizations formed primarily for social and economic development, not engaged in partisan politics nor having any of its officers in elective government positions;
- d) “*People's organizations*” refers to *bona fide* cooperatives and associations of citizens organized for purposes not contrary to law with demonstrated capacity to promote the public interest and with identifiable leadership, membership and structure; and
- e) “*Participation mechanisms*” refers to the means by which NGOs and POs could participate effectively and meaningfully in the process of deliberating an annual budget that is responsive to the

needs of different sectors in our community.

SEC. 4. Coverage. – All people's organizations and non-government organizations with a reputable track record in participating and contributing to the government's processes and activities, may be allowed to participate and play a significant role in the congressional as well as local annual budget deliberations; provided, that they undergo the mandatory accreditation process and comply with the implementing rules and regulations issued by both Houses of Congress, pursuant to Section 10 of this Act.

Both Houses of Congress shall, through the Senate President and the Speaker, allow the active participation of accredited POs and NGOs in the deliberation of the annual national budget by inviting their duly authorized representatives as resource persons, subject to such internal rules and regulations as the Senate and the House of Representatives or its concerned committee may provide.

The Local Development Councils, headed by their Governors, Mayors or Barangay Captains shall also allow the active participation of the POs and NGOs in their annual budget deliberations, subject to the limitations provided by law, ordinances, rules and regulations.

SEC. 5. Application for Accreditation. – Within thirty (30) days upon the ratification of this Act, and on future periods where a newly elected Congress and local legislative bodies are established, the respective Secretaries of said legislative bodies shall send notice to people's organizations or NGO's, informing them that they may apply for accreditation to enable them to participate in the annual budget deliberations.

The application for accreditation shall be filed with the offices of the Secretary of the Senate, the Secretary General of the House of Representatives or the Secretary of the local government units in the form prescribed by such offices for the purpose, with the following documents:

- a) Articles of Incorporation and by-laws of the applicant POs and NGOs;
- b) Certificate of Registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and concerned authority/agency;
- c) Affidavit of Mocus Operandi showing:
 1. the character of the organization;
 2. the purpose for which it is organized;
 3. the list of activities or projects for the past three (3) years; and
 4. list of officers, directors, trustees and members.
- d) Certificate of Good Track Records and Standing from the proper authority or concerned office;
- e) Duly audited financial statements for the past three (3) years showing the assets and liabilities of the organization; and
- f) Board resolution or any other form of legal evidence that shall prove that the respective organization has the desire and is mandated by its representation to apply.

Upon approval of the application by the Secretary of the Senate, the Secretary General of the House of Representatives or the Secretary of the local government units, a certificate of accreditation shall be issued to the organization which shall be valid for three (3) years after its approval.

Unless an applicant is given due and proper hearing, no application for accreditation shall be disapproved. The decision of the Secretaries of the Senate or the House or the proper authority so designated by the concerned local government unit on such disapproval shall thus be rendered within ten (10) working days from the time of filing of the application.

SEC. 6. Guidelines for Choosing the Representatives for Accredited POs and NGOs:

- a) *Qualifications* – Nominated representatives of accredited people's organizations and non-government organizations should be members of the organization they represent. The nominees may be members of sectoral or multi-sectoral groups. They shall serve at the pleasure of their accredited organization.

Nominated / elected representatives of accredited people's organizations and non-government organizations shall be allowed to participate during budget deliberations in the national down to

municipal levels of government; and

b). *Term of office of selected representative/s* – Accredited NGOs and People's Organizations shall submit the name of their representative in the budget exercise and shall serve at the pleasure of his/her accredited organization.

SEC. 7. *Cancellation of Accreditation*. – Upon verified complaint in writing charging the holder of a certificate of accreditation of having procured their certificate of accreditation by fraud or deceit or through error, the Secretary of the Senate or the Secretary General of the House of Representatives or the LGU Secretary shall have the power to cancel the certificate of accreditation.

On the other hand, no application shall be disapproved or cancelled without proper notice and hearing by the proper authority. Inaction by the proper authority within fifteen (15) days will be considered as a decision favorable to the NGOs or POs involved.

SEC. 8. *Rights and Privileges*. – An accredited PO or NGO shall enjoy the following rights and privileges:

a) Participate through its duly authorized representatives in any regular and consultative public meetings, hearings, conferences, dialogues, debates or deliberations relating to the government's annual budget, whether sponsored by either house of Congress, or other local government entities;

b) Submit its own alternative or proposed budget of the department or agency with which the sector or organization it represents is concerned;

c) Access to copies of the bills or budget proposals filed in both Houses and local government unit concerned and all information and submissions relative thereto ;

d) Present position papers or written proposals on projects and programs of the government entities which budget is under deliberation; and

e) Access to the data coming from both Houses and concerned LGU.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to deprive POs and NGOs of the rights, privileges and incentives being enjoyed by them as mandated by the Constitution, existing laws, executive orders, and regulations and other issuances.

SEC. 9. *Suspension of Entitlements of POs and NGOs*. – NGOs and POs whose accreditation has been suspended shall not be allowed to engage or participate in the Congressional and local annual budget deliberations in any manner, whether directly or indirectly.

SEC. 10. *Non-Accredited POs and NGOs*. – NGOs and POs that are unable to get accreditation may still participate in the process by submitting position papers for Congress' and Local Sanggunians' consideration. They may be invited to expound on their critique or proposals when said institutions deem it fit.

SEC. 11. *Public and Timely Disclosures of Budget Proposals*. – In order for citizens to participate in an informed manner, Congress and Local Government Units shall post in the web and in their local bulletin boards proposed budget documents as well as actual expenditures made in the past year.

SEC. 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. – The Senate and the House, in consultation with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), POs and NGOs and other agencies deemed necessary to consult, shall issue the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) within ninety (90) days after the approval of this act.

SEC. 13. *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. 14. *Repealing Clause*. – All laws, decrees, orders and issuances or portion thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,