

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez and
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.

House Bill No. **5654**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Elections in the Philippines are always costly exercises, both for the candidate and the government. In the May 2010 national elections, the Commission on Elections entered into a contract for the automation of the counting of the votes for the amount of P7.2 Billion, just for the PCOS machines alone.

With regard to the cost for the 2010 Barangay elections, the government spent around P3.6 Billion. And for a country whose budget deficit was estimated by the President to reach a record high of P349 billion by the end of the year, P3.6 billion was too high a price to spend on barangay elections. For the 2013 elections, excluding the SK and barangay elections, the COMELEC is eyeing a budget of P15 to P20 billion.

It would therefore be a safe bet to state that amount spent for the 2010 Barangay elections would increase for the upcoming 2013 Barangay Elections, which amount could be better spent if it would be used for other government projects like construction of bridges, roads and other infrastructure projects and even the constructions of school buildings.

Also, it is of common knowledge that elections, whether national, local or barangay, prove to be divisive among the populace specially coming from the heels of the very divisive May 10, 2010 National and local elections. Candidates and their supporters try to destroy their opponents by using any means necessary just to be able to secure victory. As proof of the division and problems caused by the past barangay elections, the COMELEC investigated the interruption of the elections and is just about to come out with the results of said investigation to determine who would be held liable for the late delivery of ballot and election returns which caused the delay of the conduct of elections in several polling centers nationwide. Also, many election documents were left behind by the shipping companies tapped by the poll body because of packaging delays at the National Printing Office in Quezon City.

During these trying times for our country, division is the last thing that we need. As what President Noyonoy Aquino mentioned in his inaugural speech, "You are the reason why the silent suffering of the nation is about to



end. This is the beginning of my burden, but if many of us will bear the cross we will lift it, no matter how heavy it is".

Furthermore, the three year term of barangay officials is too short a time for the unity and stability in barangay leadership and affairs. Further, the three year term is not enough to ensure that the programs of the barangay are carried out properly specially considering the fact that it cannot be denied that the last year of the term is basically used for campaigning. A two year extension would therefore be in order. An additional two years would ensure more stability in the barangay level and that the programs initiated by the current leaders would come to fruition.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ



MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

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AN ACT

**RESETTING THE 2013 BARANGAY ELECTIONS TO THE LAST MONDAY
OF OCTOBER 2015.**

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

SECTION 1. The 2013 Barangay elections scheduled to be held on October, 2013 is hereby postponed and reset to the last Monday of October, 2015.

SEC. 2. The Commission on Elections shall promulgate the Implementing rules and regulations necessary for this Act.

SEC. 3. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect after its complete publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,