

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

Sixteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1252



Introduced by Honorable Lucy Torres-Gomez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Sangguniang Kabataan was conceived with very noble objectives in mind. It sought to encourage youth participation in the arduous task of nation-building. It aimed to be the training ground for future leaders of our country.

Decades have passed, however, and it is becoming more apparent that instead of infusing fresh blood into our decaying political system, the idealism of the youth has been scarred by deep-seated flaws in our political set-up, its vision of a good life blurred by endemic corruption and inefficiencies. Our young leaders appeared to have been co-opted by the realities on the ground which they are not mature enough to deal with. Studies exist validating these sordid observations.

This measure, nonetheless, should not be construed as a vote of no confidence against our young people. We believe in our youth. However, we also believe that there is a time for everything under the sun as the Good Book says. Young Filipinos ought to focus on their education as there is no better way to prepare themselves for democratic citizenship. The moment they get entangled in politics, they are bound to compromise the time they have allotted for their studies and become less capable for it. It is believed that we have enough historical experience already – beginning with the Kabataang Barangay under the Marcos regime and the Sangguniang Kabataan under the Local Government Code – to conclude that education, not politics, is of the highest priority for our youth.

It goes without saying that with the proposed abolition of the Sangguniang Kabataan, the elections appurtenant for the said office(s) are also *ipso jure* abolished. This would save a lot of funds for the perennially cash-strapped government, not only in terms of the election

expenses for the SK but also the public funds regularly allocated for the performance of duties and responsibilities of the SK officials.

With the fast approach of the next SK elections this coming October 2013, the immediate approval of this Act is earnestly requested.



LUCY TORRES-GOMEZ

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AN ACT
ABOLISHING THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

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

SECTION 1. The Sangguniang Kabataan is hereby abolished and the provisions of Book Three, Title One, Chapters Eight (8), Nine (9) and Ten (10) of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, are hereby repealed.

SEC. 2. All acts, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are likewise hereby repealed, modified or amended.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,