

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1987



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Introduced by HONORABLE JOSELITO R. MENDOZA

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The ruckus brought about by having two elections in a single calendar year is upon us again.

The Commission on Elections has just requested Congress to pass a law postponing this year's barangay elections because the poll body is busy with election protests and other administrative matters which arose from the just concluded mid-term elections. Some quarters are raising the valid concern that government coffers cannot pay for two elections in a year. Politicians are *rumbling that barangay officials will be seeking financial support which they will be hard pressed to give*. All concede that our people have not yet recovered from the partisan politics of the recent mid term elections which have polarized families and communities.

When barangay officials were first elected back in May 1982, under the auspices of Batas Pambansa Blg. 222, their term of office is six years. Republic Act No. 6653 extended the term of office of barangay officials to five (5) years. With the advent of the Local Government Code, the term was reduced to three years. It was again extended by Republic Act No. 8524 to five (5) years. In 2002, the length of term was again reduced to three years by virtue of Republic Act No. 9164. The reasoning was that the barangay officials should not serve a longer term than their supervisors.

In 2005, when the barangay elections coincided with the midterm elections, Congress, through Republic Act No. 9340, extended the term of the then incumbent barangay officials, due to expire - at noon of November 30, 2005 under Republic Act No. 9164 - to noon of November 30, 2007.

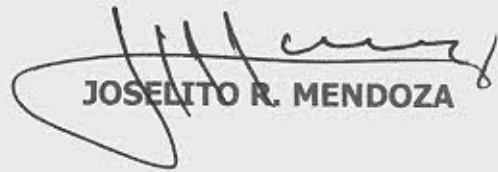
In 2010, calls for postponement of barangay elections were raised because of the same issues surrounding the passage of Republic Act No. 9340 - two elections in one year. No postponement was passed then. This year, the same issue of two elections in one year confronts us.

The propriety of a three year term has long been settled. The problems brought about by holding two elections inside a single calendar year have not.

*This bill proposes a very simple solution. Postpone this year's elections to the First Monday of May 2014, and hold elections every three years thereafter.*

The issue of holding two elections within a single year will never hound us again. The prayer of COMELEC to give them leeway in first prioritizing contests brought about by the recent midterm elections is answered. Budgetary constraints need not be a concern. The prospect of having officers without mandate from the electorate is minimized as their hold over capacity is limited to six months.

The passage of this bill is thus earnestly sought.



JOSEITO R. MENDOZA

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**AN ACT POSTPONING THE 2013 SYNCHRONIZED BARANGAY AND SK ELECTIONS TO MAY 2014 TO PREVENT THE HOLDING OF NATIONAL/ LOCAL ELECTIONS AND BARANGAY ELECTIONS IN A SINGLE CALENDAR YEAR**

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

**Section 1.** Date of Election. The scheduled synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections this coming October 2013 shall be postponed to the first Monday of May, 2014 or May 5, 2014. Subsequent synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections shall be held on the First Monday of May 2017 and every three (3) years thereafter."

**Section 2.** Assumption of Office. - The term of office of the barangay and sangguniang kabataan officials elected under this Act and subsequent elections shall commence at noon on June 1, next following their elections.

**Section 3.** Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The COMELEC shall promulgate such rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

**Section 4.** Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Section 5.** Separability Clause. - If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected and thereby remain in full force and effect.

**Section 6.** Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,