

Republic of the Philippines

House of Representatives
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1996



**Introduced by Honorable Anthony M. Bravo and Honorable
Cresente C. Paez**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 23, provides:

The State shall encourage non-governmental, community-based or sectoral organizations that promote the welfare of the nation.

A Non-Governmental Organization refers to any private entity, which is non-profit and voluntary in nature dedicated to the promotion, enhancement and support of the welfare of either a specific group of citizens or for a particular legitimate cause duly registered with any regulatory body.

Task-oriented and driven by people with a common interest, NGOs perform a wide range of service and humanitarian functions, bring citizen concerns to Governments, advocate and monitor policies and encourage political involvement through the provision of information. Some are organized around specific issues, such as human rights, environment or health. They share their scrutiny and know-how, serve as early warning mechanisms and assist in the monitoring and implementation of laws and international agreements.

This bill seeks to make NGOs more involved in the legislative process of local government units. It will create a stronger partnership in terms of sharing of ideas and resources between the government and the private sector.



HON. ANTHONY M. BRAVO



HON. CRESENTE C. PAEZ

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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE
BY PROVIDING AN AVENUE FOR NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
TO ASSIST IN THE LOCAL LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

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 “Institutionalized Participatory Governance Act.”

SECTION 2. *Definition.* – A Non-Governmental Organization or NGO, refers to any private non-stock non-profit organization, regional or national in scope, duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), or any appropriate government regulatory body and exists for a particular legitimate cause.

SECTION 3. *Registration of NGOs.* – NGOs based in a particular local government unit can be accredited with their respective Provincial Board, City Council, or Municipal Council.

SECTION 4. *Election of Representative.* – The accredited NGOs shall elect their representatives to the respective Provincial Board, City Council, or Municipal Council. The office of this chosen representative shall not receive any amount from the Provincial Board, City Council, or Municipal Council but shall find its own sources of funding through the group of accredited NGOs. The term of office of the representative shall be from the date of the election of the said representative until the end of the current term of the members of the Provincial Boards, City Councils, and Municipal Councils, unless sooner terminated for cause, as provided for by the rules of the organization of the accredited NGOs.

SECTION 5. *Participation of NGOs at the local legislative level.* – NGOs can participate in local legislation through the following means:

(a) NGOs with legitimate advocacies can directly participate in Provincial Boards, City Councils and Municipal Councils through their chosen representative;

(b) The elected representative shall be allowed to file proposed ordinances, for or on behalf of the accredited NGOs, participate in debates during hearings, but without the right to vote on the measures;

SECTION 6. *Minimum Requirements.* – (a) In the first year of the implementation of this law, there shall be a minimum of five (5) accredited NGOs before they are allowed to send a representative; (b) in the second year of the implementation of this Act, there shall be a minimum of ten (10) accredited NGOs before they are allowed to send a representative, and (c) in the third year of the implementation of this Act and thereafter, there shall be a minimum of fifteen (15) accredited NGOs before they are allowed to send a representative.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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