

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5049



Introduced by REP. ANTHONY G. DEL ROSARIO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Much has been said about the alleged shortcomings of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK). Plaguing the SK system over the years are accusations that it has become a venue for the youth's early exposure to corruption and a breeding ground of traditional politics. Because of this, the SK has somehow failed to serve its purpose of bringing about one of the highest forms of youth participation in nation-building.

This bill seeks to propose much needed reforms for the SK. For one, it is envisioned that by returning to the true spirit of volunteerism, it can veer away from the clutches of partisan politics. The SK officials shall no longer receive monetary compensation but rather they are entitled to non-monetary benefits such as free tuition fees in public colleges and universities as well as free training programs, among others. What is essential is that the youth as a strong force in nation-building will be able to uphold the values of patriotism, integrity, transparency, accountability and good governance while being trained to be future leaders of the land, all in the spirit of public service.

Another major feature of the bill is the shift from personality-oriented politics to policy based youth representation. As proposed, the SK officials shall no longer be elected at large in barangay elections but they shall be elected through the Katipunan ng mga Kabataan which is composed of all duly registered youths in every barangay.

The proposals in this bill are seen to serve as springboard for genuine reforms that we must carry out and inculcate in the minds of our youth as far as treading the "*daang matuwid*" is concerned.

In view of the foregoing reasons, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


REP. ANTHONY G. DEL ROSARIO

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5049

Introduced by REP. ANTHONY G. DEL ROSARIO

AN ACT
INTRODUCING REFORMS AND STRENGTHENING THE SANGGUNIANG
KABATAAN, CREATING THE MUNICIPAL, CITY AND PROVINCIAL YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS

Section 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Youth Development and Empowerment Act of 2014".

Section 2. *Declaration of State Policies and Objectives.* - The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation building and thus, promotes and protects their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being, inculcates in them patriotism, nationalism and other desirable values, and encourages their involvement in public and civic affairs.

Towards this end, the State shall establish adequate, effective, responsive and enabling mechanisms and support systems that will ensure the meaningful participation of the youth in local governance.

Section 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the following terms are hereby defined:

- (a) "Commission" shall refer to the National Youth Commission created under Republic Act No. 8044;
- (b) "Community-based Youth Organizations" shall refer to organizations whose membership or programs and projects are based only on a specific sitio OR PUROK, barangay, municipality, city OR PROVINCE;
- (c) "Council" shall refer to the Local Youth Development Council in the municipality, city and province;
- (d) "Faith-based Youth Organizations" shall refer to those organizations whose members share common faith, moral PERSUASION and spiritual beliefs;
- (e) "Local chief executive" shall refer to the municipal mayor, city mayor and provincial governor;
- (f) "Local Government Operations Officer" shall refer to the duly designated head of the office of the Department of the Interior and Local Government stationed in the concerned local government unit;
- (g) "Local sanggunian" shall refer to the sangguniang bayan, sangguniang panlungsod and sangguniang panlalawigan;

- (h) "Out of School Youth Organizations" shall refer to organizations whose members are not attending formal schooling;
- (i) "Political party or Ideology-based Youth Organizations" shall refer to YOUTH organizations whose members are allied to a legitimate and recognized political party or party-list or advancing a legitimate political and social ideology OR THOUGHT;
- (j) "Youth AFFAIRS Provincial OFFICER" shall refer to the person duly appointed or designated by the National Youth Commission to serve as its agent in the province with the tasks provided for in this Act or as the Commission may deem necessary;
- (k) "Youth" shall refer to those persons whose ages range from fifteen (15) to thirty (30) years old AS DEFINED BY REPUBLIC ACT 8044;
- (l) "Youth Organizations" shall refer to those organizations whose membership/composition are youth;
- (m) "Youth-Serving Organizations" shall refer to those registered organizations whose principal programs, projects and activities are youth-oriented and youth-related;
- (n) "Youth with Specific Needs Organizations" shall refer to organizations whose members are, or whose programs and projects are intended to, youth in need of special care, attention or protection to include, but not limited to, members of indigenous cultural communities, persons with disabilities, victims or in situation of armed conflicts, calamities or natural disasters, drug dependents, abandoned, abused or exploited, and youth offenders and CHILDREN OR YOUTH IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW, VULNERABLE YOUTH AND MEMBERS OF THE LESBIANS, GAYS, BISEXUALS AND TRANSGENDERS OR LGBT COMMUNITY; and
- (o) "Working Youth, Young Entrepreneurs and Young Professionals Organizations" shall refer to YOUTH organizations OR YOUTH ASSOCIATIONS whose members are either employed, practicing entrepreneurs or working young professionals, or whose programs and projects are intended for the youth who are employed, practicing entrepreneurs or working young professionals. Youth cooperatives fall under this classification.

CHAPTER II

THE KATIPUNAN NG KABATAAN AND THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN

Section 4. *Katipunan ng Kabataan.* – THERE SHALL BE IN EVERY BARANGAY A katipunan ng kabataan to be composed of all citizens of the Philippines actually residing in the barangay for at least six (6) months, who are at least fifteen (15) but not more than twenty-four (24) years of age ON THE DAY OF THE ELECTION, and who are duly registered in the list of the Commission on Elections and the records of the sangguniang kabataan secretary.

Section 5. *Powers and Functions of the Katipunan ng Kabataan.* - The katipunan ng kabataan shall:

- (a) Elect the sangguniang kabataan chairperson and members;
- (b) Serve as the highest policy-making body to decide on matters affecting the youth in the barangay. As such, the sangguniang kabataan shall consult and secure the concurrence of the katipunan ng kabataan in the formulation of all its programs, plans and activities; and
- (c) Reprimand, suspend or remove the sangguniang kabataan chairperson or any of the sangguniang kabataan members including the secretary and the treasurer who, after due process, is found to have failed in the discharge of his duties, or has committed abuse of authority as stipulated in existing laws pertaining to the conduct of

public officials, through a majority vote of all its members in a regular or special assembly called for the purpose;

Section 6. *Meetings of the Katipunan ng Kabataan.* - The katipunan ng kabataan shall meet at least ONCE EVERY SIX MONTHS at the day and time to be determined by the sangguniang kabataan. However, the sangguniang kabataan chairperson, a majority of the sangguniang kabataan members, or at least one-fifth (1/5) of all its members may call for a special katipunan ng kabataan assembly. The purpose of such shall be clearly stated in the notice to be distributed to all katipunan ng kabataan members not later than three (3) days before the conduct of the special assembly. The first katipunan ng kabataan assembly shall take place within three (3) months after the duly elected sangguniang kabataan shall have assumed office.

Section 7. *Creation and Election of the Sangguniang Kabataan.* - (a) There shall be in every barangay a sangguniang kabataan to be composed of a chairperson and seven (7) members who shall be elected at large from among the members of the katipunan ng kabataan in the election called for the purpose. The sangguniang kabataan chairperson shall, with the concurrence of the majority of the sangguniang kabataan members, appoint from among the members of the katipunan ng kabataan, a secretary and a treasurer.

(b) A sangguniang kabataan official who, during his term of office, shall have passed the age of twenty-four (24) years shall be allowed to serve the remaining portion of the term for which he is elected.

Section 8. *Powers and functions of the Sangguniang Kabataan.* - The sangguniang kabataan shall:

- (a) In consultation and with the concurrence of the katipunan ng kabataan, and within three months from assumption to office, formulate a three (3) year rolling plan which shall be known as the COMPREHENSIVE BARANGAY Youth Development Plan (MTBYDP) WHICH SHALL SERVE AS BASIS IN THE PREPARATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL YOUTH INVESTMENT PROGRAM. This Plan shall be in line with the COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL Youth Development Plan to be formulated by the Council, the COMPREHENSIVE Development Plan of the barangay and the municipality, city and province where it belongs AND THE PHILIPPINE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PLAN;
- (b) Approve the annual budget WHICH IS THE ANNUAL SLICE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE BARANGAY YOUTH INVESTMENT PROGRAM before the start of the succeeding fiscal year and, if the Sangguniang Kabataan funds allow, a supplemental budget. ANY CHANGES IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING APPLICABLE BUDGET RULES AND PROCEDURES;
- (c) Promulgate resolutions necessary to carry out the objectives of the youth in the barangay in accordance with the COMPREHENSIVE BARANGAY Youth Development Plan and the applicable provisions of this ACT;
- (d) Initiate and implement, in coordination with the Municipal or City Youth Development Council, any appropriate national government agency and/or any private or non-government institution, programs and projects designed to promote general welfare, development and empowerment of the youth;
- (e) Hold fund-raising activities which are in line with COMPREHENSIVE Barangay Youth Development Plan, the proceeds of which shall be tax-exempt and shall accrue to the general fund of the sangguniang kabataan: Provided, however, that in the appropriation thereof, the specific purpose for which such activity has been held shall be first satisfied. PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT ANY APPROPRIATIONS THEREOF SHALL BE IN

ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING APPLICABLE BUDGET, ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING RULES AND REGULATIONS;

- (f) Create regular and special committees and such other bodies whose chairpersons and members of which shall come from among the members of the sangguniang kabataan or from among the members of the katipunan ng kabataan, as it may deem necessary to effectively carry out its programs and activities;
- (g) Submit and present annual and end-of-term program ACCOMPLISHMENTS and financial reports to the sangguniang barangay and the katipunan ng kabataan, copy furnished the Office of the Local Government Operations Officer and the Municipal or City Youth Development Council, ALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRESCRIBED FORM BY THE DILG AND THE COMMISSION;
- (h) Assist in the establishment and registration of youth and youth-serving organizations who may qualify for membership and representation in the Council;
- (i) ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT A POLICY OF FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ALL ITS TRANSACTIONS AND DOCUMENTS INVOLVING PUBLIC INTEREST; and
- (j) Exercise such other powers and perform such other functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance, or delegated by the sangguniang barangay or the Commission.

Section 9. *Meetings of the Sangguniang Kabataan.* – (a) The sangguniang kabataan shall meet regularly once a month on the date, time and place to be fixed by the said sanggunian. Special meetings may be called by sangguniang kabataan chairperson or any four (4) of its members by giving written notice of the date, time, place and agenda of the meeting, which can be sent either through personal delivery, registered mail, fax or email, to all members, and must be received at least one (1) day in advance. The punong barangay, the sangguniang barangay and the Municipal or City Youth Development Council shall be furnished with notices of regular and special meetings.

(b) A majority of the members including the chairperson of the sangguniang kabataan shall constitute *quorum*.

Section 10. *Qualifications.* – (a) An elective official of the sangguniang kabataan must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the barangay for at least one (1) year, a qualified member of the katipunan ng kabataan who is at least eighteen (18) but not more than twenty-four (24) years of age on the day of the election, able to read and write Filipino, English or the local dialect, and must not have been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude.

(b) An appointive official of the sangguniang kabataan must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the barangay for at least six (6) months, a qualified member of the katipunan ng kabataan who is at least eighteen (18) but not more than twenty-four (24) years of age at the time of appointment, able to read and write Filipino, English or the local dialect, and must not have been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude.

Section 11. *Term of Office.* – (a) The chairperson and members of the sangguniang kabataan shall hold office for a fixed term of three (3) years unless sooner removed for cause, permanently incapacitated, die or resign from office. In case where for any valid reason the regular sangguniang kabataan election is not conducted, the incumbent sangguniang kabataan officials shall continue to hold office in a hold over capacity until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

(b) The sangguniang kabataan secretary and treasurer shall hold office co-terminus with their appointing authority unless sooner removed for cause as provided under Chapter II, Section 5 (c) of this Act and other applicable laws, their appointments are terminated by their appointing authority for loss of confidence or other legal causes, permanently incapacitated, die or resign from office.

Section 12. Sangguniang Kabataan Chairperson. - The chairperson of the sangguniang kabataan shall automatically serve as an ex-officio member of the sangguniang barangay upon his assumption to office. As such, he shall exercise the same powers, discharge the same duties and functions, and enjoy the same privileges as the regular sangguniang barangay members; and shall be the chairman of the committee on youth and sports development.

Section 13. Powers and Functions of the Sangguniang Kabataan Chairperson. - The sangguniang kabataan chairperson shall exercise such powers and discharge such duties as follows:

- (a) Call and preside over all meetings of the sangguniang kabataan, and vote in case of tie, and assemblies of the katipunan ng kabataan except when one of the agenda to be discussed in such assembly involves the disciplinary action against the sangguniang kabataan chairperson, in which case, the highest ranking sangguniang kabataan member shall preside;
- (b) Take the lead in the formulation of the Medium Term Barangay Youth Development and Investment Plan and in the adoption of the Annual Barangay Youth Development Plan;
- (c) Ensure the implementation of policies, programs and projects as contained in the Annual Barangay Youth Development Plan, in coordination with the sangguniang barangay and the Municipal or City Youth Development Council;
- (d) Sign all required documents and warrants drawn from the sangguniang kabataan funds for all expenditures in the implementation of the Annual Barangay Youth Development Plan;
- (e) Exercise general supervision over the affairs and activities of the sangguniang kabataan and the katipunan ng kabataan as well as the official conduct of its members;
- (f) With the concurrence of the sangguniang kabataan, appoint from among the qualified members of the katipunan ng kabataan a secretary and a treasurer;
- (g) Coordinate with the sangguniang barangay and other youth organizations within his barangay on youth-related programs and projects that they wish to initiate and implement and those programs and projects that the sangguniang kabataan shall implement;
- (h) Attend all mandatory capability trainings and seminars and impart the salient features of the same to members of the sangguniang kabataan within one (1) month after his attendance; and
- (i) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.
- (j) In applying the provisions of Articles 148 and 151 of the Revised Penal Code, The SK Chairman while in the actual performance of his duties or on the occasion of such performance, shall be deemed persons in authority

Section 14. Sangguniang Kabataan Secretary. - The sangguniang kabataan secretary shall:

- (a) Keep all the records of the katipunan ng kabataan, including the list of its qualified members, and of the sangguniang kabataan;
- (b) Prepare and keep all the minutes of all assemblies of the katipunan ng kabataan and of all the meetings of the sangguniang kabataan;

- (c) Assist the Commission on Elections and coordinate with the barangay secretary in the preparation of all forms necessary for the conduct of registration, elections, initiatives, referenda, or plebiscites;
- (d) Cause the posting, in the barangay bulletin board and in other conspicuous places within the jurisdiction of the barangay, of all resolutions approved by the sangguniang kabataan as well as the annual and end-of-term reports of the programs and projects implemented by the sangguniang kabataan and the dissemination of the same to the concerned offices, institutions and individuals; and
- (e) Keep a registry of all youth organizations and youth serving organizations in the barangay;
- (f) Act as a chief repository of youth policies, studies and research;
- (g) In accordance with the policy of full public disclosure, the SK Secretary is responsible to make available any resolutions, Comprehensive Barangay Youth Development Plan and other legislative or public documents to the public for copying or inspection, furthermore he is also responsible in uploading resolutions, Comprehensive Barangay Youth Development Plan and other documents involving public interest in different government and social media websites.
- (h) In applying the provisions of Articles 148 and 151 of the Revised Penal Code, The SK Secretary while in the actual performance of his duties or on the occasion of such performance, shall be deemed agents of a persons in authority; and
- (i) Perform such other duties and discharge such other functions as the sangguniang kabataan chairperson may prescribe or direct.

Section 15. *Sangguniang Kabataan Treasurer.* - The sangguniang kabataan treasurer shall:

- (a) Take custody of all sangguniang kabataan property and funds;
- (b) Collect and receive contributions, monies, materials, and all other resources intended for the sangguniang kabataan and the katipunan ng kabataan;
- (c) Serve as co-signatory in all withdrawals from the sangguniang kabataan funds and disburse funds in accordance with the approved annual budget and supplemental budget, as case may be, of the sangguniang kabataan;
- (d) Certify to the availability of the sangguniang kabataan funds whenever necessary;
- (e) Submit to the sangguniang kabataan and to the sangguniang barangay certified and detailed statements of actual income and expenditures at the end of every quarter and the posting of the same in the barangay bulletin board and in other conspicuous places within the jurisdiction of the barangay; and/or in the channel or platform prescribed thereto by DILG or NYC;
- (f) In applying the provisions of Articles 148 and 151 of the Revised Penal Code, The SK Treasurer while in the actual performance of his duties or on the occasion of such performance, shall be deemed an agent of a persons in authority; and
- (g) Render report during the regular katipunan ng kabataan assembly on the financial status of the sangguniang kabataan; and
- (h) Perform such other duties and discharge such other functions as the sangguniang kabataan chairperson may prescribe or direct.

Section 16. *Sangguniang Kabataan Funds.* - The Sangguniang Kabataan Funds shall be governed by the following provisions:

- (a) All the income of the barangay derived from whatever source shall accrue to its general fund and shall, at the option of the barangay concerned, be kept as trust fund on the custody of the city or municipal treasurer or be deposited in a bank, preferably government-owned, situated in or nearest to its area of

jurisdiction. Such funds shall be disbursed in accordance with the provisions of this Title. Ten percent (10%) of the general fund of the barangay shall be set aside for the sangguniang kabataan. The sangguniang barangay shall appropriate the sangguniang kabataan funds in lump sum which shall be disbursed solely for youth development and empowerment purposes.

- (b) The sangguniang kabataan shall have fiscal autonomy in its operations, disbursements and encashment of their income and expenditures. As such, the sangguniang kabataan funds shall be deposited in the name of the sangguniang kabataan of the concerned barangay in a government-owned bank situated in or nearest to its area of jurisdiction with the sangguniang kabataan chairperson and the sangguniang kabataan treasurer as the official signatories.
- (c) One percent (1%) of the sangguniang kabataan funds shall be allocated for, and remitted within the first quarter of the succeeding fiscal year, to the Municipal or City Youth Development Council. If a barangay falls within the territorial jurisdiction of a province, another one percent (1%) shall be allocated to, and remitted in similar manner, to the Provincial Youth Development Council.
- (d) All sangguniang kabataan funds shall be allocated in an annual budget, and if the funds allow, in a supplemental budget in accordance with the adopted Annual Barangay Youth Development Plan. Both the Medium Term Barangay Youth Development and Investment Plan and the Annual Barangay Youth Development Plan shall give priority to programs, projects and activities that will promote and ensure the meaningful youth participation in nation-building, sustainable youth development and empowerment, equitable access to quality education, environmental protection, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and resiliency, youth employment and livelihood, health and anti-drug abuse, gender sensitivity, capability building and sports development. These programs projects and activities should be in line with the Local Youth Development Plan and the Philippine Youth Development Plan
- (e) The sangguniang bayan or sangguniang panlungsod shall, within sixty days upon receipt hereof, review the annual budget and supplemental budget of the sangguniang kabataan on their compliance in the immediately preceding provision and other existing laws, rules and regulations. Non-compliance shall render said budgets inoperative either in whole or in part. Failure on the part of the sanggunian to complete the review within prescribed period shall render the said annual budget deemed approved.
- (f) All SK funds derived from any source shall be stated in the financial records. The SK Financial Records shall be kept by the SK Treasurer, with copies furnished to the Sangguniang Barangay, the KK, the City/Municipal Accountant and the LYDC, in simplified manner as may be prescribed by the Commission on Audit. All SK funds shall be subject to all existing accounting and auditing laws, rules and regulations

Section 17. Privileges of Sangguniang Kabataan Officials. – (a) All sangguniang kabataan officials, whether elected or appointed, shall, during their incumbency:

- (i) Be exempt from payment of tuition and matriculation fees while enrolled in any public tertiary school including state colleges and universities and those locally funded public educational institutions. The National Government shall reimburse said college or university the amount of the tuition and matriculation fees: Provided, that, to qualify for the privilege, the said officials shall enroll in a locally funded educational institution, or state college or university within or nearest their area of jurisdiction;
- (ii) Be exempt from taking the National Service Training Program – Civic Welfare Training Service (NSTP-CWTS) subjects. In lieu thereof, concerned sangguniang kabataan officials shall submit written reports, preferably with

photographs, of their participation in the implementation of programs, projects and activities as outlined in the Annual Barangay Youth Development Plan. Absence of such reports, or a finding to the contrary upon verification of submitted reports, will disqualify the concerned sangguniang kabataan officials from this privilege. The Commission on Higher Education and the Commission shall jointly promulgate the guidelines for the implementation of this provision;

- (iii) Be excused from attending their regular classes, if they are currently enrolled in any school, while attending their regular or special sangguniang kabataan meetings, and the sangguniang barangay sessions, in case of the sangguniang kabataan chairperson. A certification of attendance shall be issued by the sangguniang kabataan secretary, attested by the sangguniang kabataan chairperson and duly noted by the punong barangay and shall be submitted to the concerned faculty member and the dean of the educational institution as proof of attendance. In the case of the sangguniang kabataan secretary, the sangguniang kabataan chairperson shall issue the certification duly noted by the punong barangay. In the case of the sangguniang kabataan chairperson, the barangay secretary shall issue the certification of attendance duly noted by the punong barangay. Any person who shall falsely certify as to the attendance of any sangguniang kabataan official shall be criminally and administratively liable ;
- (iv) Be provided by the National Government with Philhealth coverage; and
- (v) Be entitled to receive actual travelling reimbursements as may be authorized by law, and subject to the availability of funds; Provided, That, such travel is directly related to the performance of their functions as sangguniang kabataan officials and is supported by duly approved travel order by the punong barangay, in the case of the sangguniang kabataan chairperson, or by the sangguniang kabataan chairperson in the case of the other sangguniang kabataan officials.
- (vi) All SK Officials shall undergo mandatory trainings and capability programs which capacitate them to become effective youth officials. For this purpose, the NYC is directed to provide said trainings and capability programs.

Section 18. The sangguniang kabataan chairperson shall be considered a person in authority as defined by law in connection with the actual discharge of his official duties and functions. All other sangguniang kabataan officials, whether elected or appointed, shall be considered agents of person in authority as defined by law in connection with the actual discharge of their duties and functions.

Section 19. *Suspension and Removal from Office.* - Any elected official of the sangguniang kabataan may, after the exercise of due process, be suspended for not more than six months or removed from office either by majority vote of all members of the sangguniang bayan or sangguniang panlungsod which has jurisdiction in the barangay of the concerned sangguniang kabataan official, or by majority vote of all the members of the katipunan ng kabataan of which the concerned sangguniang kabataan official is a duly registered member, on any of the following grounds:

- (a) Absence from the regular and special meetings of the sangguniang kabataan without valid cause for three (3) consecutive times;
- (b) Failure to convene the regular assembly of the katipunan ng kabataan for two (2) consecutive times;
- (c) Failure to convene the regular sangguniang kabataan meetings for three (3) consecutive months in the case of the sangguniang kabataan chairperson;
- (d) Deliberate failure to formulate the Medium Term Barangay Youth Development Plan, adopt the Annual Barangay Youth Development Plan or approve the annual budget within the prescribed period of time;

- (e) Deliberate failure to implement programs and projects outlined in the Annual Barangay Youth Development Plan;
- (f) Four (4) consecutive absences during the regular sangguniang barangay sessions without valid cause in the case of the sangguniang kabataan chairperson; and
- (g) Conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude; and violation of existing laws against graft and corruption and other civil service laws, rules and regulations.

Section 20. *Succession and Filling up of Vacancies.* – (a) In case a sangguniang kabataan chairperson refuses to assume office, fails to qualify, is convicted of a felony, voluntarily or automatically resigns, dies, is permanently incapacitated, is removed from office, or has been absent without leave for more than three months, the sangguniang kabataan member who obtained the highest number of votes in the election immediately preceding shall assume the office of the chairperson for the unexpired portion of his term, and shall discharge the powers and duties, and enjoy the rights and privileges appurtenant to the office. In case said member refuses to assume the position or fails to qualify, the sangguniang kabataan member obtaining the next highest number of votes shall assume the position of the chairperson for the unexpired portion of the term.

(b) Where two (2) or more sangguniang kabataan members obtained the same highest number of votes, the other sangguniang kabataan members shall conduct an election to choose the successor to the chairperson from among the said members.

(c) After the vacancy shall have been filled, the sangguniang kabataan chairperson shall, within thirty (30) days, call for a special katipunan ng kabataan assembly to elect a sangguniang kabataan member to complete the membership of said sanggunian: Provided, that, such special assembly is coordinated with the Office of the Local Government Operations Officer and the Commission on Elections of the municipality or city where the concerned barangay belongs. Such sangguniang kabataan member shall hold office for the unexpired portion of the term of the vacant seat.

(d) All other vacancies in the office of the sangguniang kabataan member shall be filled in accordance with the immediately preceding provision.

(e) In case of suspension of the sangguniang kabataan chairperson, the successor, as determined in subsections (a) and (b) of this Section, shall assume the position during the period of such suspension.

CHAPTER III

THE LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS

Section 21. *Creation.* - To ensure wide and multi-sectoral youth participation in local governance, there shall be in every municipality, city and province a local youth development council which shall be called Municipal Youth Development Council, City Youth Development Council and Provincial Youth Development Council, respectively.

Section 22. *Composition.* - The Council shall be composed of at least nine (9) but not more than twenty five (25) members who shall come from the official representatives of the following classifications of duly organized and/or accredited youth and youth-serving organizations who are at least fifteen (15) but not more than twenty-four (24) years of age:

- (a) The sangguniang kabataan;
- (b) Student councils or sangguniang mag-aaral of public and private secondary schools;
- (c) Student councils of public and private tertiary schools;

- (d) Out of school youth organizations;
- (e) Working youth, young entrepreneurs and young professional organizations;
- (f) Youth with specific needs organizations;
- (g) Community-based youth organizations;
- (h) Faith-based youth organizations; and
- (i) Political party and ideology-based youth organizations.

Section 23. *Organization, Accreditation, Registration of Youth and Youth-serving organizations and Selection of Council members.* – (a) For the purpose of representation in the Council and to provide an avenue to strengthen the sangguniang kabataan through sharing of best practices and successful experiences, the following provisions shall be adhered to:

- (a) There shall be an organization of the pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan to be known as follows:
 - (i) in municipalities, pambayang pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan which shall be composed of the sangguniang kabataan chairpersons of barangay in the municipality;
 - (ii) in cities, the panlungsod na pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan which shall be composed of the sangguniang kabataan chairpersons of barangay in the city; and
 - (iii) in provinces, panlalawigang pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan which shall be composed of the presidents of the pambayan at panlungsod na pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan.
- (b) The pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan shall, at all levels, elect from among themselves the president, vice-president, and such other officers as they may deem necessary. The concerned Local Government Operations Officer shall facilitate the conduct of the elections which shall commence within fifteen (15) days from the immediately preceding sangguniang kabataan elections in case of the pambayan and panlungsod na pederasyon, and within thirty (30) days in case of the panlalawigang pederasyon.
- (c) The term of office, manner of election, removal and suspension of the officers of the pederasyon at all levels shall be governed by the guidelines to be jointly issued by the Department of the Interior and Local Government and the Commission within thirty (30) days upon the effectivity of this Act.
- (d) Membership in the Council. The Council shall be composed of the following:
 - (i) The duly elected president of the pambayan, panlungsod and panlalawigang pederasyon shall serve as a member of the respective Council.
 - (ii) The vice-president of the pambayan or panlungsod na pederasyon whose president has been elected as president of the panlalawigang pederasyon shall serve as member of the concerned Council.
 - (iii) The president of the duly organized and school-accredited sangguniang mag-aaral or student council of any public or private secondary school within the municipality or city shall be a member of the Municipal or City Youth Development Council.
 - (iv) The president of the duly organized and school-accredited student council of any public or private tertiary school, if there is any, within the municipality or city shall be member of the Municipal or City Youth Development Council.
 - (v) Any existing youth or youth serving organization in any municipality or city, as classified in Section 22 (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j), who intends to be a member and participate in the Council shall register and be granted accreditation by the Commission.
 - (vi) Each member of the council must not have any relative elected in public office up to the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity.

(e) The registration and accreditation of the youth or youth serving organization as stipulated in the above immediately preceding subparagraph shall be in the following manner:

- (i) Those from the municipality or component city must register with the Provincial Youth Coordinator.
- (ii) Those from the Metropolitan Manila area shall register with the national office of the Commission.
- (iii) Those from other highly urbanized cities outside of the Metropolitan Manila area shall register with the designated area or regional offices of the Commission. For this purpose, Section 10 (i) and (m) of Republic Act No. 8044 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 10. *Functions of the Commission.* – The Commission shall have the following functions:

- (a) xxx
- (b) xxx

(i) To establish such organizational structures including area, regional and provincial offices as may be required to effectively carry out its functions;

(m) To establish and/or facilitate and help in the establishment of youth organizations and youth-serving organizations through its respective area, regional and provincial offices, and to register and to accredit them to qualify for membership in the Local Youth Development Councils;

- (q) xxx

- (f) For the purpose of the paragraph (d) subparagraph (v) of this Section, a youth or youth serving-organization shall have an actual active membership of at least twenty (20) who are at least fifteen (15) but not more than twenty four (24) years old who are residents of the municipality or the city where the organization intends to register and the organization has a written constitution and by-laws, a clearly stated vision, mission and programs for the youth.
- (g) To give equal opportunity for the youth, from the time of the enactment of this Act and up to the deadline for registration set by the Commission, non-organized youth groups may formally organize themselves and register in accordance with Section 23 (d) and (e) above.
- (h) The Commission shall provide a clearly defined and stakeholder-friendly registration and accreditation procedure including an internet-based registration process.
- (i) In coordination with the concerned Local Government Operations Officer or other offices or agencies in the local government, the Commission shall verify the registration information provided by these organizations.
- (j) The registration and accreditation of these organizations shall be conducted by the Commission every three years. However, upon determination of the need, the Commission may conduct a continuing registration procedure but taking into consideration the budgetary and manpower requirements and presence of youth and youth-serving organizations who will avail. Youth and youth-serving organizations which are already registered must renew their registration and accreditation every three years to qualify them for membership in the Council.
- (k) The duly-elected president of the registered and accredited youth and youth-serving organizations shall serve as members of the Municipal or City Youth Development Councils.
- (l) In the event that in any municipality or city, there are more than three (3) accredited student councils in the secondary and tertiary levels, or there are more than three youth or youth-serving organizations in any classification as provided for in Section 22 (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j), the Local Government Operations Officer of the concerned municipality or city in

coordination with the NYC Youth Affairs Provincial Officer shall assemble them in a public venue, on the day set in the Calendar of Activities promulgated to implement this Act and every year thereafter, and by consensus or secret balloting chose from among themselves the three (3) who will represent their respective classifications at the Municipal or City Youth Development Council.

(m) The Provincial Youth Coordinator, and with the assistance of the Provincial Local Government Operations Officer, shall convene all members of the Municipal and City Youth Development Councils within the province and shall, except for the president of the *panlalawigang pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan*, choose a maximum of three members from among the representatives of each respective classifications who shall serve as members of the Provincial Youth Development Council.

(n) The Internal rules and regulations in the *Organization, Accreditation, Registration of Youth and Youth-serving organizations and Selection of Council members* shall be governed by the guidelines to be jointly issued by the Department of the Interior and Local Government and the Commission within thirty (30) days upon the effectivity of this Act.

Section 24. Duties and Functions of the Council. - The Council shall discharge the following duties and perform the following functions:

- (a) Serve as the core of the advocacy on youth participation in nation-building and youth empowerment;
- (b) With the assistance of the respective local government unit, conduct a study and maintain data on the situation of the youth in its locality;
- (c) Formulate the local Medium-Term Youth Development Plan anchored on the Medium-Term Philippine Youth Development Program and the local development plans of the local government unit concerned which shall give priority to programs, projects and activities that will promote and ensure the meaningful youth participation in nation-building, sustainable youth development and empowerment, equitable access to quality education, environmental protection, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and resiliency, youth employment and livelihood, health and anti-drug abuse, gender sensitivity, capability building and sports development.
- (d) Prioritize programs, projects and activities that will be included in the Annual Youth Development Plan which shall be recommended to the local chief executive and the local sanggunian for inclusion in the Annual Investment Plan and funded in the local budget of the local government unit concerned;
- (e) Establish enabling mechanisms which shall provide a forum for youth consultations and feedback gathering systems;
- (f) Consolidate and recommend to the local sanggunian through the youth sector representative youth development policies needing local legislations;
- (g) Assist the national government agencies and the local government unit in the promotion and implementation of youth development programs and projects;
- (h) Conduct fund raising activities, proceeds of which shall be tax-exempt and receive contributions, donations, grants and aids from government and private institutions for the implementation of priority programs and projects for the youth in its jurisdiction;
- (i) Approve the Council annual budget and authorize the disbursement of the Council funds;
- (j) Monitor the implementation of youth development programs and projects of the Sangguniang Kabataan in its jurisdiction including the manner of using its funds;
- (k) Provide support to youth and youth-serving organizations in its jurisdiction;
- (l) Endorse youth and youth serving organizations for the accreditation of the local sanggunian for purposes of representation in the local development council and other local special bodies;

- (m) Prepare and submit annual program and financial reports to the local chief executive, the local sanggunian, the Office of the Local Government Operations Officer, the Commission and the Provincial Youth Development Council, in the case of the Municipal and City Youth Development Councils in its jurisdiction; and
- (n) Adopt and implement a policy of full public disclosure of all its transactions involving public interest; to this end any resolutions, LYDP, other legislative or public documents shall be made available to the public for copying or inspection, furthermore resolutions, LYDP and other documents involving public interest shall be uploaded in different government and social media websites, also these documents shall be posted in at least three conspicuous places in the locality.
- (o) To recommend to the Governor/City/Municipal Mayor the establishment of youth centers as deemed necessary;
- (p) For the City/ Municipal Youth Development Council – review, deliberate, and certify that the Comprehensive Barangay Youth Development Plan is in line with the City/ Municipal Youth Development Plan.
- (q) For the Provincial Youth Development Council – review, deliberate, and certify that the City/ Municipal Youth Development Plan is in line with the Provincial Youth Development Plan.
- (r) Discharge such other duties and perform such other functions as may be delegated or necessary.

Section 25. *Meetings and Quorum.* – (a) The Council shall meet at least once every three (3) months. However, the Council president or at least one-third of the total membership of the Council may call for a special meeting by giving a written notice, which can be sent either through personal delivery, registered mail, fax or email, to all members of the date, time, place and agenda of the meeting which must be received at least two (2) days in advance.

(b) The presence of the majority of all members of the Council shall constitute quorum.

(c) The duly elected officers of the Council shall constitute the Council Executive Board and shall meet at least once a month, or upon the call of the Council president to discuss urgent matters and update on the status of implementation of the youth development programs and projects.

Section 26. *Privileges of the members of the Council.* – (a) All members of the Council shall, during their incumbency:

- (i) Be exempt from payment of tuition and matriculation fees while enrolled in any public secondary, tertiary and graduate school including state colleges and universities and those locally funded public educational institutions. The National Government shall reimburse said educational institution the amount of the tuition and matriculation fees: Provided, That, to qualify for the privilege, the said members shall enroll in a locally funded public educational institution, or state college or university within or nearest their area of jurisdiction;
- (ii) Be exempt from taking the National Service Training Program – Civic Welfare Training Service (NSTP-CWTS) subjects. In lieu thereof, concerned Council member shall submit written reports, preferably with photographs, of their participation in the implementation of programs, projects and activities as outlined in the Annual Youth Development Plan. Absence of such reports, or a finding to the contrary upon verification of submitted reports, shall disqualify the concerned Council member from this privilege. The Commission on Higher Education and the Commission shall jointly promulgate the guidelines for the implementation of this provision;

- (iii) Be provided by the National Government with Philhealth coverage; and
- (iv) Be entitled to receive actual travelling reimbursements as may be authorized by law, and subject to the availability of funds, during their attendance on the meetings of the Council.

b) The youth sector representative to the local sanggunian who is currently enrolled in any academic institution is excused from attending his regular classes while in attendance during the regular or special sanggunian sessions. A certification of attendance shall be issued by the secretary to the sanggunian attested by the presiding officer and shall be submitted to the concerned faculty member and the dean of the educational institution as proof of his attendance. Any person who shall falsely certify as to the attendance of the youth sector representative shall be criminally and administratively liable.

Section 27. *Term of Office of the Council members.* - Except for the president or the vice president, as the case may be, of the pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan, the term of office of all the members of the Council shall be co-terminus in their term of office as president of their respective organizations, but in no case shall be more than three (3) consecutive years.

Section 28. *Membership in the Sanggunian.* - (a) Within one (1) month from the conduct of the sangguniang kabataan election, and every year thereafter, in the case of the municipality and city, and within forty-five (45) days in the case of province, the Local Government Operations Officer of the concerned local government unit shall convene all the members of the Council in a public and neutral venue. Once convened, the venue shall be closed to public. Except for the Council members, the election committee and the representative of the Commission, if there is any, no other person is allowed to be present in the venue. He shall first give a detailed orientation on the provisions of this Act. He shall give the members reasonable time to discuss and articulate on the matters relating to this Act and to the youth in general and the opportunity to introduce themselves, their advocacies, vision and how they can contribute in nation building and youth empowerment.

(b) The Election Committee, which shall be composed by the Local Government Operations Officer as chairman, and the Election Officer and the secretary to the local sanggunian of the concerned local government unit as members, shall then conduct the election of officers of the Council. The Council members shall elect from among themselves a president, a vice president, a secretary and a treasurer and such other officers as they may deem necessary. The Election Committee shall proclaim the winning officers of the Council by virtue of the number of votes they have garnered.

(c) The duly proclaimed president of the Municipal Youth Development Council, the City Youth Development Council and the Provincial Youth Development Council shall serve as ex-officio member of the sangguniang bayan, sangguniang panlungsod and sangguniang panlalawigan, respectively, without need of further appointment or concurrence. He shall exercise the same powers, discharge the same duties and functions, and enjoy the same privileges as the regular members. However, he cannot employ in his public office any relative within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity. He shall be the chairman of the committee on youth and sports development in the said sanggunian, and a regular member of the committees on education, environment, employment and livelihood, health and anti-drug abuse, and gender and development. Further, he shall serve as ex-officio member of local school board, local development council, local health board, local tourism council and local peace and order council. His entitlement to representation and transportation allowances and monthly salary shall be pro-rated for every session of the sanggunian he has attended. A youth sector representative to the sanggunian who, during his term of office, shall have

passed the age of twenty-four (24) years shall be allowed to serve the remaining portion of the term for which he is elected.

Section 29. *Qualifications of Officers.* – An officer of the Council must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the local government unit for at least one (1) year, a qualified member of any youth or youth serving-organization as classified in Section 22 hereof, at least eighteen (18) but not more than twenty-four (24) years of age on the day of the Council election, able to read and write Filipino, English or the local dialect, must not have been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude, and must not be related to any incumbent elected national, local or barangay official within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity. If at any time during his term, a relative within the 4th degree of affinity or consanguinity is elected into office said officer will be considered automatically resigned from his office.

Section 30. *Term of Office of the Council Officers.* - Duly elected officers of the Council shall serve for one (1) year. However, they can be re-elected for another term of one (1) year. No president of the Council shall serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms. In case where for any valid reason the regular election of officers of the Council is not conducted on the period herein prescribed, the incumbent president shall continue to hold office in a hold over capacity until his successor is duly elected and qualified.

Section 31. *Powers, Duties and Functions of the Council President.* - Other than serving as ex-officio member of the sanggunian, the president of the Council shall exercise the following powers, discharge the following duties and perform the following functions:

- (a) Preside over all meetings of the Council and its officers;
- (b) Initiate the formulation of the Annual Youth Development Plan, ensure its integration in the Annual Investment Plan and facilitate the corresponding allocation funds from the annual and/or supplemental budget of the concerned local government unit;
- (c) Implement policies, programs and projects as incorporated in the Annual Youth Development Plan together with the members of the Council and in coordination with the concerned national government agencies, local government offices and private institutions;
- (d) Exercise general supervision over the affairs and activities of the Council and the official conduct of its members; and
- (e) Exercise such other powers, discharge such other duties and perform such other functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance, or as the Council may delegate.

Section 32. *Duties and Functions of the Council Vice President.* - In case of permanent vacancy in the office of the Council president, the vice president shall assume the office for the unexpired portion of the term. As such, he shall exercise the powers, discharge the duties and perform the functions of the office of the president without need of further appointment or concurrence. However, in case of temporary vacancy in the office of the president which in no case shall be more than one (1) month, the vice president shall temporarily assume the office and exercise the powers, discharge the duties and perform the functions of the president except representation in the local sanggunian. Provided, that, in case the Council president is suspended either as ex-officio member of the sanggunian or as Council president, the vice president shall assume the office and exercise the powers, discharge the duties and perform the functions of the president including representation in the local sanggunian.

Section 33. *Duties and Functions of the Council Secretary.* - The Council secretary shall:

- (a) Prepare and keep the minutes of all meetings of the Council and its officers;

- (b) Keep all the records of the Council;
- (c) Send notices of regular and special meetings of the Council and its officers;
- (d) Cause the publication/posting in the local government unit's bulletin boards and other conspicuous public places of all plans, resolutions and official acts of the Council including its annual accomplishment reports; furthermore he is also responsible in uploading resolutions, LYDP other documents involving public interest in different government and social media websites and
- (e) Discharge such other duties and perform such other functions as the president and the Council may prescribe or direct.

Section 34. *Duties and Functions of the Council Treasurer.* - The Council Treasurer shall:

- (a) Take custody of all Council properties and funds;
- (b) Receive, and issue the corresponding receipt or acknowledgment, contributions, donations, grants and aids, whether in cash or in kind, from government and private sources intended for the Council;
- (c) Disburse funds in accordance with the duly approved annual budget of the Council;
- (d) Certify to the availability of funds whenever necessary;
- (e) Submit to the Council certified and detailed statements of actual income and expenditures at the end of every quarter;
- (f) Cause the publication/or posting in the local government unit's bulletin boards and other conspicuous public places the quarterly and end-of-the-year financial reports on the income and expenditures of the Council; and
- (g) Discharge such other duties and perform such other functions as the president and the Council may prescribe and direct.

Section 35. *Council Funds.* - (a) All funds which shall be received by the Council from any source and the proceeds from any fund raising activity shall be deposited in the name of the Council in a government-owned bank situated in or nearest to its area of jurisdiction with the Council president and treasurer as the official signatories. Disbursements from the Council funds derived from government sources shall be subject to government audit.

(b) The Provincial Youth Development Council, in case the municipality or city falls within its jurisdiction, or the Commission in case of a highly urbanized city and a province, shall review, within sixty (60) days from receipt hereof, the annual budget of the Council on their compliance with Section 24(c) of this Act and other existing laws, rules and regulations. Non-compliance shall render said budget inoperative either in whole or in part. Failure on the part the Provincial Youth Development Council or the Commission to complete the review within the prescribed period shall render the said annual budget deemed approved.

Section 36. The manner of election, removal and suspension of the officers, succession and filling up of vacancies, and functions of other officers of the council not herein provided shall be governed by the guidelines to be jointly issued by the Department of the Interior and Local Government and the Commission within thirty (30) days upon the effectivity of this Act. Provided, That, the president of the Council who is suspended or removed from his position in accordance with these joint guidelines shall also be deemed suspended or removed in the local sanggunian where he sits as an ex-officio member. On the same manner, the president of the Council when suspended or removed as ex-officio member of the local sanggunian on the grounds and manner provided for in Republic Act No. 7160, shall be deemed suspended or removed as president of the Council.

CHAPTER IV

THE LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Section 37. *Creation.* - There shall be in every municipality, city and province a youth development office which shall be headed by a youth development officer with the rank of at least division chief. Such may be put under the office of the local chief executive, the office of the planning and development, the office of the social welfare or in any other office deemed appropriate by the local government unit. If the funds of the local government unit are sufficient, it can be a separate department with divisions and units for policy and planning, administration and finance, and programs and operations. In the event when the local government unit has exceeded the prescribed personal services limitations, the local chief executive may designate existing personnel to serve this purpose until such time that the local government unit can already create this office.

Section 38. *Qualifications and Term of Office of the Youth Development Officer and other Personnel.* - (a) The youth development officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the local government unit concerned for at least one year prior to his appointment, at least twenty one (21) but not more than thirty (30) years of age on the time of his appointment, a college degree holder, and of good moral character. He must have acquired experience in youth development affairs or involvement in youth or youth-serving organizations for at least three (3) years. He shall be appointed by the local chief executive upon endorsement of any accredited youth or youth-serving organization and shall be co-terminus with the appointing authority. However, he may be re-appointed to the same position by the succeeding local chief executive subject to the qualifications and requirements herein prescribed.

(b) The other personnel of the local youth development office shall be appointed by the local chief executive in whatever status of appointment it may deem appropriate, subject to availability of funds and in accordance with civil service rules and regulations.

(c) No *Youth Development Officer or personnel* shall be appointed within the 4th fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity of the appointing authority

Section 39. *Functions.* - The local youth development office shall have the following functions:

- (a) Serve as secretariat of the Council;
- (b) To provide the necessary administrative, operational, staff and technical support to the P/C/MYDC;
- (c) Assist the Council in the discharge of its duties and performance of its functions;
- (d) To facilitate disbursement of funds allocated in the annual or supplemental budget of the local government unit for the implementation of programs and projects of the Council as outlined in the Annual Youth Development Plan and incorporated in the Annual Investment Plan of the local government unit;
- (e) Help facilitate the establishment, registration and accreditation of youth and youth-serving organizations;
- (f) Assist the Commission whenever necessary;
- (g) Assist in the conduct of capability building activities for the Council and other youth and youth serving-organizations as well as the sangguniang kabataan; and
- (h) To coordinate, harmonize and implement youth development programs, projects and activities, as identified by the P/C/MYDC in the Provincial/ City/Municipal Youth Development Plan, in coordination with various national government agencies, local government units, youth organizations, or youth serving organizations handling youth-related programs, projects and activities;

- (i) To submit an annual or quarterly report on all youth development policies, programs, projects and activities undertaken by the P/C/MYDC to the National Youth Commission, the City/Municipal Mayor, the local Sanggunian, the various government agencies, local government units, youth organizations and youth serving organizations;
- (j) To lead, upon the approval of the Provincial/City/Municipal Mayor, all youth programs, projects and activities of the local government;
- (k) To endorse youth organizations and youth serving organizations for accreditation, for purposes of representation in the Provincial, Municipal or City Development Councils and other local special bodies pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Code and other laws;
- (l) In accordance with the policy of full public disclosure, the Secretariat through the local youth development officer is tasked with the responsibility to make available, any resolutions, LYDP, and other legislative or public documents to the public for copying or inspection
- (m) Perform such other functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance, or as the Council may require.

Section 40. *Funding.* - The local government unit shall incorporate in its annual budget such amount as may be necessary for the operation and effective functioning of the Local Youth Development Office.

CHAPTER V

CAPABILITY BUILDING AND REORIENTATION TOWARDS NATION BUILDING AND EMPOWERMENT

Section 41. *Mandatory and Continuing Training Programs.* - (a) Before any sangguniang kabataan official, whether elected or appointed, or any member of the Council can assume office, he must undergo the mandatory training program which shall have two basic components: (i) reorientation on patriotism, nationalism and values-enhancement towards nation building and (ii) capability building on leadership, program and project development and sustainability, financial management, and accountability and transparency. Deliberate failure to attend the said training program shall constitute sufficient ground to disqualify said sangguniang kabataan official or Council member.

(b) During their incumbency, they shall attend continuing training programs to be conducted by the Commission and the Department of the Interior and Local Government. Deliberate failure to attend this training program may constitute a ground for disciplinary action.

Section 42. Section 10 (o) of Republic Act No. 8044 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 10. *Functions of the Commission.* - The Commission shall have the following functions:

- (a) xxxx
- (o) To design and provide mandatory and continuing training programs to the sangguniang kabataan and the local youth development councils;
- (q) xxxx

Section 43. The Commission and the Department of the Interior and Local Government shall jointly design and implement the mandatory and continuing training programs as herein provided. They may seek the technical assistance of government training institutions such as the Development Academy of the Philippines, the Local Government Academy and the University of the Philippines - National College of Public

Administration and Governance, among others, in conceptualizing holistic and effective reorientation and capability building programs for the new youth leaders.

Section 44. *Training Fund.* - A training fund with an initial amount of fifteen million pesos (P15,000,000.00) is hereby established and appropriated from any available source to be managed jointly by the Commission and the Department of the Interior and Local Government. Thereafter, such amount needed for this purpose shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

CHAPTER VI

LINGGO NG KABATAAN

Section 45. *Observance of Linggo ng Kabataan.* - (a) Every barangay, city, municipality and province shall, in coordination with the SK in the barangay and LYDC in the city, municipality and province, shall conduct an annual activity to be known as the Buwan ng Kabataan every month of AUGUST every year to coincide with the International Youth Day which is celebrated on Aug 12.

(b) The observance of the Linggo ng Kabataan shall include the election of the counterparts of all local elective and appointive officials, as well as heads of national offices or agencies stationed or assigned in the territorial jurisdiction of the local government unit, among in-school and community youth residing in the local government concerned from ages thirteen (13) to seventeen (17). During said week, they shall hold office as boy and girl officials and shall perform such duties and conduct such activities as may be provided in the ordinance enacted pursuant to this Chapter.

CHAPTER VII

REGISTRATION, ELECTION AND ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE

Section 46. *Registration.* - (a) For purposes of the next regular sangguniang kabataan election under this Act, the Commission on Elections should fix a special registration of the katipunan ng kabataan which shall in no case be less than one (1) month and shall include Saturdays and Sundays to give the youth especially those studying and working the opportunity to register. Subsequent registration of the katipunan ng kabataan shall be governed by Republic Act No. 8189 including the system of continuing registration.

(b) For purposes of the establishment of Council under this Act, the Commission shall fix the period during which youth and youth-serving organizations may register with the Commission. Further, the Commission shall devise a mechanism to reach out to all municipalities and cities and encourage existing youth and youth-serving organizations to register, and those youth groups which are not yet organized to formally organize themselves and register with the Commission.

Section 47. *Date of Election.* - Sangguniang kabataan elections shall be held at the same time as the barangay elections.

CHAPTER VIII

FINAL PROVISIONS

Section 48 (49). *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act including the funding requirement for the appointment of the provincial youth coordinator shall be incorporated in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 49 (50). *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Department of the Interior and Local Government, National Youth Commission, Commission on Elections, Department of Budget and Management, Commission on Higher Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Department of Education, and the Commission on Audit, in consultation with the local government leagues, shall be tasked to come up, within sixty (60) days upon approval of this Act, with the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) needed for the implementation of this Act.

Section 50. *Election Offenses-* Pertinent provisions of the Omnibus Election Code, other election laws, rules and regulations if applicable shall be implemented in order to prevent vote buying and other election related offenses in the election of Sangguniang Kabataan Officials, Officers, and members of the P/C/MYDC.

Section 51. *Separability Clause.* - If for any reason or reasons, any part or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 52. *Repealing Clause.* - Sections 329, 423-439 R.A. No. 7160 also known as "The Local Government Code of 1991", Section 10 of R.A. No. 8044 otherwise known as "Youth In Nation-Building Act", Sections 1 & 2 of R.A. 9340 entitled "An Act Amending Republic Act 9164, resetting the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections, and for other purposes," and all other laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, letters of instruction, rules and regulations or portions thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 53. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.