

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5722



Introduced by
KABATAAN Party-list Rep. RENEE LOUISE M. CO,
ACT Teachers Party-list Rep. ANTONIO L. TINIO, and
Gabriela Women's Party Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO

AN ACT
REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10973, THEREBY REVOKING THE
AUTHORITY OF THE CHIEF OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP)
AND THE DIRECTOR AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR
ADMINISTRATION OF THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION AND DETECTION
GROUP (CIDG) TO ADMINISTER OATH AND TO ISSUE SUBPOENA AND
SUBPOENA DUCES TECUM

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 10973, enacted into law on 1 March 2018 under then-President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, granted the Chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Director and Deputy Director for Administration of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) the authority to administer oaths and to issue subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum in the course of their investigative functions. Shortly after its approval, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) publicly assured the Filipino people that the PNP would not abuse the subpoena powers conferred by the law and that such powers would be exercised strictly within the bounds of due process and respect for civil liberties.

Less than a decade later, these assurances have been directly contradicted by a series of subpoenas issued by the CIDG against four prominent youth and student leaders who have been at the forefront of anti-corruption mobilizations.

- On 30 September 2025, the Deputy Secretary General of Kalayaan Kontra Korapsyon (KKK), also a Film Student from De La Salle - College of Saint Benilde, received a subpoena dated 29 September 2025.

- On 7 October 2025, Jacob Baluyot, National Chairperson of Alyansa ng Kabataang Mamamahayag ng Politeknikong Unibersidad ng Pilipinas (AKM PUP), received a subpoena dated 3 October 2025.
- On 22 October 2025, Tiffany Faith Brillante, President of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines Sentral na Konseho ng Mag-aaral (PUP SKM), received a subpoena dated 21 October 2025.
- On 24 October 2025, Joaquin Buenaflor, Chairperson of the University of the Philippines Diliman University Student Council (UPD USC), received a subpoena dated 21 October 2025.

All four subpoenas cite an identical purpose: “IN RE: To Determine the Facts and Circumstances Attending the Violent Incidents During the Public Demonstration Tagged as ‘Trillion Peso March’, on September 21, 2025, in Metro Manila, and Other Related Incidents Thereto.” While interchanging two separate events, namely, the Trillion Peso March held in EDSA and the Baha sa Luneta which pressed on to Mendiola, the PNP and CIDG also fail to recognize that these mass mobilizations were well within the constitutionally enshrined rights of the youth, students, and civil society organizations to protest against the widespread corruption, misuse of public funds, and lack of transparency and accountability in government. The demonstrations were part of a broader campaign demanding accountability of public officials, the abolition of pork barrel funds and other such funds that are prone to abuse, and genuine service to the Filipino people.

The issuance of these subpoenas has been widely condemned by human rights organizations, student groups, and legal experts as blatant harassment and intimidation tactics designed to silence dissent and chill the exercise of constitutionally protected rights to free speech, assembly, and petition for redress of grievances. The youth leaders subpoenaed have not been accused of any crime; rather, they have been targeted precisely because of their visibility and leadership in organizing legitimate protests against corruption. This represents a dangerous pattern of using state investigative powers not to pursue justice, but to persecute critics and suppress opposition.

The actions of the PNP and CIDG demonstrate that the subpoena powers granted under R.A. 10973 are being systematically abused to serve political ends rather than legitimate law enforcement objectives. These powers, ostensibly intended to aid criminal investigation, have instead become instruments of state repression wielded against activists, organizers, and ordinary citizens who dare to question government wrongdoing. The chilling effect of such abuse extends far beyond the individuals directly targeted, creating an atmosphere of fear that discourages civic engagement and undermines democratic participation.

The constitutional rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and petition for redress of grievances are non-negotiable pillars of Philippine democracy. When law enforcement agencies are granted quasi-judicial powers such as the issuance of subpoenas without adequate safeguards or judicial oversight, and when

those powers are then weaponized against lawful dissent, the remedy is not mere regulation but outright revocation. The experience of the past years has conclusively shown that the PNP and CIDG cannot be entrusted with these powers.

Therefore, this bill seeks the full repeal of R.A. 10973, thereby revoking the authority of the Chief of the Philippine National Police and the Director and Deputy Director for Administration of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group to administer oaths and to issue subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum. The power to compel testimony and the production of evidence is a quasi-judicial function that must remain subject to rigorous checks and balances, judicial oversight, and respect for constitutional rights—conditions that have been repeatedly violated under the current regime.

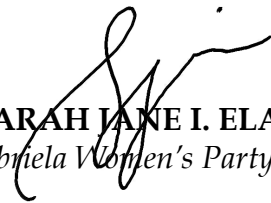
In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



REP. RENEE LOUISE M. CO
KABATAAN Party-list



REP. ANTONIO L. TINIO
ACT Teachers Party-list



REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Gabriela Women's Party

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AUTHORITY OF THE CHIEF OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP)
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GROUP (CIDG) TO ADMINISTER OATH AND TO ISSUE SUBPOENA AND
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Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Republic Act No. 10973, entitled *AN ACT GRANTING THE CHIEF OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) AND THE DIRECTOR AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION AND DETECTION GROUP (CIDG) THE AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER OATH AND TO ISSUE SUBPOENA AND SUBPOENA DUCES TECUM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990"*, is hereby repealed.

SECTION 2. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, jurisprudence, executive orders, executive issuances or letter of instructions, or any part thereof, inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or one (1) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,