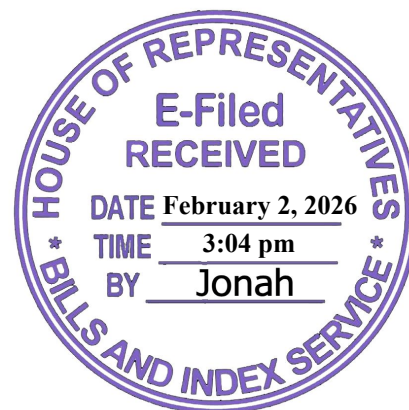


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 7547



Introduced by Honorable Ma. Alana Samanta Taliño Santos

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE MEANINGFUL OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL YOUTH DAY THROUGH DELIVERABLE-BASED PROGRAMMING, LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS, AND DEDICATED FUNDING, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11913, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 11913 declares August 12 of every year as National Youth Day and mandates the National Youth Commission (NYC), in coordination with DepEd, CHED, TESDA, the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK), the National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP), and other youth-serving organizations, to prepare and implement an annual program of activities for the meaningful observance of the celebration.

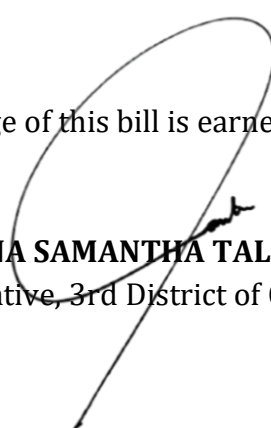
While the observance has been institutionalized, experience shows that the impact of a nationwide commemoration depends on whether it is designed as an outcomes-oriented program with clear deliverables, local implementation mechanisms, and sustained funding, rather than being limited to ceremonial or ad hoc activities.

This proposed measure strengthens RA 11913 by: (a) requiring a National Youth Day Annual Plan with minimum deliverables and measurable indicators; (b) establishing a clearer local implementation mechanism through youth development offices and the SK; (c) mandating monitoring and evaluation and an annual report to Congress; and (d) strengthening the appropriations provision by directing the inclusion of dedicated and identifiable line items in the annual General Appropriations Act corresponding to the Annual Plan.

This approach is consistent with the statutory role of the NYC as the central policy-making and coordinating body for youth-related programs and activities under Republic Act No. 8044.

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

HON. MA. ALANA SAMANTHA TALIÑO SANTOS
Representative, 3rd District of Cotabato

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over the name and title of the representative. The signature is a cursive representation of the name 'Alana Samantha Taliño Santos'.

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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 the “National Youth Day Programs and Funding Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote holistic youth development by ensuring a meaningful, nationwide, and outcomes-oriented observance of National Youth Day, supported by coordinated programming among national government agencies, local government units (LGUs), the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK), educational institutions, and youth-serving organizations, led by the National Youth Commission (NYC).

SEC. 3. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 11913 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 4. Program of Activities; National Youth Day Deliverables; Annual Plan. — To ensure the meaningful observance of National Youth Day, the National Youth Commission (NYC), in coordination with the Department of Education (DepED), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK), the National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP), other youth and youth-serving organizations, and concerned government agencies, shall prepare and implement an annual program of activities including, but not limited to, discussions and/or forums on career paths, sustainable development, environment preservation, gender equality, and mental health.

For this purpose, the NYC may engage in partnerships with local and international youth organizations suitable to providing these discussions. Youth organizations and youth-serving organizations shall likewise support the NYC in its effort to promote and facilitate related activities in all public and private schools.

To institutionalize deliverable-based National Youth Day programming, the annual program shall include, at minimum, the following components, subject to the implementing rules and regulations:

- (a) Youth Education-to-Employment and Career Pathways Activities. — Career guidance, internships or apprenticeship information, job fairs or job matching, and skills-to-jobs orientations in coordination with relevant agencies and partners;
- (b) Youth Civic Participation and Governance Activities. — Youth consultations, civic innovation activities, and youth governance learning sessions conducted with the SK and youth councils;
- (c) Youth Health, Well-being, and Protection Activities. — Age-appropriate information sessions and referral pathways on health and protection services, including mental health and anti-violence support channels;
- (d) Youth Environment and Climate Action Activities. — Community immersion, environmental and climate action initiatives, and disaster readiness sessions, as applicable; and
- (e) Inclusive Youth Development. — Activities designed to be accessible to out-of-school youth, learners with disabilities, indigenous youth, and other vulnerable or marginalized youth groups, as appropriate.

The NYC shall issue, not later than March 31 of every year, a National Youth Day Annual Plan identifying priority themes, minimum deliverables, implementing partners, and monitoring indicators.

All schools, colleges, and universities are hereby enjoined to launch activities in celebration of National Youth Day: Provided, That the respective administration of schools, colleges, and universities shall extend support to student-led activities consistent with institutional policies and guidelines.

All provincial and local youth development offices are likewise enjoined to prepare an annual program and conduct activities that shall provide holistic development and enrichment of the youth in their respective communities.”

SEC. 4. A new section is hereby inserted after Section 4 of Republic Act No. 11913 to read as follows:

“SEC. 4-A. Local Implementation Mechanism. — Within their respective jurisdictions, provincial, city, municipal, and barangay youth development offices, where existing, and the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) shall support the implementation of National Youth Day programs and shall coordinate with the NYC, DepED, CHED, TESDA, and other concerned agencies in organizing local activities.

The NYC, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), shall issue guidance on local coordination arrangements, minimum reporting templates, and inclusion measures for out-of-school youth and marginalized youth sectors, subject to the implementing rules and regulations.”

SEC. 5. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 11913 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of the amendatory Act strengthening Republic Act No. 11913, the NYC, in coordination with DepED, CHED, TESDA, DILG, the SK, the NUSP, other youth and youth-serving organizations, and other relevant agencies, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) to implement Republic Act No. 11913, as amended, or amend any existing IRR accordingly.

The IRR shall, at a minimum, provide for: (a) minimum deliverables and national standards for annual themes; (b) accessibility and inclusion standards; (c) monitoring and evaluation indicators; (d) reporting templates for national agencies and LGUs; and (e) safeguards for partnerships and resource mobilization, including conflict-of-interest and transparency measures, consistent with existing laws, rules, and regulations.

The IRR and any subsequent amendments thereto which impose substantive requirements shall take effect only upon compliance with applicable publication and filing requirements.”

SEC. 6. A new section is hereby inserted after Section 5 of Republic Act No. 11913 to read as follows:

“SEC. 5-A. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Annual Report. — The NYC shall establish a monitoring and evaluation system for National Youth Day programs.

Not later than December 31 of every year, the NYC shall submit to Congress and publish an Annual National Youth Day Report containing, at minimum: (a) national and local activities conducted; (b) participation metrics disaggregated by age group and sector to the extent allowed by law; (c) program outputs and outcome indicators; (d) summary of expenditures by agency and level; and (e) policy recommendations.”

SEC. 7. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 11913 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 6. Appropriations; Dedicated Budget Identification. — The amounts necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the respective

current year available appropriations of the NYC, DepED, CHED, and TESDA, and the Sangguniang Kabataan funds, subject to existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations.

Thereafter, such amounts as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA), and agencies concerned shall identify budget items corresponding to the National Youth Day Annual Plan, consistent with the national budgeting process.”

SEC. 8. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.