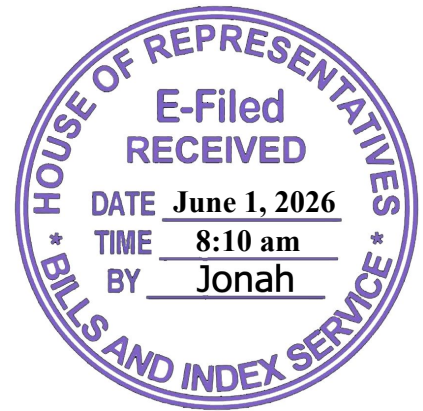


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 9558



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The youth are among the nation's most valuable assets and they play a vital role in shaping the country's future. Developing competent, ethical, and service-oriented young leaders is essential to strengthening democratic institutions, promoting civic engagement, and fostering responsible citizenship.

Despite the presence of student governments and youth organizations across the country, opportunities for structured leadership development remain uneven and often inaccessible, particularly in underserved regions. There is a need to institutionalize a comprehensive leadership and nation-building program that equips young Filipinos with the knowledge, skills, values, and commitment necessary for public service and community development.

This bill seeks to establish Regional Youth Leadership and Nation-Building Training Centers in all regions of the country to provide accessible and sustained leadership education, civic training, governance awareness, and community engagement opportunities for student leaders and young Filipinos. Through partnerships among government agencies, educational institutions, civil society organizations, and the private sector, the program aims to cultivate a new generation of responsible leaders dedicated to nation-building and inclusive development.

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


ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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House Bill No. 9558

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

**“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING REGIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND NATION-
BUILDING TRAINING CENTERS FOR STUDENT LEADERS IN ALL
REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”**

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

**CHAPTER 1
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “*Youth
Leadership and Nation-Building Training Act.*”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to foster the development of responsible, ethical, and service-oriented youth leaders. Recognizing the role of young people in shaping the nation’s future, the State shall provide structured and accessible leadership training focused on democratic values, civic responsibility, nation-building, and good governance. The State shall promote youth participation in nation-building, democratic governance, volunteerism, social responsibility, and community development, and shall ensure equal access to leadership development opportunities for all sectors of the youth.

SECTION 3. Objectives. – This Act aims to:

- a) Establish youth leadership and nation-building training centers in all regions of the Philippines.
- b) Develop a generation of student leaders who embody ethical leadership, critical thinking, and a commitment to public service.
- c) Promote civic education, democratic participation, and youth involvement in governance.

- d) Institutionalize regular leadership training programs in partnership with schools, government, and civil society organizations.
- e) Promote volunteerism and active citizenship among Filipino youth.
- f) Strengthen youth participation in public affairs and community development.
- g) Develop future leaders committed to integrity, accountability, and national development.

SECTION 4. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act:

- (a) **Youth** refers to persons aged fifteen (15) to thirty (30) years, consistent with the provisions of Republic Act No. 8044, as amended.
- (b) **Student Leader** refers to any elected or appointed officer of a recognized student government, student council, campus publication, student organization, or youth organization in an educational institution.
- (c) **Youth Leader** refers to a young person actively engaged in community, civic, volunteer, cultural, environmental, entrepreneurial, or public service initiatives and duly endorsed by a local government unit, educational institution, or recognized youth organization.
- (d) **Center** refers to a Regional Youth Leadership and Nation-Building Training Center established pursuant to this Act.
- (e) **Nation-Building Training Program** refers to the leadership development, civic education, governance, volunteerism, and community engagement activities conducted under this Act.

SECTION 5. *Establishment, Functions, and Program Components of the Regional Youth Leadership and Nation-Building Training Centers.* - There shall be established Regional Youth Leadership and Nation-Building Training Centers in all regions of the country under the overall policy coordination of the National Youth Commission (NYC), in partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and other concerned agencies.

Existing government training facilities, state universities and colleges, public educational institutions, or other suitable government properties may be designated as Regional Youth Leadership and Nation-Building Training Centers whenever practicable.

The Centers shall serve as centers for leadership development, civic education, and nation-building initiatives and shall:

- (a) Conduct capacity-building programs for elementary, secondary, tertiary, and out-of-school youth participants through age-appropriate and developmentally responsive learning modules.
- (b) Organize seminars, workshops, conferences, and training activities on leadership, citizenship, governance, public service, volunteerism, and community development.
- (c) Facilitate inter-school, inter-regional, and multi-sectoral collaboration among youth leaders and organizations.
- (d) Provide mentoring, leadership immersion, simulation exercises, and experiential learning opportunities.
- (e) Support youth-led community projects, innovation initiatives, and social development programs.

The training curriculum shall include, but not be limited to:

- 1. Responsible and Ethical Leadership;
- 2. Civic Responsibility and Democratic Participation;
- 3. Philippine History, Constitution, Human Rights, and Rule of Law;
- 4. Nation-Building, Peacebuilding, and Social Cohesion;
- 5. Public Speaking, Communication, and Advocacy;
- 6. Project Development, Innovation, and Social Entrepreneurship;
- 7. Anti-Corruption and Good Governance;
- 8. Community Organizing and Volunteerism;
- 9. Environmental Stewardship, Climate Action, and Sustainable Development; and
- 10. Digital Citizenship, Media Literacy, and Responsible Use of Technology.

SECTION 6. *Eligibility and Participation.* - The program shall be open to:

- (a) Student government leaders from public and private schools and universities.
- (b) Officers and members of duly recognized youth organizations.
- (c) Young leaders nominated by their local government units (LGUs), NGOs, or community organizations.
- (d) Out-of-school youth, indigenous youth, youth with disabilities, Muslim youth, and youth from geographically isolated and

disadvantaged areas (GIDAs), subject to guidelines issued by the NYC.

SECTION 7. *Role of the National Youth Commission.* - The NYC shall:

- (a) Serve as the lead coordinating and policy-making agency for the implementation of this Act.
- (b) Work with DepEd, CHED, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to implement regional programs.
- (c) Provide training modules, facilitator guidelines, and certification;
- (d) Conduct national leadership summits and recognition for outstanding youth leaders.
- (e) Establish standards, accreditation systems, and evaluation mechanisms for the Centers and training programs.
- (f) Monitor and assess program implementation and submit annual reports to Congress.

SECTION 8. *Partnerships and Support,* - The centers shall collaborate with:

- (a) Local government units (LGUs);
- (b) Civil society organizations and youth NGOs;
- (c) Leadership institutes and training providers;
- (d) The private sector, especially those with youth empowerment programs.
- (e) State universities and colleges (SUCs);
- (f) Professional organizations and academic institutions;
- (g) International development organizations and institutions, subject to existing laws and regulations.

Such partnerships may include sponsorships, mentorship, logistical support, and access to facilities.

The Centers may enter into memoranda of agreement with partner institutions for the provision of training facilities, resource persons, technical assistance, scholarships, internships, and other forms of support.

SECTION 9. *Integration with National Youth Commission Programs.*
- The Centers shall coordinate with the National Youth Commission to ensure that leadership development activities, policy consultations, and youth representation initiatives are aligned with existing programs, including the National Youth Parliament and other youth participation mechanisms

established under law.

SECTION 10. *Monitoring and Evaluation.* - The NYC shall establish a monitoring and evaluation system to assess the effectiveness, participation rates, outcomes, and impact of the programs established under this Act and shall submit an annual report to Congress.

SECTION 11. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act, under the budgets of DepEd, CHED, and the NYC. Additional funding may be sourced from donations, partnerships, and development grants.

SECTION 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd, CHED, and NYC, in consultation with the DILG and other stakeholders, shall issue the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

SECTION 13. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 14. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders or issuances or any part thereof, which are inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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

Approved.