



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives

20th CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10747



Introduced by Hon. Charisse Anne C. Hernandez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is a young nation.

Around 32.4 million Filipinos aged 15 to 30—nearly three out of every ten Filipinos—are part of our youth population. They are students, workers, farmers, entrepreneurs, athletes, artists, volunteers, community leaders, and dreamers who are already shaping the country we will inherit. But being young in the Philippines should not mean being left to figure everything out alone.

In January 2026, 14.0% of young Filipinos aged 15 to 24 were not in education, employment, or training, an increase from 11.7% a year earlier. Youth labor-force participation and employment also declined during the same period. These numbers are more than statistics. They represent young people who may be struggling to find a school, a job, a livelihood, a safe space, or simply a clear next step.

Government already has many programs for the youth. We have scholarships, skills training, employment assistance, entrepreneurship programs, health services, sports programs, and opportunities for civic participation. The problem is that these opportunities are often scattered across different agencies and difficult to navigate.

This bill seeks to change that.

The Philippine Youth Development and Empowerment Act creates a stronger national framework that connects existing government programs and brings opportunities closer to where young people actually live.

Most importantly, every barangay shall have a Youth Development Hub, managed by the Sangguniang Kabataan in partnership with the Barangay Government. Municipalities, cities, and provinces shall likewise have Youth Centers where young people can access information, referrals, training, leadership activities, employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, digital resources, sports, culture, and other development programs. Because youth development should not depend on

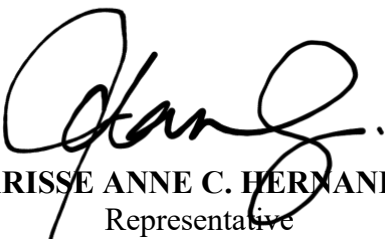
where a young person was born. A young person in a far-flung barangay deserves the same chance as a young person in the city.

The bill also creates the Department of Youth Development and Empowerment as the national institution responsible for bringing government efforts together—not to replace DepEd, CHED, TESDA, DOLE, DSWD, DTI, DA, DOH, and other agencies, but to make sure that their programs reach young people in a coordinated and meaningful way.

The bill is built on a simple belief: When we invest in the youth, we are not spending for tomorrow. We are building today. Every scholarship can change a family's future. Every job opportunity can restore a young person's confidence. Every youth-led project can transform a community. Every safe space can give a young person a reason to stay, grow, and lead. The Filipino youth do not need another promise that someday they will have a place in nation-building. They need that place now.

This measure seeks to give them the opportunities, spaces, support, and voice they deserve. Because the future of the Philippines should not merely be something that the youth inherit. It should be something they are empowered to build.

The passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



CHARISSE ANNE C. HERNANDEZ
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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10747**

Introduced by Honorable Charisse Anne C. Hernandez

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "**Philippine Youth Development and Empowerment Act.**"

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to recognize the youth as vital partners in nation-building and to promote their physical, intellectual, social, economic, cultural, and civic development.

The State shall ensure that every young Filipino has meaningful access to education, skills development, employment, entrepreneurship, health and wellness, technology, sports, culture, environmental programs, civic participation, and leadership opportunities.

The State shall pursue a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to youth development while respecting the existing mandates of national government agencies and local youth-governance institutions.

SEC. 3. Objectives. This Act shall:

- a. Establish a stronger national institutional framework for youth development and empowerment;
- b. Improve access of young Filipinos to existing government programs and opportunities;
- c. Strengthen the transition of youth from education and skills development to employment, entrepreneurship, agriculture, and other productive livelihoods;
- d. Institutionalize accessible youth-development facilities at the barangay, municipal, city, and provincial levels;
- e. Promote meaningful youth participation in governance and community development;
- f. Support youth-led initiatives, innovation, volunteerism, environmental action, and civic engagement;
- g. Strengthen coordination among national government agencies, LGUs, educational institutions, civil society, youth organizations, and the private sector; and
- h. Establish measurable national youth-development outcomes.

SEC. 4. Definition of Terms. For purposes of this Act:

- a. **Youth** refers to persons fifteen (15) to thirty (30) years of age;
- b. **Department** refers to the Department of Youth Development and Empowerment;
- c. **Youth Development Hub** refers to a barangay-based facility providing accessible

- information, referral, learning, leadership, digital, livelihood, and other youth-development opportunities;
- d. **Youth Center** refers to a municipal, city, or provincial facility serving as a broader youth-development and convergence center;
 - e. **Youth Opportunity and Referral System** refers to the system connecting young persons with available government and accredited private-sector programs and opportunities; and
 - f. **Youth-led initiative** refers to a project principally conceptualized, managed, or implemented by young persons for community or sectoral benefit.

CHAPTER I.

NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT

SEC. 5. Department of Youth Development and Empowerment. There is hereby created a Department of Youth Development and Empowerment (DYDE) which shall be the principal national government agency responsible for youth-development policy, coordination, convergence, standards, technical assistance, monitoring, and evaluation.

The Department shall be headed by a Secretary appointed by the President, subject to the Constitution and existing laws.

The Department shall exercise its functions without diminishing the statutory mandates of other national government agencies.

SEC. 6. Powers and Functions of the Department. The Department shall:

- a. Formulate and recommend national youth-development policies and strategies;
- b. Coordinate the implementation of youth-related programs across government;
- c. Provide technical assistance to LGUs and youth-development institutions;
- d. Establish standards for Youth Development Hubs and Youth Centers;
- e. Develop and maintain the National Youth Opportunity and Referral System;
- f. Conduct and support youth-development research and data gathering;
- g. Monitor youth-development outcomes;
- h. Facilitate partnerships with the private sector, civil society, academe, and youth organizations;
- i. Support youth-led initiatives and innovation; and
- j. Guide and lead Sangguniang Kabataan in their necessary functions and programs;
- k. Perform other functions necessary to carry out this Act.

SEC. 7. National Youth Development and Empowerment Program. There shall be established a National Youth Development and Empowerment Program which shall serve as the national convergence framework for existing youth-related programs.

The Program shall prioritize:

- a. Education and lifelong learning;
- b. Skills and employability;
- c. Employment and decent work;
- d. Entrepreneurship and enterprise development;
- e. Agriculture and fisheries;
- f. Health and wellness;
- g. Digital skills and innovation;
- h. Sports, culture, and creative development;
- i. Environmental protection, disaster risk reduction and climate resilience;
- j. Civic participation, volunteerism and leadership; and
- k. Social inclusion and equal opportunity.

The Program shall be aligned with the prevailing Philippine Youth Development Plan and Philippine Development Plan.

SEC. 8. National Youth Opportunity and Referral System. The Department shall establish a centralized but accessible National Youth Opportunity and Referral System containing information on available scholarships, education and training, employment, apprenticeship, entrepreneurship, agriculture, digital opportunities, health and social services, sports, culture, volunteerism, and other youth programs.

The System shall facilitate referrals to appropriate national government agencies, LGUs, schools, employers, training institutions, and accredited partners.

CHAPTER II

LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FACILITIES

SEC. 9. Barangay Youth Development Hubs. Every barangay shall establish and maintain a Youth Development Hub, subject to the availability of an existing suitable public facility or space.

The Youth Development Hub shall be under the primary management and supervision of the Sangguniang Kabataan, in coordination with the Barangay Government.

The Hub shall serve as an accessible community-based venue for:

- a. Youth information and referral;
- b. Sangguniang Kabataan Session and Katipunan ng Kabataan Assemblies;
- c. Leadership and civic-development activities;
- d. Digital learning and access;
- e. Career and employment information;
- f. Entrepreneurship and livelihood information;
- g. Educational support activities;
- h. Sports, arts, culture, and recreation;
- i. Environmental and community initiatives; and
- j. Other youth-development activities authorized by law.

Existing barangay facilities, SK offices, covered courts, libraries, learning centers, or other appropriate public spaces may be designated as Youth Development Hubs.

SEC. 10. Municipal and City Youth Centers. Every municipality and city shall establish or designate a Youth Center which shall serve as the principal local convergence and referral facility for youth development.

The Municipal or City Youth Center shall be managed and maintained through the Sangguniang Kabataan Federation in partnership with the Municipal or City Government, through the appropriate local office.

The Youth Center shall provide or facilitate access to:

- a. Youth Development Council Meetings;
- b. City or Municipal SK Pederasyon meetings;
- c. Career and employment services;
- d. Skills and entrepreneurship opportunities;
- e. Educational and scholarship information;
- f. Digital learning and innovation;
- g. Youth leadership and civic programs;
- h. Health and wellness referrals;
- i. Sports, arts, culture, and recreation;
- j. Youth organization activities; and
- k. Other programs consistent with the local youth-development plan.

SEC. 11. Provincial Youth Centers. Every province shall establish or designate a Provincial Youth Center, subject to available resources and existing facilities. The Provincial Youth Center shall

be managed and maintained through the Provincial Sangguniang Kabataan Federation in partnership with the Provincial Government.

It shall provide provincial-level convergence, training, leadership, networking, referral, and support services for youth and youth organizations.

SEC. 12. Standards and Support for Youth Facilities. The Department, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, National Youth Commission during the transition period, LGUs, and youth representatives, shall establish minimum standards for Youth Development Hubs and Youth Centers.

The standards shall consider accessibility, safety, inclusivity, digital connectivity, functionality, youth participation, and sustainability. The Department may provide technical assistance, capacity-building, equipment, digital resources, and other forms of support, subject to available appropriations.

CHAPTER III YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND PARTICIPATION

SEC. 13. Youth Education-to-Employment and Enterprise Pathways. The Department shall coordinate with DepEd, CHED, TESDA, DOLE, DTI, DA, and other concerned agencies to facilitate pathways from education and skills development to employment, apprenticeship, entrepreneurship, agriculture, digital work, and other productive livelihoods.

The Department shall not assume or duplicate the program-delivery mandates of these agencies.

SEC. 14. Youth Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Agriculture. The Department shall facilitate youth access to existing government programs for entrepreneurship, financing, incubation, innovation, agriculture, fisheries, agribusiness, cooperatives, and market development.

Priority shall be given to underserved youth and communities with limited economic opportunities.

SEC. 15. Youth-Led Community Initiatives. The Department and LGUs may provide technical assistance, mentoring, grants, or other support, subject to existing budgeting, procurement, and auditing laws, to qualified youth-led initiatives involving:

- a. Community development;
- b. Environmental protection and climate action;
- c. Disaster resilience;
- d. Agriculture and food systems;
- e. Digital innovation;
- f. Arts and culture;
- g. Sports;
- h. Volunteerism; and
- i. Civic engagement.

SEC. 16. Meaningful Youth Participation. National government agencies and LGUs shall provide appropriate mechanisms for youth consultation and participation in policies, programs, projects, and development plans affecting them.

Nothing in this Section shall amend or diminish the functions of the Sangguniang Kabataan, Local Youth Development Councils, or Local Youth Development Offices under existing law.

SEC. 17. Inclusive Youth Development. Programs under this Act shall ensure equitable access for:

- a. Out-of-school youth;
- b. Youth with disabilities;

- c. Young workers;
- d. Young farmers and fisherfolk;
- e. Indigenous youth;
- f. Youth in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas;
- g. Youth from vulnerable households;
- h. Youth affected by disasters and emergencies; and
- i. Other underserved youth sectors.

CHAPTER IV DATA, MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

SEC. 18. National Youth Development Information System. The Department shall establish a National Youth Development Information System in coordination with the Philippine Statistics Authority and concerned agencies.

The System shall support evidence-based policymaking and program monitoring and shall comply with Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the "Data Privacy Act of 2012."

SEC. 19. Youth Development Indicators. The Department shall establish a concise set of national youth-development indicators covering, among others:

- a. Education and training;
- b. Employment and youth not in employment, education, or training;
- c. Entrepreneurship;
- d. Access to youth-development services;
- e. Youth participation;
- f. Digital access and skills;
- g. Community engagement; and
- h. Other indicators consistent with the Philippine Youth Development Plan and Philippine Development Plan.

SEC. 20. Annual State of the Youth Report. The Department shall submit an annual State of the Filipino Youth Report to the President and both Houses of Congress.

The Report shall present youth-development outcomes, geographic and sectoral gaps, program performance, and recommendations for legislative and policy action.

CHAPTER V COORDINATION AND FUNDING

SEC. 21. National Youth Development Council. There shall be a National Youth Development Council, chaired by the President of the Republic of the Philippines and co-chaired by the Secretary of Youth Development and Empowerment, composed of representatives of concerned national government agencies.

The Council shall provide policy coordination and convergence and shall not exercise the statutory powers of its member agencies. Representatives of National SK Pederasyon, youth organizations, academe, civil society, and the private sector may participate as appropriate given that majority of its members are youth.

SEC. 22. Local Coordination. The Department shall coordinate with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, LGUs, Sangguniang Kabataan, Local Youth Development Councils, Local Youth Development Offices, and SK Federations.

The existing local youth-governance framework under Republic Act No. 10742, as amended by Republic Act No. 11768, shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 23. Funding. The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the National Youth Commission and other appropriations authorized by law.

Thereafter, the appropriations necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

LGUs shall provide appropriate counterpart resources for the establishment and maintenance of Youth Development Hubs and Youth Centers, subject to local fiscal capacity and applicable budgeting and auditing laws.

CHAPTER VI TRANSITORY AND FINAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 24. Abolition of the National Youth Commission and Transitory Provisions. The National Youth Commission created under Republic Act No. 8044 is hereby abolished, and its powers, functions, personnel, appropriations, properties, records, contracts, programs, and other resources consistent with this Act are transferred to the Department of Youth Development and Empowerment.

The transfer shall be undertaken in accordance with existing civil service, budgeting, accounting, auditing, and government reorganization laws.

Existing regular employees of the National Youth Commission shall be transferred to the Department, subject to applicable laws, and shall retain their tenure, salaries, benefits, and accrued rights.

No permanent employee shall be separated solely by reason of the abolition of the National Youth Commission.

All ongoing programs and services of the National Youth Commission shall continue during the transition to ensure uninterrupted delivery of youth-development services.

The President shall constitute a Transition Committee composed of representatives from the National Youth Commission, Department of Budget and Management, Civil Service Commission, Department of Finance, Department of the Interior and Local Government, National Economic and Development Authority, and other concerned agencies to oversee the transition.

The Department shall be fully operational within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 25. Implementing Rules and Regulations, Separability, Repealing and Effectivity. Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Youth Development and Empowerment, in consultation with concerned national government agencies, LGUs, youth organizations, civil society, academe, and the private sector, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 26. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder shall continue to be in force.

SEC. 27. Repealing Clause. All laws inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 28. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.