

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11440



Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

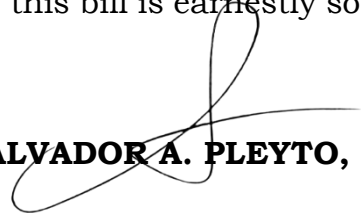
Section 16, Article XIII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution guarantees the right of the people and their organizations to effective and reasonable participation at all levels of social, political, and economic decision-making. Furthermore, Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, directs local government units (LGUs) to promote the establishment and operation of people's and non-governmental organizations to become active partners in the pursuit of local autonomy.

Despite these constitutional and statutory mandates, civil society participation in many local government units remains consultative, informal, or merely symbolic. Citizens and sectoral organizations often lack a formal, institutionalized mechanism to directly participate in policy formulation, budget deliberation, program monitoring, and local governance.

This bill seeks to mandate and institutionalize the establishment of a People's Council in every city and municipality across the Philippines. Inspired by successful local participatory models, such as the Naga City People's Council, this measure empowers accredited civil society organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and sectoral groups to sit in local special bodies, attend legislative sessions, propose local measures, and participate directly in local decision-making processes.

By providing a structured framework for civil society engagement, this legislation aims to deepen local democracy, ensure transparency, foster accountability, and guarantee that public policies genuinely reflect the needs of the community.

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


SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

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Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

**AN ACT MANDATING AND INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A PEOPLE'S COUNCIL IN EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY IN THE
PHILIPPINES, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING
MECHANISMS FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Institutionalized People's Council Act."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is the policy of the State to promote and defend the right of the people to effective and reasonable participation at all levels of decision-making. The State recognizes non-governmental, community-based, and sectoral organizations as essential partners in local development, transparent governance, and public accountability.

SEC. 3. *Scope and Coverage.* — This Act shall apply to all cities and municipalities nationwide.

SEC. 4. *Establishment of a People's Council.* — There shall be established in every city and municipality a People's Council, which shall serve as the umbrella organization and primary mechanism for the direct participation of civil society organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), people's organizations (POs), and sectoral groups in local governance.

SEC. 5. *Composition and Accreditation.* —

1. The People's Council shall be composed of authorized representatives from accredited CSOs, POs, NGOs, professional associations, academic institutions, and sectoral representatives (including women, youth, farmers, fisherfolk, labor, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, indigenous peoples, and the urban poor) operating within the city or municipality.

2. The Local Sanggunian (Sangguniang Panlungsod or Sangguniang Bayan) shall establish a simplified, transparent, and non-discriminatory process for the accreditation of CSOs and member-organizations within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.
3. The People's Council shall elect its own officers, adopt its internal rules of procedure, and determine its leadership structure independent of local government interference.

SEC. 6. *Powers, Rights, and Functions.* — The People's Council shall have the following powers and functions:

1. Representation in Local Special Bodies: Elect civil society representatives to sit as voting members in all Local Special Bodies (LSBs), including but not limited to the Local Development Council (LDC), Local Health Board, Local School Board, Local Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), and Local Peace and Order Council.
2. Legislative Participation: Sit in all committee hearings and regular sessions of the Sangguniang Panlungsod or Sangguniang Bayan as non-voting participants, with the right to participate in deliberations, voice sectoral concerns, and submit proposed ordinances or resolutions.
3. Budget and Policy Review: Participate actively in local budget preparation, public hearings, local development planning, and sectoral policy formulation.
4. Monitoring and Evaluation: Monitor, evaluate, and conduct citizen audits on the implementation of government projects, public infrastructure, service delivery, and local procurement.
5. Transparency and Access to Information: Access public records, local financial reports, project disclosure documents, and council minutes in accordance with existing laws and executive orders on freedom of information.

SEC. 7. *Independence of the People's Council.* — The People's Council shall remain an independent, non-partisan entity. No elective or appointive local government official, or their relatives within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity, shall serve as an officer or voting member of the People's Council.

SEC. 8. *Support and Funding.* —

1. LGUs shall provide reasonable office space or facilities for the operations of the People's Council within or adjacent to the city hall or municipal hall.
2. LGUs shall appropriate an annual operational budget for the People's Council, derived from the LGU's general fund or local development fund, to support capacity building, public consultations, administrative costs, and monitoring activities.

3. Under no circumstance shall the allocation or release of funds be used by the local government unit to exert control, political influence, or pressure over the decisions or operations of the People's Council.

SEC. 9. *Sanctions and Penalties.* — Any local chief executive, member of the local sanggunian, or local official who willfully refuses, delays, or obstructs the establishment, accreditation, or operations of the People's Council, or denies its representatives their lawful seats in local special bodies, shall be subject to administrative liability under Section 60 of Republic Act No. 7160 (Local Government Code of 1991) and other applicable civil service laws.

SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* — Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in full consultation with representative civil society organizations and national leagues of local government units, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, executive orders, decrees, administrative orders, rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,