

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9580



Introduced by Representative Stella Luz A. Quimbo

**AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN BY
INSTITUTIONALIZING ADDITIONAL REFORMS TO REVITALIZE YOUTH
PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our nation's survival rests on how effective the present leaders are in providing leadership avenues for the young Filipinos. Because the COVID-19 pandemic still rages on, long term effects on governance are foreseen, and so long-term plans must be instituted in order to reap better governmental outcomes in the future. One key component that has to be included in any pathways to recovery from the pandemic is the training of aspiring leaders in the country who at a young age are passionate to serve the people.

In this regard, the government should ensure that the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK), as a fertile ground for future leaders, can truly enrich the participation of the youth in governance. The Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015 has begun to take the initial steps necessary to empower young leaders in the community. Yet, there are aspects of the SK Reform Act which Congress could still improve on. One of the yearnings of the SK members is adequate compensation. Except the SK Chairman, who serves as an ex officio member of the Sangguniang Barangay, SK members do not receive any form of remuneration, in spite of the fact that they are part of the frontline team of the government in addressing the needs of those in the grassroots. .

In response to these needs, this bill seeks to introduce further SK reforms. First, it grants monthly honoraria to all SK members in order to compensate them for their selfless service. The bill also empowers the SK to formulate its internal rules and appoint its secretary and treasurer for improved organizational efficiency. To give SK

members the ability to voice out their concerns in the national stage and participate in governance at the national level, the SK chairpersons shall elect amongst themselves one representative to sit as an ex officio member of the National Youth Commission.

These much-needed reforms are significant and urgent because it creates a better avenue for young leaders to train themselves in public service. SK members have been tapped by the barangay in providing immediate relief to the people during the pandemic and this is a testament to the important role that SK plays in nation-building and calamity response. They have likewise implemented youth programs in social media platforms to serve their constituencies. Increased government support to SK members will ensure that these young leaders are well-prepared as they take on bigger tasks as leaders of the nation in the future.

In light of the need to immediately institute the proposed reforms to improve the Sangguniang Kabataan, the swift passage of this is earnestly sought.



STELLA LUZ A. QUIMBO
Representative
Second District, Marikina City

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

SEC. 1. Section 8 of Republic Act No. 10742, otherwise known as the “Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015”, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 8. Powers and Functions of the Sangguniang Kabataan. - The Sangguniang Kabataan shall:

“(a) x x x;

“(e) Hold fund-raising activities which are in line with the Comprehensive Barangay Youth Development Plan, the proceeds of which shall be tax-exempt and shall accrue to the general fund of the Sangguniang Kabataan: Provided, however, That in the appropriation thereof, the specific purpose for which such activity has been held shall be first satisfied: Provided, further, That any appropriation thereof shall be in accordance with existing applicable budget, accounting and auditing rules and regulations, **SUCH AS THOSE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM) AND THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT (COA);**

“(j) **WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM THEIR ASSUMPTION TO OFFICE, THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN SHALL:**

- 1) FORMULATE AND APPROVE ITS INTERNAL RULES AND PROCEDURES;
- 2) APPOINT ITS SECRETARY AND TREASURER AND;
- 3) SET THE SCHEDULE OF REGULAR SK MEETINGS AND SK ASSEMBLIES; AND

~~{(j)}~~ **(K)** Exercise such other powers and perform such other functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance, or delegated by the Sangguniang Barangay or the Commission.”

SEC 2. Section 10 of the same Act is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 10. Qualifications. - An official of the Sangguniang Kabataan, either ~~[elective]~~ **ELECTED** or ~~[appointee]~~ **APPOINTED** must be a citizen of the Philippines, a qualified voter of the Katipunan ng Kabataan, a resident of the barangay for not less than one (1) year immediately preceding the day of the elections, at least eighteen (18) years but not more than twenty-four (24) years of age on the day of the elections, able to read and write Filipino, English, or the local dialect, must not be related within the second civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to any incumbent elected national official or to any incumbent elected regional, provincial, city, municipal, or barangay official, in the locality where he or she seeks to be elected, and must not have been convicted by final judgment of any crime involving moral turpitude: **PROVIDED, THAT THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN TREASURER MUST BE AT LEAST EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS BUT NOT MORE THAN THIRTY (30) YEARS OF AGE ON THE DAY OF THE APPOINTMENT: PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN CHAIRPERSON SHALL APPOINT A TREASURER WITH AN EDUCATIONAL, AND/OR CAREER BACKGROUND RELATING TO BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, ACCOUNTANCY, FINANCE, ECONOMICS, OR BOOKKEEPING: PROVIDED, FURTHERMORE, THAT ONLY IF NO PERSON MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS CAN THE SK CHAIRPERSON CONSIDER OTHER SUITABLE NOMINEES: PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT APPOINTED SK TREASURERS SHALL UNDERGO A MANDATORY BOOKKEEPING TRAINING FROM AND BE DULY CERTIFIED BY THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) BEFORE ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE: PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT THE APPOINTED SK TREASURERS SHALL BE PRIORITIZED IN THE ALLOCATION OF APPROPRIATE TESDA SCHOLARSHIP.**”

SEC. 3. Section 15 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 15. Sangguniang Kabataan Treasurer.- The Sangguniang Kabataan treasurer, **WHO SHALL BE A BONDED OFFICER**, shall: “x x x.”

SEC. 4. Section 16 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 16. Privileges of Sangguniang Kabataan Officials. - (a) All Sangguniang Kabataan officials in good standing, whether elected or appointed, shall, during their incumbency:

“(1) x x x;

“(2) BE EXEMPT FROM TAKING ANY OF THE COMPONENTS OF THE NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM (NSTP);

“x x x;

~~“(6) The Sangguniang Kabataan chairperson shall have the same privileges enjoyed by other Sangguniang Barangay officials under this Act subject to such requirements and limitations provided herein;]~~

“(6) THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN TREASURER AND SECRETARY, SHALL RECEIVE A MONTHLY HONORARIUM, CHARGEABLE AGAINST THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN FUNDS, IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER COMPENSATION PROVIDED BY THIS ACT AND SHALL BE GRANTED AT THE END OF EVERY REGULAR MONTHLY SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN MEETING: PROVIDED, THAT THE MONTHLY HONORARIUM SHALL NOT EXCEED THE MONTHLY COMPENSATION RECEIVED BY THEIR SK CHAIRPERSON: PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT NOT MORE THAN 25% OF THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN FUNDS SHALL BE ALLOCATED FOR PERSONNEL SERVICES. THE DBM SHALL ISSUE THE NECESSARY GUIDELINES IMPLEMENTING THIS PROVISION.

“THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS MAY PROVIDE ADDITIONAL HONORARIUM AS WELL AS SOCIAL WELFARE CONTRIBUTIONS AND HAZARD PAY TO THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN CHAIRPERSON AND THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED MEMBERS THROUGH THEIR OWN LOCAL ORDINANCES PROVIDED, THAT THE HONORARIUM AS STATED IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE POST-AUDIT JURISDICTION OF THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT (COA);

“(7) BE ENTITLED TO APPROPRIATE CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBILITY, PURSUANT TO RULES AND REGULATIONS ISSUED BY THE CIVIL

SERVICE COMMISSION: PROVIDED, THAT THE SK OFFICIAL HAS RENDERED THEIR FULL TERM OF OFFICE; AND

“(8) THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN CHAIRPERSON SHALL HAVE THE SAME PRIVILEGES ENJOYED BY OTHER SANGGUNIANG BARANGAY OFFICIALS UNDER THIS ACT SUBJECT TO SUCH REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS PROVIDED HEREIN.”

SEC. 5. Section 19 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 19. Succession and Filling up of Vacancies.- (a) In case a Sangguniang Kabataan chairperson refuses to assume office, fails to qualify, voluntarily resigns, dies, is permanently incapacitated, is removed from office, the Sangguniang Kabataan member who obtained the highest number of votes in the election immediately preceding shall assume the office of the chairperson, for the unexpired portion of his or her term. In case said member refuses to assume the position or fails to qualify, the Sangguniang Kabataan member obtaining the next highest number of votes shall assume the position of the chairperson for the unexpired portion of the term: **PROVIDED, THAT, IF THE REASON FOR THE VACANCY DOES NOT FALL UNDER THE CONDITIONS STATED ABOVE, THE MAYOR OF THE CONCERNED BARANGAY SHALL APPOINT AN OFFICER-IN-CHARGE (OIC) FROM A LIST OF AT LEAST THREE (3) NOMINEES AS SUBMITTED BY THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN MEMBERS: PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT THE APPOINTED OIC MUST MEET THE QUALIFICATIONS SET UNDER SECTION 10 OF THIS ACT.**

"x x x."

SEC. 6. Section 20 of the same Act is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 20. Sangguniang Kabataan Funds.- The Sangguniang Kabataan funds shall be governed by the following provisions:

“(a) All the income of the barangay derived from whatever source shall accrue to its general fund and shall, at the option of the barangay concerned, be kept as trust fund in the custody of the city or municipal treasurer or be deposited in a bank preferably government-owned, situated in or nearest to its area of jurisdiction. Such funds shall be disbursed in accordance with the provisions of this Act. Ten percent (10%) of the general fund of the barangay shall be set aside for the Sangguniang Kabataan. The Sangguniang Barangay shall

appropriate the Sangguniang Kabataan funds in lump-sum which shall be disbursed [~~solely~~] for youth development and empowerment purposes;

“(b) xxx;

“(c) All Sangguniang Kabataan funds shall be allocated in an annual budget, and if the funds allow, in a supplemental budget in accordance with the adopted Annual Barangay Investment Program. Both the Comprehensive Barangay Youth Development Plan and Annual Barangay Investment Program shall give priority to programs, projects and activities that will promote and [~~ensure the equitable access to quality education, environmental protection, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and resiliency, youth employment and livelihood, health and anti-drug abuse, gender sensitivity, sports development, and capability building which emphasizes leadership training; and~~] **ATTAIN THE THRUSTS OF THE PHILIPPINE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PLAN SUCH AS HEALTH, EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT, GLOBAL MOBILITY, ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP, GOVERNANCE, SOCIAL EQUITY AND INCLUSION, PEACE-BUILDING AND SECURITY, AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT, SUCH AS:**

“(1) STUDENT STIPENDS, FOOD, BOOK AND TRANSPORTATION ALLOWANCES, AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS THAT WILL REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF OUT-OF- SCHOOL YOUTH AND DROP-OUTS

“(2) SPORTS AND WELLNESS PROJECTS TO ADDRESS PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH, TEENAGE PREGNANCY, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, AND OTHER HEALTH ISSUES;

“(3) SKILLS TRAINING, SUMMER EMPLOYMENT, CASH-FOR-WORK, ON-THE-JOB TRAINING, AND LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE;

“(4) PROJECTS PROMOTING THE PARTICIPATION OF THE YOUTH AND THEIR INITIATION IN AGRICULTURAL, FISHERY, AND FORESTRY ENTERPRISES;

“(5) PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES THAT WILL LOCATE THE YOUTH AT THE FOREFRONT OF ENVIRONMENTAL

PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS, AND ENLIST THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN CALAMITY PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND OTHER DISASTER-RELATED ACTIVITIES; AND

“(6) CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION AND LEADERSHIP, AND VALUES EDUCATION;

“(7) PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES THAT ADDRESS CONTEXT-SPECIFIC AND INTERSECTIONAL VULNERABILITIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

“(d) xxx; AND

“(e) THE SK MAY SET ASIDE AN AMOUNT FOR THE SK MANDATORY AND CONTINUING TRAININGS TO COMPLEMENT THE TRAINING FUND HEREIN PROVIDED UNDER SEC. 29. THE TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED FOR TRAINING SHALL NOT BE MORE THAN FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) OF THE SK FUND. THE SK MAY ALSO CONSULT NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs) AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs) ACCREDITED BY THE NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANDATORY PROGRAMS AND TRAININGS FOR ITS OFFICIALS.”

SEC. 7. Section 21 of the same Act is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 21. Pederasyon ng Sangguniang Kabataan. - (a) There shall be an organization of the Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan to be known as follows:

“(1) x x x

“(3) x x x

“(D) DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE SK PEDERASYON. - THE SK PEDERASYON AND THE LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (LYDC) SHALL DRAFT THE LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LYDP). THE PEDERASYON AND THE LYDC SHALL CONVENE QUARTERLY TO ENSURE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LYDP AND ALIGNMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE BARANGAY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND ANNUAL BARANGAY YOUTH INVESTMENT PROGRAM TO THE LYDP. THE PEDERASYON SHALL

ALSO CASCADE INFORMATION AND FACILITATE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER TO THEIR RESPECTIVE LOCALITIES.

“(E) THE PRESIDENTS OF THE PANLALAWIGANG PEDERASYON NG MGA SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN AND THE PRESIDENTS OF THE PANLUNGSOD NA PEDERASAYON NG MGA SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN OF HIGHLY URBANIZED CITIES AND INDEPENDENT COMPONENT CITIES SHALL ELECT, AMONG THEMSELVES, ONE (1) REPRESENTATIVE FROM LUZON, ONE (1) REPRESENTATIVE FROM VISAYAS, AND ONE (1) REPRESENTATIVE FROM MINDANAO TO SERVE AS MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL CREATED UNDER SECTION 14 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8044 OR THE ‘YOUTH IN NATION-BUILDING ACT’.”

SEC. 8. Insert a new Section 23 of the same Act to read as follows:

“SEC. 23. MEMBERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION. - THE PRESIDENTS OF THE PANLALAWIGANG PEDERASYON NG MGA SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN AND THE PRESIDENTS OF THE PANLUNGSOD NA PEDERASAYON NG MGA SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN OF HIGHLY URBANIZED CITIES AND INDEPENDENT COMPONENT CITIES SHALL ELECT, AMONG THEMSELVES, A REPRESENTATIVE WHO SHALL SIT AS AN EX-OFFICIO MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION, CONSISTENT WITH SECTION 5 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8044, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘YOUTH IN NATION BUILDING ACT’.”

SEC. 9. Section 25 of the same Act is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 25. Creation. - There shall be in every province, city, and municipality a Youth Development Office which shall be headed by a youth development officer with the rank of at least division chief. Such may be put under the Office of the Local Chief Executive, the Office of the Planning and Development, the Office of the Social Welfare or in any other office deemed appropriate by the local government unit. If the funds of the local government unit are sufficient, it can be a separate department with divisions and units for policy and planning, administration and finance, and programs and operations. In the event when the local government unit has exceeded the prescribed personal services limitations, the local chief executive may designate existing personnel whom he or she deems fit to serve this purpose ~~[until such time~~

~~that the local government unit can already create this office}:~~
PROVIDED, THAT A LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER SHALL BE APPOINTED WITHIN ONE (1) YEAR FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT."

SEC. 10. Section 26 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 26. Funding. - THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT MAY APPROPRIATE NOT LESS THAN 1% OF ITS ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, WHICH SHALL BE USED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PLAN, CONVENING THE MEETINGS OF THE CONCERNED PEDERASYON NG MGA SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN AND LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, AS WELL AS ITS OPERATIONS AND EFFECTIVE FUNTIONING."

SEC. 11. Section 28 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 28. Components of the Mandatory Training Programs. - The Commission and the DILG with the assistance of the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP), the Local Government Academy (LGA), the University of the Philippines-National College of Public Administration and Governance (UP-NCPAG), and in consultation with youth stakeholder shall jointly design and implement the mandatory and continuing training programs. The mandatory training programs must include among others, the following components: (a)(1) The Philippine cultural history, political systems ethics and ideologies; (2) The Filipino as a nation builder (3) The Filipino youth and its role in nation-building; and (b) capability building on leadership, program and project development and sustainability, financial management, and accountability and transparency.

"THE COMMISSION AND THE DILG MAY ALSO COORDINATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DepEd), COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED), AND TESDA, FOR THE OFFERING OF RELEVANT COURSES THAT EMPHASIZE THE ROLE OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IN NATION-BUILDING AND WOULD FURTHER ENHANCE THE KNOWLEDGE, NETWORK, AND CAPACITY OF SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN OFFICIALS AND LYDC MEMBERS TO CRAFT AND IMPLEMENT RELEVANT YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

PLANS.”

SEC. 12. Funding and Appropriations. - The amounts necessary to carry out the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the Sangguniang Kabataan Funds or as may be authorized by the local government units pursuant to Section 4 of this Act.

SEC. 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), the National Youth Commission (NYC), and other concerned government agencies shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations within sixty (60) days upon the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 14. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 15. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders or rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 16. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of the general circulation.

Approved,