

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8044, June 07, 1995 ]**

**AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION,  
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL COMPREHENSIVE AND  
COORDINATED PROGRAM ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT,  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* — This Act shall be known as the "Youth in Nation-Building Act."

SEC. 2. *Policy.* — The State recognizes its responsibility to enable the youth to fulfill their vital role in nation-building and hereby establishes the National Comprehensive and Coordinated Program on Youth Development, creates the structures to implement the same and appropriates adequate funds to provide support for the program and implementing structures on a continuing, sustained basis.

The State hereby declares that "Youth" is the critical period in a person's growth and development from the onset of adolescence towards the peak of mature, self-reliant and responsible adulthood comprising the considerable sector of the population from the age of fifteen (15) to thirty (30) years.

The State further declares the National Comprehensive and Coordinated Program on Youth Development shall be based on the following principles:

- a. Promotion and protection of the physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being of the youth to the end that the youth realize their potential for improving the quality of life;
- b. Inculcation in the youth of patriotism, nationalism and other basic desirable values to infuse in them faith in the Creator, belief in the sanctity of life and dignity of the human person, conviction for the strength and unity of the family and adherence to truth and justice;
- c. Encouragement of youth involvement in character-building and development activities for civic efficiency, stewardship of natural resources, agricultural and industrial productivity, and an understanding of world economic commitments on tariffs and trade and participation in structures for policy-making and program implementation to reduce the incidence of poverty and accelerate socioeconomic development; and
- d. Mobilization of youth's abilities, talents and skills and redirecting their creativity, inventive genius and wellspring of enthusiasm and hope for the freedom of our people from fear, hunger and injustice.

SEC. 3. *Development Program.* — In order to attain the declared national policy, there is hereby established the "National Comprehensive and Coordinated Program

on Youth Development," hereinafter referred to as the "Development Program."

The components of the development program are the following:

- a. Formulation, approval and implementation of the Medium-Term Youth Development Program for four (4) years following the approval of this Act and every three (3) years thereafter, which shall be aligned to and shall complement the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan for the corresponding period, taking into account the existing National Youth Development Plan as provided for in Executive Order No. 176, series of 1994;
- b. A national study on the "Situation of Youth in the Philippines," for the period up to the approval of this Act, and every three (3) years thereafter which identifies priority needs, prevailing attitudes and values of youth, the existing services, and the gaps in services delivery of the basic needs of youth;
- c. A "National Review, Evaluation and Reform" of all organizations delivering services to youth for the period up to the approval of this Act and every three (3) years thereafter;
- d. Activities to operationalize the implementing structures of the Development Program, preparations and participation in activities of youth of global significance, including World Youth Day, and provide leadership and support therefor on a continuing, sustained basis;
- e. The comprehensive, coordinated nationwide service delivery system comprising (i) existing public and civic services for youth which after review and reform or realignment fully support the policy and program framework under this Act; and (ii) innovative services and delivery systems institutionalized in areas without or with inadequate services and which are responsive to needs, following pilot demonstration projects to test the validity and feasibility of the services; and
- f. The participation of Filipino youth in the Biennial World Youth Day starting 1997 in Paris, France and every two (2) years thereafter.

SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* — For purposes of this Act, the following terms are hereby defined:

- a. "Youth" shall refer to those persons whose ages range from fifteen (15) to thirty (30) years old;
- b. "Youth Organizations" shall refer to those organizations whose membership/composition are youth;
- c. "Youth-Serving Organizations" shall refer to those registered organizations or institutions whose principal programs, projects and activities are youth-oriented and youth-related; and
- d. "Commission" shall refer to the National Youth Commission.

SEC. 5. *National Youth Commission.* — There is hereby created the "National Youth Commission," hereinafter referred to as the "Commission."

It shall be composed of the following:

- a. A chairman;
- b. One commissioner representing Luzon;
- c. One commissioner representing Visayas;
- d. One commissioner representing Mindanao;
- e. Two (2) commissioners to be chosen at large; and

f. The President of the *Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan*, as commissioner, who shall serve in an ex officio capacity.

The first set of chairman and commissioners, which shall have a term of four (4) years, shall be constituted by the President of the Philippines from among the list of nominees submitted by youth organizations or institutions with national or regional constituencies and which have been in existence for at least three (3) years as of the approval of this Act.

The succeeding chairman and the two (2) commissioners to be chosen at large shall be appointed by the President from a list of at least three (3) but not more than five (5) nominees for each position, submitted by youth and youth-serving organizations or institutions with national constituencies duly registered with the Commission.

The succeeding commissioners representing Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, respectively, shall be appointed by the President from a list of at least three (3) but not more than five (5) nominees for each position, submitted by youth and youth-serving organizations or institutions in their respective areas duly registered with the Commission.

The chairman and the appointive commissioners shall serve for a term of three (3) years, with reappointment for another term. The chairman shall have the rank and privileges of a department undersecretary, and the appointive commissioners shall have the rank and privileges of assistant secretaries of a department. The *ex officio* commissioner shall also have the rank and privileges of assistant secretary of a department.

SEC. 6. *Status and Nature of the Commission.* — The Commission shall be independent and autonomous and shall have the same status as that of national government agency attached to the Office of the President.

The Commission shall exercise corporate powers. It shall have a seal, may sue and be sued, and shall be the sole policy-making coordinating body of all youth-related institutions, programs, projects and activities of the government.

SEC. 7. *Qualifications of the Chairman and the Commissioners.* — The chairman shall not be more than forty-five (45) years of age, and the appointive commissioners no more than forty (40) years of age, at any time during their incumbency; natural-born citizens of the Philippines; have occupied positions of responsibility and leadership in duly registered youth and youth-serving organizations or institutions; of good moral character; and not have been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude.

The chairman shall serve as the chief executive officer of the Commission.

SEC. 8. *Objectives of the Commission.* — The objectives of the Commission are:

- a. To provide the leadership in the formulation of policies and in the setting of priorities and direction of all youth promotion and development programs and activities;
- b. To encourage wide and active participation of the youth in all governmental and nongovernmental programs, projects and activities affecting them;

- c. To harness and develop the full potential of the youth as partners in nation-building; and
- d. To supplement government appropriations for youth promotion and development with funds from other sources.

SEC. 9. *Powers of the Commission.* — The Commission shall have the following powers:

- a. To appoint the officers and other personnel of the Commission and fix their compensation, allowances and other emoluments, subject to the civil service and other existing applicable laws, rules and regulations;
- b. To suspend, dismiss, or otherwise discipline for cause, any employee, and/or to approve or disapprove the appointment, transfer or detail of employees, subject to the provisions of existing laws and regulations;
- c. To enter into contracts;
- d. To acquire, use and control any land, building, facilities, equipment, instrument, tools and rights required or otherwise necessary for the accomplishment of the objectives of the Commission;
- e. To acquire, own, possess and dispose of any real or personal property;
- f. To accept donations, gifts, bequests, and grants;
- g. To ensure the implementation by various government departments and agencies of their youth developmental projects and activities as indicated in their respective annual budgets;
- h. To issue rules and regulations in pursuance of the provisions of this Act; and
- i. To perform any and all other acts incident to or required by virtue of its creation.

SEC. 10. *Functions of the Commission.* — The Commission shall have the following functions:

- a. To formulate and initiate the national policy or policies on youth;
- b. To plan, implement, and oversee a national integrated youth promotion and development program;
- c. To establish a consultative mechanism which shall provide a forum for continuing dialogue between the government and the youth sector on the proper planning and evaluation of policies, programs and projects affecting the youth, convening for the purpose, representatives of all youth organizations and institutions, including the *sangguniang kabataan* from barangay, municipal, city, provincial and national levels;
- d. To assist and coordinate with governmental and nongovernmental organizations or institutions in the implementation of all laws, policies, programs and projects relative to youth promotion and development;
- e. To seek or request the assistance and support of any government agency, office or instrumentality including government-owned or -controlled corporations, local government units as well as nongovernmental organizations or institutions in pursuance of its policies, programs and projects;
- f. To conduct scientific, interdisciplinary and policy-oriented researches and studies on youth-related matters, as well as trainings, seminars and workshops that will enhance the skills and leadership potentials of the youth, instilling in them nationalism and patriotism, with particular emphasis on Filipino culture and values;
- g. To establish and maintain linkages with international youth and youth-serving organizations or institutions and counterpart agencies of foreign governments in