Republic Act 10952 or the law postponing the October 2017 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections to May 2018 severely limited the length of term of elected barangay and sangguniang kabataan officials from three years to two years. Not only does it compromise their ability to implement their projects aimed for the well-being of their constituents, but it might also affect the quality of their performance as local leaders. According to the aforementioned law, the next election would be held on May 2020 and is estimated to cost at least Three Billion Pesos.

It is only fitting that the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections be rescheduled to a later time for it would help in easing out election fatigue brought by the massive preparation done for the mid-term elections held last May 2019. Moreover, it would give Comelec time to recalibrate and prepare for the elections given the budget constraints the country is currently facing. In addition, the billions of pesos that can be saved from the postponement of the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections can instead be appropriated for crucial infrastructure projects such as extensive construction of roads and bridges, building of more schools, and other noteworthy endeavours that will help in boosting the economic growth of our country, in line with the Administration’s Build, Build, Build program.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.
AN ACT POSTPONING THE MAY 2020 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10632, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10656, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10923 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10952, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 9164, as amended by Republic Act No. 9340, Republic Act No. 10632, Republic Act No. 10656, Republic Act No. 10923 and Republic Act No. 10952, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 1. Date of Elections. - There shall be synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections, which shall be held on July 15, 2002. Subsequent synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections shall be held on the last Monday of October 2007 and every three (3) years thereafter. Provided that barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections on May 14, 2020 shall be postponed to the second Monday of October 2022. Subsequent synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections shall be held on the second Monday of October 2025 and every three (3) years thereafter.”

SECTION 2. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9164, as amended by Republic Act No. 9340, Republic Act No. 10632, Republic Act No. 10656, Republic Act No. 10923 and Republic Act No. 10952, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 4. Assumption of Office. - The term of office of the barangay and sangguniang kabataan officials elected under this Act shall commence at noon of November 30 next following their elections: Provided, however, That the term of office of the barangay and sangguniang kabataan officials elected in the October 2025 elections and subsequently thereafter, shall commence at noon of November 30 next following their election.”
SECTION 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Commission on Elections shall, within fifteen (15) days after the effectivity of this Act, promulgate such rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

SECTION 4. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. Separability Clause. - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.