EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State, under Article II, Section 13, upholds “the vital role of the youth in nation-building” and is therefore committed to “promot[ing] and protect[ing] their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being” by “inculcate in [them] patriotism and nationalism, and encourag[ing] their involvement in public and civic affairs.” This has led to the enactment of Republic Act No. 10742 (“Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015”), through Section 2 of which the State has taken on the task of “establish[ing] adequate, effective, responsive and enabling mechanisms and support systems that will ensure the meaningful participation of the youth in local governance and in nation-building.”

Government action in relation to carrying out this provision must now be stepped up. Today, more than ever, we need a generation of Filipinos who can successfully overcome the novel challenges—both social and economic—that have cropped up due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But the Filipino youth are facing great, potentially crippling, issues, such as (1) interruptions in education and schools struggling to migrate to online learning and (2) the possibility of job prospects decreasing all the way down to a global recession.

Hence, not only must the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) be mobilized towards engaging with their constituencies to thoroughly map out their immediate concerns, but they must also be equipped with modern facilities to properly execute the projects that will be most responsive to their constituencies’ needs. This Bill will serve as the State’s next concrete step in making SKs effective and efficient leaders in the ‘new normal,’ training thee Filipino youth in all the ways they can become productive members of the pre-and post-COVID-19 society.

As part of the various measures to be proposed, this Bill aims to construct, in each barangay, an SK center, dedicated to both giving SK officials an appropriate worksite and to standing as a convenient venue for capability-building trainings. Additionally, this bill seeks to institutionalize
mandatory, regular capacity-building trainings for SK officials, so that they
can first master the ‘new normal’ context through which they shall be guiding
their constituents.

It must be noted that these measures are not proposed to dissuade the
operators of private cold storage facilities.

It is for the foregoing premises that the approval of this Bill is earnestly
sought.

ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS
Representative, Ang Probinsyano Party-List
Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7327

Introduced by ANG PROBINSYANO
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN (SK) CENTERS IN
EACH BARANGAY AND FOR THE CAPACITY-BUILDING TRAININGS FOR
SK OFFICIALS

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “SK Centers
and Trainings Act of 2020.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State recognizes its duty to
enable the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) officials, in their capacity as youth
leaders, as active and innovative participants in nation-building. In light of
the COVID-19 pandemic, the State acknowledges the necessity of providing
them with the facilities and trainings that they need in order to safely,
dutifully carry out their responsibilities to their constituents, the most
pressing of which would be addressing concerns as to accessible education
and market-responsive skills training for adapting to the ‘new normal.’

SECTION 3. Sangguniang Kabataan Centers. – Each barangay shall
have a center dedicated to the use of the SK officials, as their worksite, and
to the hosting of the capacity-building trainings for the said officials. The
center shall be constructed with a design, and outfitted with the necessary
equipment, that will ensure: 1) its accessibility to the community; 2) its
connectivity to the internet; 3) its resiliency against natural calamities; and 4) 
compliance with basic hygiene/sanitation standards.

SECTION 4. Capacity-building trainings for SK Officials. – All SK officials
shall undergo mandatory, regular capacity-building trainings that will focus
on enabling them to execute their responsibilities, more responsively, in the
context of the ‘new normal.’
The detailed training curriculum shall be created by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), in consultation with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Department of Education (DepEd), the local government leagues, and the various youth organizations and youth-serving organizations.

SECTION 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Secretary of Interior and Local Government shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations required for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 6. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions or parts unaffected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees or issuances, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,