

National Movement of Young Legislators Constitution and By-Laws

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the National Movement of Young Legislators of the Philippines, imploring the aid of the Divine Providence, believe in the significant and distinct role of our sector in working for genuine social change and national development. Being vibrant and inspired movers of our society, we shall strive to galvanize our potentials and crystallize our noble ideals to serve our youth and people. United in our mission, we uphold and abide by this Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE I NAME

This organization shall be known as the National Movement of Young Legislators, hereinafter referred to as the NMYL.

ARTICLE II DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

Section 1. The NMYL upholds the Philippine Constitution and will actively work for its total realization.

Section 2. We uphold the principles of democracy, social, justice, and human rights.

Section 3. We recognize the important role of the youth sector as a prime mover of our society and as a catalyst for authentic national development.

Section 4. We uphold genuine nationalism, which includes our right as people to determine our destiny.

Section 5. We uphold the spirit of equality and respect among the nations of the world.

Section 6. We uphold the principle of genuine local autonomy.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section I. Regular Members. All elected and appointed young vice governors, vice mayors, board members and councilors who are 35 years old and below; at the time of the last and immediately preceding local elections or the time of their appointment shall be qualified to become regular members of the NMYL. Regular membership in the organization shall be co-terminus with their tenure of office as vice governors, vice mayors, provincial board, city and municipal council members.

¹ Amended and ratified during the **Twelfth (12th) National Congress**, as proposed by **Hon. Humerlito A. Dolor, Senior Provincial Board Member, Oriental Mindoro**, held at the Waterfront Hotel, Cebu City, 18 October 2002.

Section 2. Ex-Officio Members. All duly elected Presidents of the different Pambayan, Panlungsod at Panlalawigang Pederasyon ng Sangguniang Kabataan, and ABC President of different Pambayan, Panlungsod at Panlalawigang Pederasyon ng Sangguniang Kabataan who are 35 years old and below at the time of their election to office, shall be qualified for membership to NMYL upon payment of the required membership fee. Their membership in the organization shall likewise be co-terminus with their tenure of office.

Section 3. Associate Members. Associate members are those formerly categorized as NMYL regular *or ex-officio* members but have already gone beyond the age of 35 years old at the time of the last and immediately preceding local elections or at the time of their appointment. Associate members are required to submit to the NMYL National Office the NMYL Associate Membership Form and pay the NMYL annual dues.

Section 4. Honorary Members. All regular, *ex-officio* and associate members who have subsequently been elected or assumed positions as governors, mayors, or elected as Senators or Members of the House of Representatives, or appointed to the Cabinet or head or associate head of any Commission or Bureau, including those who have gone beyond the age of 35 at the time of the last election, shall ipso facto be considered Honorary Members unless they submit in writing their intent to discontinue their membership.

Honorary and associate members shall have all the benefits, rights, privileges and obligations of a regular member except the right to vote or be voted upon for any position within the organization. They can, however, be appointed to any committee or be designated to any position in an ex-officio capacity by the NMYL National Council.

ARTICLE IV

RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Every member shall have the right to participate in all appropriate organizational undertakings, engage in discussions, deliberations and debates and lobby for opinions and positions.

Section 2. Every member shall have the right to equal treatment in the organization, and protection irrespective of political party affiliation, sex, religion, and economic and social status.

Section 3. Every member shall have the right to all information and access to all records about the organization and its program of activities.

ARTICLE V

ORGANIZATIONAL TASKS

Section 1. To organize and consolidate local young legislators nationwide to advance the interest of our youth in particular and the people in general.

Section 2. To promote and work for the legislative measures pushing for the rights and interests of our youth:

- a. quality education;

- b. accessible sports and recreation;
- c. progressive culture and arts;
- d. decent jobs;
- e. humane and peaceful environment; and
- f. freedom of speech and expression.

Section 3. To work for a clean, honest and service-oriented government.

Section 4. To foster unity and cooperation among all the local government leagues, national youth organizations, non-government organizations and international youth organizations, people's organizations and other related institutions for local autonomy and development and youth empowerment.

Section 5. To provide a cohesive force that will embody the sentiments and aspirations of the members.

Section 6. To serve as a forum of discussion and feedback mechanism on policies affecting local government units and the youth sector.

Section 7. To encourage people's participation in local government administration in order to promote united and concerted action for the attainment of countrywide development goals.

Section 8. To serve as a forum for crystallizing and expressing ideas and articulating the stand and position of the Movement on important national issues, seeking the necessary assistance of the national government, and providing the private sector, non-governmental organizations, people's organizations, and the academe avenues of cooperation in the promotion of the welfare of the young legislators.

Section 9. To ensure proper and efficient organizational and structural mechanism to realize the Movement's programs and objectives.

ARTICLE VI

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1. Every member shall uphold and abide by the Constitution and By-laws of the NMYL and implement plans and policies agreed upon by the organization.

Section 2. Every member is required to attend appropriate organizational meetings and other NMYL undertakings.

Section 3. Every member is required to pay organizational dues and to extend material, financial and other forms of support of the NMYL to ensure an active and dynamic organization.

Section 4. Every member must preserve the integrity of the NMYL and must not indulge in activities or take actions detrimental to the organization.

Section 5. Every member must maintain and develop the spirit of camaraderie in the organization.

ARTICLE VII
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Section 1. The NMYL shall have a democratic structure to ensure democratic processes within the organization.

Section 2. The National Assembly. It shall be composed of all officers and members and shall be the highest policy – making body of the organization. It shall be convened once a year. Special sessions of the National Assembly may be called in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 3. The National Council. It shall be composed of all the duly elected Regional *Chairpersons*, all the members of the National Executive Committee *and other ex-officio members. For this purpose, the ex-officio members shall pertain to those members of the NMYL who shall be tasked to hold appointive positions of great importance to the organization, They shall be appointed by the National President and shall be subject to concurrence by the National Council.* The National Council shall be the highest policy – making body of the organization in the absence of the National Assembly. The National Council shall be headed by *the duly elected National President.* It shall be convened at least once ***every quarter.*** Special sessions of the National Council may be called in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and By-laws.

Section 4. The National Executive Committee. It shall be composed of the President, Executive Vice President, four (4) Vice Presidents (Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and NCR), Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General, Treasurer, *Assistant Treasurer*, two (2) Auditors, two (2) Public Relations Officers, and (3) Legal Affairs Officers, one for every major island groups (Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao). It shall be responsible for the implementation of programs and resolutions of the organization. It shall convene *as often as necessary upon the call of the National President or one-third (1/3) of its members.*

Section 5. The Regional Assembly. It shall be composed of all the members within the particular region and shall be the highest policy making body at the regional level. *It shall meet at least once a year at the place and time to be determined by the Regional Council. Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson upon the recommendation of the Regional Executive Committee as the need arises. The functions and responsibilities of the Regional Assembly as well as the Regional Executive Committee shall be in accordance with the guidelines to be issued by the National Council.*

Section 6. The Regional Executive Committee. It shall be composed of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Public Relations Officer and such other positions as may be deemed necessary *by the Regional Assembly*, and shall be the highest policy-making body at the regional level in the absence of the Regional Assembly. It shall be responsible for the implementation of programs and resolutions arrived at by the organization at the regional level. *It shall meet at least twice a year. Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson as the need arises.*

Section 7. The Provincial Assembly. It shall be composed of all the members within a particular province and shall be the highest policy-making body at the provincial level. It shall meet at least twice a year. Special meetings may be called by the Provincial Chairperson upon the recommendation of the Provincial Executive Committee as the need arises. The functions and responsibilities of the Provincial Assembly as well as the Provincial Executive Committee shall be in accordance with the guidelines to be issued by the National Council.

Section 8. The Provincial Executive Committee. It shall be composed of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and Public Relations Officer, and such other officers as may be deemed necessary by the Provincial Assembly, and shall be the highest policy-making body of the provincial level in the absence of the Provincial Assembly. It shall be responsible for the implementation of programs and resolutions arrived at by the organization at the provincial level. It shall meet at least once every quarter. Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson from time to time.

Section 9. City/Municipal Caucus. It shall be a consultative mechanism among members in a given city/municipality. Its proposals and resolutions are recommendatory in nature and shall only be decided upon at the provincial level. Provincial board members **who are NMYL members** are required to sit in a city/municipal caucus under his/her territorial jurisdiction.

ARTICLE VIII

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The President. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the organization. He/she shall preside in all the meetings of the National Assembly, the National Council, and the National Executive Committee. He/she shall be the primary spokesperson of the organization.

Section 2. The Executive Vice President. The Executive Vice President shall exercise all powers and perform all duties of the President as such during the incapacity or absence of the latter. He/she shall perform such other duties that may be assigned to him/her by the National Executive Committee and the National Council.

Section 3. The Vice Presidents (4). The four (4) Vice Presidents shall head the four (4) major committees namely: membership, foreign relations, education and resource development, and electoral affairs. The Vice Presidents shall perform such other duties that may be assigned to them by the National Executive Committee and the National Council.

Section 4. The Secretary General. The Secretary General shall head the Secretariat. He/she shall take charge of the monitoring of the work and operations of the standing committees. He/she shall perform such other duties that may be assigned to him/her by the National Executive Committee and the National Council.

Section 5. The Deputy Secretary General. The Deputy Secretary General shall exercise all powers and perform all duties of the Secretary General during the incapacity and absence of the latter. He/She shall assist the Secretary General in the implementation and monitoring of the NMYL programs and operations. He/she shall perform such other duties that may be assigned to him/her by the National Executive Committee and the National Council.

Section 6. The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall take charge of all financial matters of the NMYL. He/she shall head the Finance Committee. He/she shall keep all the money and other valuables of the organization in such bank or banks as the National Council may designate. He/she shall keep and take charge of the book of accounts, which shall be open to inspection by or all members of the National Council or the deputized auditing firm/auditor whenever required. He/she must submit a regular financial report to the National Council. He/she shall perform such other duties that may be assigned to him/her by the National Council.

Section 7. The Assistant Treasurer. He/she shall exercise all functions and perform all duties of the Treasurer during the latter's incapacity and absence. He/she shall also assist the Treasurer in the discharge of his/her duties and functions. The Assistant Treasurer shall perform such other duties that may be assigned to him/her by the National Executive Committee and the National Council.

Section 8. The Auditors. The Auditors shall take charge in the auditing of all financial transactions of the NMYL. They shall perform such other duties that may be assigned to them by the National Executive Committee and the National Council.

Section 9. The Public Relations Officers. The Public Relations Officers shall take charge of the publicity and information work of the organization. They shall head the Publicity and Information Committee. They shall also take charge of the official publication of the organization, " Young Legislator ". They shall perform such other duties that may be assigned to them by the National Executive Committee and the National Council. They shall be the official spokespersons of the NMYL

Section 10. The Legal Affairs Officers (one legal officer per major island group). The Legal Affairs Officers shall take charge of all the legal matters and affairs of the organization. They shall perform such other duties that may be assigned to them by the National Executive Committee and the National Council.

ARTICLE IX

THE STANDING COMMITTEES AND THE SECRETARIAT

Section 1. Finance Committee. The Finance Committee shall be headed by the Treasurer. It shall be composed of a minimum of three to a maximum of seven qualified members, and shall have the following duties and functions:

- a. Responsible for all matters pertaining to raising of funds, disbursements, budget, properties, and livelihood projects;
- b. Submit regular financial report to the organization;
- c. Take charge of all financial matters of the organization; and
- d. Make all financial records available at anytime for periodic assessment and audit.

Section 2. Publicity and Information Committee. The Publicity and Information Committee shall be headed by the Public Relations Officers and shall be composed of a minimum of three to a maximum of seven qualified members, and shall have the following duties and functions:

- a. Implement the national policies and programs of the NMYL on information dissemination and publicity; and
- b. Facilitate the use of the press, the tri-media and other forms of communication to propagate the objectives, programs, and activities of the organization.

Section 3. Membership Committee. The membership committee shall be headed by one of the Vice-Presidents, shall be composed of a minimum of three to a maximum of seven members, and shall have the following duties and functions:

- a. Ensure the vigorous and systematic expansion and consolidation of the organization;
- b. Propose policies pertaining to membership; and
- c. Make regular reports to the organization.

Section 4. Education and Human Resource Development Committee. The Education and Human Resource Development Committee shall be headed by one of the Vice Presidents, shall be composed of a minimum of three to a maximum of seven qualified members, and shall have the following duties and functions:

- a. Take charge of the education and training program of the organization;
- b. Undertake researches and studies on different issues and human resource development; and
- c. Make regular reports to the organization.

Section 5. Foreign Relations Committee. The Foreign Relations Committee shall be headed by one of the Vice Presidents, shall be composed of a minimum of three to a maximum of seven qualified members, and shall have the following duties and functions:

- a. Take charge of international solidarity/relations work;
- b. Expand and consolidate contacts in the international community;
- c. Propose programs and policies on international solidarity/relations work; and
- d. Make regular reports to the organization.

Section 6. Electoral Affairs Committee. The Electoral Affairs Committee shall be headed by one of the Vice Presidents, shall be composed of a minimum of three to a maximum of seven qualified members, and shall have the following duties and functions:

- a. Propose policies and guidelines on both internal and external electoral matters;
- b. Establish links with existing political parties or groups engaged in electoral struggles; and
- c. Make regular reports to the organization.

Section 7. Legal Affairs Committee. The Legal Affairs Committee shall be headed by one of the Legal Affairs Officers to be chosen by the National Council, shall be composed of a minimum of three to a maximum of seven qualified members, and shall have the following duties and functions:

- a. Take charge of the legal matters of the organization;
- b. Propose policies and guidelines on legal affairs of the organization; and
- c. Make regular reports to the organization.

Section 8. Secretariat. The Secretariat shall be headed by the Secretary General, shall be composed of an executive director, regular staff members, authorized representatives or liaisons of every standing committee, and qualified volunteers, and shall have the following duties and functions:

- a. Take charge of the technical aspect of the implementation of the policies, programs and activities of the organization;
- b. Supervise the operations of the National Office;
- c. Make regular reports to the organization; and
- d. Perform such other tasks and functions as may be assigned by the National Executive Committee, the National Council, by the Standing Committees or by the Secretary General.

ARTICLE X

ON ELECTIONS, OFFICE DECISIONS AND MEETINGS

Section 1. Elections. The following shall form part of the guidelines for election proceedings in the organization.

- a. The Regional Council Officers shall be elected by their respective Regional Assemblies. A member who is elected as a regional officer shall not be qualified for any position in the National Executive Committee. In case a regional officer files his or her certificate of candidacy in the elections for the National Executive Committee, he/she shall be considered automatically resigned from his/her position. He/she can neither be appointed as an ex-officio member of the National Council.
- b. The National Executive Committee members shall be elected at large by the National Assembly except for the four (4) Vice Presidents, who shall be elected by their respective geographical groups, the Legal Affairs Officers who are to be appointed by the National President subject to the concurrence of the National Council. The Legal Affairs Officers shall be members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines in good standing, or in the absence thereof, any member who is graduate of the Bachelor of Laws or any member of NMYL.
- c. A member is qualified to run for one position only.
- d. All Regional and Provincial Officers are to be elected at large by their respective assemblies.
- e. A quorum shall be constituted by a simple majority attendance of the duly registered NMYL members.

Section 2. Term of Office. All officers shall serve the organization for a period of three (3) years, unless sooner removed from office for cause or have died, resigned, or permanently incapacitated, which shall be co-terminus with their respective terms of office as local government officials and shall continue to hold office regardless of changes in leadership in the local and national levels. Provided, however, that they shall continue to hold office until their successors shall have been duly elected and qualified.

Section 3. Decisions. The following shall guide the decision-making processes in the organization.

- a. The rule of a simple majority shall be the basis of decisions to be arrived at all levels.
- b. A motion for reconsideration, in order to be granted shall, likewise, require a simple majority vote.
- c. A quorum shall be constituted by a simple majority attendance of all the duly registered NMYL Members at the concerned level.

Section 4. Meetings. – The following shall serve as guides to organizational meetings.

- a. Meetings to be held other than the regular ones specified earlier in this Constitution and By-Laws may be classified as special meetings or emergency meetings.
- b. In addition to the above-mentioned provisions, special or emergency meetings may be called by one-third of the members of the organizational body concerned.
- c. The National Executive Committee, by a majority vote of all its members, can call for special meetings of either the National Council or the National Assembly.

ARTICLE XI

FUND

Section 1. Funds. The funds of the organization shall be derived from membership fee, annual dues, special assessment of members, donations or other benefits.

Section 2. Fees and Dues. Every member of the organization shall, in addition to the membership fee, pay annual dues and/or assessment that may be imposed by the organization from time to time.

Section 3. Disbursements. Withdrawal from the funds of the organization, whether by check or any other procedure, shall be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by the President. If necessary, the National Council may designate other signatories.

ARTICLE XII

RECALL, REMOVAL AND SUSPENSION FROM THE ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Recall. Any officer or an individual of the general membership of the organization may be recalled anytime for loss of confidence in him/her by the NMYL General Assembly *by a simple majority vote there being a quorum.*

Section 2. Removal and Suspension from Office. Any Officer of the organization may be suspended or removed from office during his/her term on the following grounds:

- a. Absenteeism;
- b. Dishonesty;
- c. Neglect of duty;
- d. Abandonment of office;
- e. Misconduct in office;
- f. Abuse of position;
- g. Conviction an offense involving moral turpitude;
- h. Receiving and/or soliciting for personal use of fee, gift or other valuable things in the course of his/her official duties and conduct prejudicial to the organization.

In case of suspension *or removal from office*, two-thirds (2/3) vote *of all the members of the National Council, or two-thirds vote of those present there being a quorum of the respective.* Regional Assembly, Provincial Assembly or Committee as the case be, shall be required. Provided, however, that the same shall not last for more than three (3) months. Provided, further, that no elective officer shall be removed except upon proper trial and the necessary proceedings with due notice and opportunity to be heard shall be undertaken by the proper organization officers concerned.

The National *Council* shall promulgate the rules and regulations which shall govern the proceedings. There is abandonment of office if the incumbent fails or refuses without lawful cause to enter upon the discharge of his/her duties within the period of three (3) consecutive months from the time he ceases or neglects to perform his/her duties. Section 60 (Recall, Removal and Suspension of Elective Officials) of the Local Government Code of 1991 shall be supplementary to the rules and regulations to be formulated by the National *Council*.

ARTICLE XIII

ORGANIZATION SEAL

Section 1. Form. The organization seal shall be in such form and design as may be determined by the National *Council*.

ARTICLE XIV

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. No officer or his duly authorized representative shall receive personal remuneration for services rendered to the organization unless otherwise authorized by specific decision of the organization.

Section 2. The name of the organization shall not be used for unjust, unlawful or immoral ends.

Section 3. No contribution either in cash or in kind, shall be solicited by any member except for just and reasonable purposes to be authorized by their respective organizational bodies.

Section 4. All members shall defend the NMYL Constitution and By-Laws at all times.

Section 5. This Constitution and By-Laws shall be officially promulgated in Filipino and English.

ARTICLE XV **AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS**

Section 1. Any amendment to or revision of this Constitution and By-Laws can only be introduced every Annual Congress

Section 2. Any amendment to, or revision of this Constitution and By-Laws may be proposed by any NMYL Member on the occasion of the Annual Congress during the plenary, or through an Omnibus Amendment/Revision prepared by the National Council.

Section 3. Any amendment to or revision of this Constitution and By-Laws shall take effect a month after when ratified by a majority of the votes cast during the National Assembly there being a quorum.