

The Search for the OUTSTANDING NYP ADVOCATE (SONA)

RATIONALE

Section 13 of the Youth in Nation Building Act of 1995 (Republic Act 8044) states that “The Youth Parliament shall be initially convened not later than six (6) months from the full constitution of the Commission, and shall meet at the call of the National Youth Commission (NYC), and thereafter be convened every two (2) years.”

The National Youth Parliament (NYP) aims to gather youth leaders in the country to discuss the prevailing issues affecting them, to serve as a venue for the youth to craft policy recommendations in the pursuit of advancing youth concerns.

For the past ten years, convening the NYP has been a grueling task for the National Youth Commission, thus putting considerable resources and efforts in continuously improving the program concept every other year. The hard work has proven to be fruitful, which resulted to having policy recommendations from each batch since the NYP was first convened in 1995. The convening of NYP in the past also saw the organization of Regional Task Forces, while the most recent batch became partners to a number of attempts to localize the Medium-Term Youth Development Plan (MTYDP).

While the above-mentioned accomplishments sparked youth participation, the implementing agency noted some lessons learned, which served as a springboard in the introduction of a new approaches in implementing the NYP. Among these lessons learned were: task forces were not functional from the first to the last NYP; there was lack of support from NYC in terms of capacity building; higher level of interaction spurred when parliamentary procedure was lessened; and there was no significant policy advocacy accomplished.

Based on the lessons learned, NYC provided capacity building for the 6th NYP to make them effective in influencing policy and decision makers to create an environment supportive of total youth development. Inasmuch as the term of the 6th NYP will end by October of 2008, it is appropriate and necessary to reward the outstanding youth advocates.

THE SONA

The Search for the Outstanding NYP Advocates (SONA) was launched by the Commission on October 25, 2006 in Tagbilaran City. It aims to recognize and reward significant contributions in policy advocacy. This will be accomplished by identifying outstanding National Youth Parliamentarians in both local and national levels. The conferment of awards also intends to motivate or inspire future young advocates to participate in social development focused on results benefiting the youth sector in particular. The search ends with the recognition and conferment of awards to deserving 6th NYP advocates during the conduct of the 7th NYP.

GUIDELINES

1. The Awards Program shall apply to all officers and members of the 6th NYP.
2. What are the grounds for disqualification of nominees? Non-submission of any of the requirements enumerated under these guidelines and or any misrepresentation of information made in the nomination form and documents submitted are grounds for disqualification of nominees.
3. An awards committee composed of NYC officials/ staff and a national NGO and youth organization with expertise in advocacy shall be organized.
4. Nominees should not ask special favor or consideration (directly or thru their intermediaries) to officials and staff of the NYC or any member of the Awards Committee.
5. Who may nominate? Any member or officer of the 6th NYP with extensive knowledge of the advocacy performance of the candidate of may nominate for the SONA Awards
6. Criteria for Evaluation. The matrix shown below shows the awards criteria. All advocates garnering at least 80% of the standard shall be awarded as outstanding NYP advocates.

Criteria	Indicators	Means of Verification
LEADERSHIP QUALITIES 30%	- Ability to guide or influence others on a course of action, influence the opinions and behaviors of others, and serve as a role mode (10%) - Demonstrated ability to establish support networks in order to fully participate in community and youth development and effect positive social change (20%)	Validation of Performance Report
Good Advocacy Initiatives 50%	Existence of local and or national policies supportive of the 6 th NYP policy recommendations (20%) Functional partnerships / social mobilization/ resource generation (10%) Existence of programs or projects supportive of the 6 th NYP policy recommendations (20%)	Validation of Performance Report
Participation in National Confederation of Youth Advocates (NCYA) Activities 20%	Demonstrated participation in NCYA activities such as advocacy, planning, workshops, capacity building, etc.	Validation of Performance Report

7. Inasmuch as the passage of policies and implementation of programs may not be within the control of some youth advocates, recognition shall be given to candidates who garner at least 40% in terms of leadership and participation (in NCYA activities) standards and demonstrated consistency in national and or local advocacy of the 6th NYP policy recommendations.

8. For the required nomination documents, the attached NYP awards form and matrix shall be filled in briefly and concisely with the following attachments:

- a. Certification issued by the nominee that he/she has not been found guilty of any administrative nor has any pending administrative or criminal case against him/her at the time of nomination.
- b. Photocopies of nominee's clippings, news items, pictures and other documents to support the nomination.

9. Three copies of nomination documents should be submitted to the NYC on or before June 30, 2008 using the following address:

*RICHARD ALVIN M. NALUPTA
Chairperson
National Youth Commission
4th Floor Bookman Building
373 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City*

Attention: NYP Awards Committee

10. The Commission has approved the following forms of rewards:

- a. A total of PHP 100,000 to be distributed equally for all the Outstanding NYP Advocates but each awardee is entitled only a maximum of PHP10,000 for the cash, trophy, and plaque.
- b. A total of PHP 50,000 to be distributed equally NYP advocates with recognition but each awardee is entitled only a maximum of PHP 5,000 for the cash, trophy, and plaque .

Qualifications/ Criteria

1. Regional Network/Federation Level

- Membership and leadership is composed of at least fifteen (15) members
- Federation with advocacy effort/s resulting to implemented policies contributing to youth development.

2. Individual Category Level

- 6th NYP member
- Author of a policy paper resulting to implemented ordinance/policy contributing to youth development.

Entry and Selection Process

1. Program promotion and publicity shall be integrated in the TAYO Awards System by year 2008.
2. Area Screening. Initial screening will take place in the main office of the NYC. Regional (Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao, and NCR) screenings will be held. The screening committee will be selected by the NYC . A validation process will verify the information submitted by the organization. Area-wide finals will take place after, to identify five entries to represent the area in the TAYO National Finals.

Prizes for each of the Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations

1. Plaque of Commendation
2. Grant amounting to fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00)

1. The organizers reserve the right to modify, amend, or alter the abovementioned rules, or waive compliance therewith at its sole discretion, if such steps are in accordance with the purpose of the TAYO awards scheme.

2. All materials submitted to the TAYO Secretariat automatically become property of the organizers.