

# Benjamin “Benhur” Abalos Jr., #1

Former Secretary, Department of Interior and  
Local Government  
as of Feb. 5, 2025



**Age and date of birth:** 62 (July 19, 1962)

**Party:** Partido Federal ng Pilipinas

**Highest Educational Attainment:** Bachelor of Laws, Ateneo de Manila University

**Highest Government Position Held:** Secretary, Department of Interior and Local Government

## Summary:

Bearing the tagline “Kilos Abalos,” Abalos vows to file amendments to the Local Government Code as his first order of business, if elected. The first-time senatorial aspirant also promises to push for reduced power rates and food security, among others.

## Stance on Key Issues

### On Poverty, Controlling Inflation and Jobs

- Believes the concept of ayuda program is “good” but needs proper implementation
- Proposes a review of the Rice Tariffication Law to bring down prices

### On Fighting Graft and Corruption

- Vows to strengthen the country’s anti-graft policies
- Advocates for amendments to the Local Government Code of 1991

### On West Philippine Sea

- Criticizes the presence of Chinese vessels in the West Philippine Sea and condemns China’s continuous aggression
- Supports the assertion of the country’s rights in contested waters

### On The Drug War

- Promotes a “holistic” approach to the issue of illegal drug by letting authorities arrest drug pushers while strengthening anti-drug abuse councils, addressing education and labor problems as well as promoting a healthy lifestyle to reduce the demand for drugs
- Says that families, schools, churches and communities play a vital role in fighting illegal drugs

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## Stance on Key Issues

### On Disaster-preparedness

- Stresses the value of timely announcements and simplified weather reporting in disaster preparedness
- Vows to push for legislation that will address the worsening effects of climate change
- Recognizes the importance of preserving the Sierra Madre as part of the government’s disaster mitigation plan

## Government Experience/Field of Expertise

- Secretary - Department of Interior and Local Government (2022-2024)
  - Some of the implemented policies and programs under his term were:
    - Buhay Ingatan, Droga’y Ayawan or BIDA program centered on the prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration of drug dependents.
    - Revitalized Pulis sa Barangay
    - Halina’t Magtanim ng Prutas at Gulay (HAPAG) sa Barangay project
  - Integration of former Moro Islamic Liberation Front and Moro National Liberal Front rebels into the Philippine National Police (PNP)
  - Took into custody high-profile personalities such as dismissed mayor Alice Guo of Bamban, Tarlac; Kingdom of Jesus Christ (KOJC) leader Apollo Quiboloy; and alleged sex trafficker Teddy Meijia.
- Chairman - Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (2021-2022)
- Mayor - Mandaluyong City (1998-2004; 2007-2016)
  - Under his term, Mandaluyong City was recognized as the “New Tiger City of Metro Manila” for its vibrant economy
- President - Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (2007-2010)
- President - League of Cities of the Philippines (2007-2010)
- Representative - Mandaluyong City, lone district (2004-2007)
  - Principal author, Republic Act 9397, also known as the Amended Urban Development Housing Act of 1992
- Councilor - Mandaluyong City (1995-1998)

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## Issues and Controversies

- Faces a malicious mischief case filed by former president Rodrigo Duterte over an operation to arrest Quiboloy at the KOJC compound in September 2024; Abalos filed a counter-affidavit two months later, denying allegations of destruction of property.
- Drew flak for a photo of him and PNP Chief General Rommel Marbil with dismissed mayor Guo accused of involvement in illegal offshore gaming operations; Abalos said the photo was only for documentation and he did not know Guo was striking a pose.

## Family Members in Government

### Benjamin Abalos Sr.

- Relationship: Father
- Position/s held:
  - Mayor - Mandaluyong City (2022-2025; 1988-1998)
  - Chairman - Commission on Elections (2002)
  - Chairman - Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (2001-2002)
  - Officer-in-Charge - Mandaluyong City (1986-1987)

### Benjamin “Benjie” Abalos III

- Relationship: Son
- Position/s held:
  - Councilor - Mandaluyong City, second district (2019-2025)

### Carmelita “Menchie” Aguilar-Abalos

- Relationship: Wife
- Position/s held:
  - Vice Mayor - Mandaluyong City (2022-2025)
  - Mayor - Mandaluyong City (2016-2022)

### Charisse Marie Abalos-Vargas

- Relationship: Daughter
- Position/s held:
  - Mandaluyong City, first district (2013-2022)