



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 4065

BY REPRESENTATIVES OLAÑO, ALFELOR, LAGBAS, IPONG, APOSTOL, UY (E.), CABILAO, ABUBAKAR, ZAMORA (M.), CHAVEZ, CAGAS, CHUNGALAO, VIRADOR, BULUT, TALIÑO-SANTOS, SEACHON-LANETE, GARIN, ANTONINO (R.), TOMAWIS, CUA (G.), VICENCIO, ANGARA, ENRILE, NOEL, AGARAO, MAYSAYSAY (E.) AND ZUBIRI, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 609

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A STRATEGY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT, STRENGTHENING VOLUNTEERISM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known and cited as the
2 “Volunteer Act of 2005”.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It shall be the policy of the State to
4 promote the participation of the various sectors of the Filipino society, and as
5 necessary, international and foreign volunteer organizations in public and civic
6 affairs, and adopt and strengthen the practice of volunteerism as a strategy in
7 order to attain national development and international understanding. The
8 inculcation of volunteerism as a way of life shall rekindle in every Filipino the

1 time-honored tradition of bayanihan to foster social justice, solidarity and
2 sustainable development.

3 SEC. 3. *Statement of Goals and Objectives.* – To carry out the
4 foregoing policy, the government shall pursue the attainment of the following
5 goals and objectives:

6 (a) To provide a policy framework on volunteerism that shall
7 underscore the fundamental principles necessary to harness and harmonize the
8 broad and diverse efforts of the voluntary sector in the country into an
9 integrative and effective partnership for local and national development as well
10 as international cooperation and understanding ;

11 (b) To provide a conducive and enabling environment for volunteers
12 and volunteer service organizations by setting mechanisms to protect
13 volunteers' rights and privileges and give due recognition to highlight their
14 roles and contributions to society; and

15 (c) To provide an effective institutional mechanism to strengthen the
16 role of the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency
17 (PNVSCA) to perform its mandates and to oversee the implementation of this
18 Act.

19 SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following
20 shall mean:

21 (a) “Volunteerism” refers to an act involving a wide range of activities,
22 including traditional forms of mutual aid and developmental interventions that
23 provides an enabling and empowering environment both on the part of the

1 beneficiary receiving and the volunteer rendering the act, undertaken for
2 reasons arising from sociodevelopmental, business or corporate orientation,
3 commitment or conviction for the attainment of the public good and where
4 monetary and other incentives or reward are not the primary motivating
5 factors.

6 (b) "Volunteer" refers to an individual or group who for reasons arising
7 from their sociodevelopmental, business and corporate orientation,
8 commitment or conviction, contribute time, service and resources whether on
9 full-time or part-time basis to a just and essential social development cause,
10 mission or endeavor in the belief that their activity is mutually meaningful and
11 beneficial to public interest as well as to themselves.

12 (c) "Volunteer service organization" refers to a local or foreign group
13 that recruits, trains, deploys and supports volunteer workers to programs and
14 projects implemented by them or by other organizations or any group that
15 provides services and resources, including but not limited to, information,
16 capability building, advocacy and networking for the attainment of the
17 common good.

18 (d) "Voluntary sector" refers to those sectors of Philippine society that
19 organizes themselves into volunteers to take advocacy and action primarily for
20 local and national development as well as international cooperation and
21 understanding.

1 SEC. 5. *Role and Modalities of Volunteerism in the Private Sector.* –

2 (a) Volunteerism in the academe includes, but is not limited to,
3 provision of technical assistance and sharing of technology within the
4 academic circle, target communities and other clienteles and the upgrading of
5 the quality of education and curriculum methodologies while providing career
6 enhancement and exposure to the volunteers; **

7 (b) Volunteerism in the corporate sector as an expression of corporate
8 social responsibility and citizenship, refers to activities recognized by the
9 company, where employees give their time, skills and resources in the service
10 of the company's internal and/or external communities. These volunteering
11 activities include, but are not limited to, employee giving of material resources
12 to specific causes; employee-led fund-raising; one-time outreach activities;
13 environmental campaign; medical and health-related advocacies; knowledge
14 and change management; scholarship programs; and sharing of expertise,
15 particularly of business and developmental skills through mentoring, tutoring,
16 training, business consulting/advising and rendering of *pro bono* services on a
17 case-to-case basis; and

18 (c) Volunteerism by not-for-profit organizations includes, but is not
19 limited to, provision of complementary service delivery and human resource
20 development in underserved communities as well as advocacy and articulation
21 of the cause of the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

22 SEC. 6. *Role and Modalities of Volunteerism by Foreign Volunteer*
23 *Organizations.* – Volunteerism by foreign volunteer organizations includes,

1 but is not limited to, provision of technical assistance not locally accessible in
2 priority development areas within the framework of technical cooperation and
3 sociocultural exchange.

4 SEC. 7. *Role of the Government.* – The government shall coordinate,
5 facilitate and encourage the participation of the voluntary sector in the
6 promotion, utilization and recognition of volunteerism in national development
7 and international cooperation. This shall be achieved through the provision of
8 enabling and conducive environment for volunteer work.

9 SEC. 8. *The Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating*
10 *Agency(PNVSCA)* . – The PNVSCA created by Executive Order No. 134, as
11 amended, shall undertake the implementation and execution of the provisions
12 of this Act.

13 SEC. 9. *Mandates of the PNVSCA.* – The PNVSCA shall have the
14 following functions:

15 (a) review and formulate policies and guidelines concerning the
16 national volunteer service program consistent with national development
17 priorities;

18 (b) coordinate, monitor and evaluate the national volunteer service
19 program in order that volunteer assistance may fit into the total national
20 development goals;

21 (c) act as clearing house for matters pertaining to international
22 volunteer services;

1 (d) develop and implement prototypes and models of volunteering for
2 adoption by institutions and communities;

3 (e) provide technical services and support for capability building of
4 volunteers and volunteer organizations;

5 (f) undertake advocacy for the promotion and recognition of
6 volunteerism as a tool for development;

7 (g) establish and maintain a national network of volunteer
8 organizations and serve as liaison between and among local and foreign
9 governmental private voluntary organizations including the United Nations
10 Volunteers (UNV); and

11 (h) administer all the PNVSCA funds from all sources including
12 foreign aid in accordance with accounting and auditing requirements.

13 For this purpose, the executive director of the PNVSCA shall submit an
14 *organizational plan* upon advice of the MultiSectoral Advisory Body to the
15 Department of Budget and Management.

16 SEC. 10. *The MultiSectoral Advisory Body (MSAB)*. – To assist the
17 PNVSCA, the Body created under Executive Order No. 635 shall be
18 reconstituted with the following members:

19 (a) the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA);

20 (b) the Department of Education (DepEd);

21 (c) the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA);

22 (d) the Department of Justice (DOJ);

23 (e) the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);

- 1 (f) the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);
- 2 (g) the Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
- 3 (h) the Presidential Management Staff (PMS), Office of the President;
- 4 (I) the Representative/s from the corporate sector;
- 5 (j) the Representative/s from the private academe sector; and
- 6 (k) the Representative/s from the not-for-profit sector.

7 All member government agencies shall be represented at least by an
8 assistant secretary while the private sector agencies shall be represented at least
9 by their highest executive officers. The government agencies shall be
10 permanent members while the representatives from the private sector shall
11 serve for a two-year term. The chair of the MSAB shall be elected from
12 among the members of the body. The PNVSCA executive director, being an
13 *ex officio* member, shall serve as the permanent vice chair.

14 The MSAB may call on representatives of other government agencies
15 and/or the private sector to serve as resource person/s on volunteerism as the
16 need arises.

17 SEC. 11. *Functions of the MSAB.* – The MSAB shall have the
18 following functions:

- 19 (a) provide advice in the formulation of policies and guidelines for the
20 national volunteer service program;
- 21 (b) provide consultative and technical advisory services on volunteer
22 matters; and

1 (c) serve as a forum to enhance and strengthen linkages between and
2 among volunteer groups and communities.

3 SEC. 12. *Special Provisions.* –

4 (a) Establishment of a National Volunteer Infrastructure and Forum.–

5 The PNVSCA shall develop and establish a system of national registration and
6 networking to improve coordination of volunteers and volunteer service
7 organizations to widen horizon for sharing and complementing information,
8 experiences and resources.

9 (b) Integration of Volunteerism in the Basic and Higher Education

10 Curriculum. – The DepEd and the CHED shall integrate volunteerism as part
11 of the curriculum in basic and higher education to raise the consciousness of
12 the youth and develop the culture of volunteerism among the citizenry.

13 (c) Establishment of Volunteer Program in National Government

14 Agencies and Local Government Units (LGUs). – National government
15 agencies and LGUs shall establish volunteer programs in their respective
16 offices to promote and encourage *volunteering in government programs and*
17 projects as well as enjoin government employees to render volunteer service in
18 social, economic and humanitarian development undertakings in the
19 community.

20 (d) Recognition and Incentives to Volunteers. – Government agencies

21 and nongovernment organizations (NGOs) implementing volunteer programs
22 are encouraged to develop and provide volunteers recognition and incentive
23 package which may include, but not limited to allowance, insurance, training

1 and the grant of privileges and status to Filipino overseas volunteers at par with
2 Filipino overseas workers.

3 (e) *Visa Privileges for Foreign Volunteers.* – Foreign volunteers
4 approved for assignment by PNVSCA as well as their legal dependents may be
5 entitled to 47 (a) (2) visa with multiple entry privileges and corresponding
6 exemption from visa and immigration fees and other related
7 processing/application fees or charges. Foreign nationals already in the
8 Philippines who have been approved for volunteer assignment by the PNVSCA
9 may avail of the above visa category and privileges upon endorsement by the
10 PNVSCA to the DOJ.

11 SEC. 13. *Institutional Mechanism for Research, Documentation,*
12 *Recognition and Modeling of Best Volunteer Practices.* – To carry out the
13 purposes of this Act, an institutional mechanism shall be established, to be
14 spearheaded and administered by the PNVSCA, for continuing research,
15 documentation, recognition and modeling of best volunteer practices as an
16 important component of implementing development programs and projects and
17 undertaking humanitarian activities. For this purpose, the PNVSCA in
18 consultation with any and all relevant government agencies, national
19 government organizations (NGOs), private institutions and persons shall effect
20 the setting up of the mechanism as well as determine all requirements and, or
21 necessary acts to ensure its effective implementation.

1 SEC. 14. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The PNVSCA, with
2 advice from the MSAB, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to
3 effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

4 SEC. 15. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders and
5 rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the
6 provisions of this Act, including Section 12 of Executive Order No. 635 are
7 hereby deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

8 SEC. 16. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
9 following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two newspapers
10 of general circulation.

Approved,

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