



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6555

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BY REPRESENTATIVES ACOSTA-ALBA, BUSTOS, ROBES, VERGARA,  
LABADLABAD, BALINDONG, CHUNGALAO, LUSOTAN, BORDADO,  
SALCEDA, ARENAS, GUYA, MACAPAGAL ARROYO, MOMO,  
SAVELLANO, LAGON, ROMUALDEZ (Y.M.), CAHATBAT, BAUTISTA-  
BANDIGAN, DELOS SANTOS, DIMAPORO (A.), DAZA, MATUGAS,  
ARBISON, CAMINERO, CALDERON, DIMAPORO (M.K.), EBCAS,  
LIMKAICHONG, CARI AND NIETO, PER COMMITTEE REPORT  
No. 281

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AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING VOLUNTEERISM AS A  
STRATEGY FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND  
DECLARING DECEMBER AS NATIONAL VOLUNTEER  
MONTH, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 12  
AND 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9418, OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS THE "VOLUNTEER ACT OF 2007"

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9418 is hereby  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes  
4 of this Act, the following shall mean:

5 "(a) x x x.

6 "x x x.

1           “(E) ‘NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT’ REFERS TO THE  
2 NATION’S GOAL TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF  
3 FILIPINOS THROUGH THE STRONG PARTNERSHIP AMONG  
4 GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
5 UNITS, NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, AND OTHER  
6 GROUPS IN PHILIPPINE SOCIETY.

7           “(F) ‘NATIONAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROGRAM’  
8 REFERS TO THE COLLABORATIVE UNDERTAKING OF  
9 THE VARIOUS SECTORS IN THE PHILIPPINES  
10 TO SUPPORT NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND  
11 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING  
12 THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM.”

13       SEC. 2. Section 5 of the same Act is hereby amended to read  
14 as follows:

15           “SEC. 5. *Role and Modalities of Volunteerism in*  
16 *the Private Sector.* -

17           “(a) Volunteerism in the academe includes[, but  
18 is not limited to,] provision of technical assistance and  
19 sharing of technology within the academic circle, target  
20 communities and other clienteles and the upgrading of  
21 the quality of education and curriculum methodologies  
22 while providing career enhancement and exposure to  
23 the volunteers;

24           “(b) Volunteerism in the corporate sector as  
25 an expression of corporate social responsibility and  
26 citizenship, refers to activities recognized by the  
27 company, where employees give their time, skills and  
28 resources in the service of the company’s internal and/or

1 external communities. These volunteering activities  
2 include[, but are not limited to,] employee giving of  
3 material resources to specific causes; employee-led  
4 fund-raising; one-time outreach activities;  
5 environmental campaign; medical and health-related  
6 advocacies; knowledge and change management;  
7 scholarship programs; and sharing of expertise,  
8 particularly of business and developmental skills  
9 through monitoring, tutoring, training, business,  
10 consulting[/] AND advising, and rendering of *pro bono*  
11 services on a case-to-case basis; and

12 "(c) Volunteerism by not-for-profit organizations  
13 includes[, but is not limited to,] provision of  
14 complementary service delivery and human resource  
15 development in underserved communities as well as  
16 advocacy and articulation of the cause of the  
17 disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

18 "FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, ACADEME  
19 INCLUDES BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ACADEMIC  
20 INSTITUTIONS, STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES,  
21 WHILE CORPORATE SECTOR INCLUDES GOVERNMENT-  
22 OWNED AND -CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS, AND  
23 GOVERNMENT FINANCING INSTITUTIONS WHICH  
24 IMPLEMENT VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS AS A COMPONENT  
25 OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY."

26 SEC. 3. Section 9 of the same Act is hereby amended to read  
27 as follows:

1           "SEC. 9. *Mandates of the PNVSCA.* - The  
2 PNVSCA shall have the following functions:

3           "(a) x x x.

4           "(b) x x x;

5           "(c) Act as clearing house for matters pertaining  
6 to LOCAL AND international volunteer services;

7           "x x x."

8           SEC. 4. Section 12 of the same Act is hereby amended to read  
9 as follows:

10           "SEC. 12. *Special Provisions.* -

11           "(a) x x x.

12           "x x x.

13           "(d) Recognition and Incentives to Volunteers. -

14           Government agencies, [and nongovernment  
15 organizations (NGOs)] PRIVATE SECTOR  
16 ORGANIZATIONS AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE  
17 ORGANIZATIONS [implementing volunteer programs are  
18 encouraged to develop and provide volunteers  
19 recognition and] SHALL PROVIDE VOLUNTEERS WITH AN  
20 incentive package which may include[, but not limited  
21 to allowance, insurance, training and the grant of  
22 privileges and status to Filipino overseas volunteers at  
23 par with Filipino overseas workers.] HEALTH,  
24 ACCIDENT, AND LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE, AND  
25 REASONABLE ALLOWANCES AS MAY BE AGREED  
26 UPON BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION AND THE  
27 VOLUNTEER.

28           "(e) x x x;

1           “(F) ORIENTATION AND TRAINING FOR  
2 VOLUNTEERS. - THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES,  
3 PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS AND VOLUNTEER  
4 SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS IMPLEMENTING VOLUNTEER  
5 PROGRAMS SHALL CONDUCT ORIENTATION SEMINARS  
6 AND APPROPRIATE TRAININGS ON DISASTER RESPONSE  
7 AND ON PROVIDING SOCIAL SERVICES FOR PERSONS  
8 IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

9           “FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, SOCIAL  
10 SERVICES INCLUDE BENEFITS AND FACILITIES SUCH  
11 AS EDUCATION, FOOD SUBSIDIES, HEALTH CARE,  
12 DRUG REHABILITATION CENTERS, AND SUBSIDIZED  
13 HOUSING PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO  
14 IMPROVE THE LIFE AND LIVING CONDITIONS OF  
15 CHILDREN, THE DISABLED, ELDERLY AND THE POOR.

16           “(G) INCENTIVES FOR FILIPINO OVERSEAS  
17 VOLUNTEERS. - VOLUNTEER SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS  
18 DEPLOYING FILIPINO OVERSEAS VOLUNTEERS SHALL  
19 PROVIDE THE LATTER WITH THE FOLLOWING:

20           “(1) IN-COUNTRY ORIENTATION AND TRAINING;

21           “(2) REPRESENTATION, TRANSPORTATION AND  
22 TRAVEL ALLOWANCE, AND HEALTH CARE AND ACCIDENT  
23 INSURANCE; AND

24           “(3) LEGAL ASSISTANCE.

25           “(H) INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE  
26 NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS PROGRAM (PNVAP). -  
27 THE NATIONAL OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER AWARD  
28 (NOVA) SHALL BE CONFERRED BY THE PRESIDENT OF  
29 THE PHILIPPINES TO RECOGNIZE THE EXEMPLARY  
30 CONTRIBUTIONS, DEDICATION TO SERVICE AND

1 ACHIEVEMENTS OF INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS  
2 IN UPLIFTING THE LIVES OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES  
3 THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM.

4 "THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER  
5 SERVICE COORDINATING AGENCY (PNVSCA), IN  
6 CONSULTATION WITH ITS MULTI-SECTORAL ADVISORY  
7 BOARD AND OTHER CONCERNED AGENCIES AND  
8 ORGANIZATIONS, SHALL FORMULATE THE GUIDELINES  
9 IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PHILIPPINE  
10 NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS PROGRAM (PNVAP).

11 "THE AMOUNT NECESSARY FOR THE GRANT OF  
12 THE AWARDS SHALL BE CHARGED AGAINST THE  
13 BUDGET OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER  
14 SERVICE COORDINATING AGENCY (PNVSCA) UNDER  
15 THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT  
16 AUTHORITY (NEDA)."

17 SEC. 5. A new section, denominated as Section 13-A shall be  
18 inserted after Section 13 to read as follows:

19 "SEC. 13-A. CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL  
20 VOLUNTEER MONTH AND NATIONAL VOLUNTEER  
21 DAY. - IN RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEERS AND  
22 THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO LOCAL AND NATIONAL  
23 DEVELOPMENT, THE MONTH OF DECEMBER OF  
24 EVERY YEAR IS DECLARED AS NATIONAL VOLUNTEER  
25 MONTH IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY. FURTHER, AS  
26 DESIGNATED BY THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL  
27 ASSEMBLY, INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY SHALL  
28 BE OBSERVED ON DECEMBER 5 OF EVERY YEAR.

1 "ALL HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND  
2 INSTRUMENTALITIES, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT-OWNED  
3 AND -CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS AND LOCAL  
4 GOVERNMENT UNITS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR  
5 INCLUDING THE ACADEME, NONPROFIT  
6 ORGANIZATIONS, THE CORPORATE SECTOR AND THE  
7 TRI-MEDIA OUTFITS SHALL PROMOTE THE PRACTICE  
8 AND IMPORTANCE OF VOLUNTEERISM THROUGH  
9 THE CONDUCT OF FORA, EXHIBITS, DISPLAY OR SHOW  
10 OF SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTEERS AND VOLUNTEERISM,  
11 PUBLICATION OF VOLUNTEER STORIES, RECOGNITION  
12 OF OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS WITHIN THE  
13 ORGANIZATION, CONDUCT OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES  
14 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS, AND  
15 OTHER SIMILAR ACTIVITIES TO INSPIRE AND MOTIVATE  
16 PEOPLE TO DO THEIR SHARE IN NATION-BUILDING.

17 "THE PNVSCA SHALL BE THE LEAD AGENCY  
18 IN THE OVERALL COORDINATION OF THE OBSERVANCE  
19 OF NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH. FOR THIS  
20 PURPOSE, IT SHALL CREATE A STEERING COMMITTEE  
21 COMPOSED OF APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND  
22 INSTRUMENTALITIES FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND  
23 PRIVATE SECTOR."

24 SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)  
25 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of  
26 general circulation.

Approved, .