Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on People’s Participation to which were referred House Bill No. 3134 introduced by Representative Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, entitled:

"AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING VOLUNTEERISM AS A STRATEGY FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND AS A DOMAIN OF PEOPLE’S PARTICIPATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 12 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9418 OR "THE VOLUNTEER ACT OF 2007" and

House Bill No. 3475 introduced by Representative Jorge Antonio P. Bustos, entitled"

"AN ACT DECLARING DECEMBER OF EVERY YEAR AS THE "NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH" IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9418, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "VOLUNTEER ACT OF 2007"

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No. 6555, entitled:

"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 approved in substitution of House Bills Numbered 3134 and 3475 with Representatives Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba and Jorge Antonio P. Bustos as authors and Representatives Florida "Rida" P. Robes, Rosanna "Ria" Vergara,, Glona G. Labadiabad, Yasser Alonto Balindong, Solomon R. Chungalao, Macnell M. Lusotan and Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr. as co-authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

FLORIDA "RIDA" P. ROBES
Chairperson
Committee on People’s Participation

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY
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 the House of Representatives of the Philippines in congress assembled:

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

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

(a) X X X;

(E) NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT REFERS TO THE NATION'S GOAL TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF FILIPINOS THROUGH THE STRONG PARTNERSHIP AMONG GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, AND OTHER GROUPS IN PHILIPPINE SOCIETY.

(F) NATIONAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROGRAM REFERS TO THE COLLABORATIVE UNDERTAKING OF THE VARIOUS SECTORS IN THE PHILIPPINES TO SUPPORT NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM."

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

"SEC. 5. Role and Modalities of Volunteerism in the Private Sector. -

(a) Volunteerism in the academe includes [,but not limited to,] provision of technical assistance and sharing of technology within the academic circle, target communities and other clientele and the upgrading of the quality of education and curriculum methodologies while
providing career enhancement and exposure to the volunteers;

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

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

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

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

"SEC.9. Mandates of the PNVSCA. – The PNVSCA shall have the following functions:

(a) X X X;

(b) X X X;

(c) Act as clearinghouse for matters pertaining to LOCAL AND international volunteer services;

"X X X."

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

"SEC. 12. Special Provisions. -

(a) X X X;

X X X.

(d) Recognition and Incentives to Volunteers. - Government agencies, [and non-government organizations (NGOs)] PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE
ORGANIZATIONS [implementing volunteer programs are encouraged to develop and provide volunteers recognition and]
SHALL PROVIDE VOLUNTEERS WITH AN incentive package which may include[, but not limited to allowance, insurance, training and the grant of privileges and status to Filipino overseas volunteers at par with Filipino overseas workers.] HEALTH, ACCIDENT, AND LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE, AND REASONABLE ALLOWANCES AS MAY BE AGREED UPON BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION AND THE VOLUNTEER.

(e) X X X.

"F) ORIENTATION AND TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS – THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS IMPLEMENTING VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS SHALL CONDUCT ORIENTATION SEMINARS AND APPROPRIATE TRAININGS ON DISASTER RESPONSE AND ON PROVIDING SOCIAL SERVICES FOR PERSONS IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

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

"(G) INCENTIVES FOR FILIPINO OVERSEAS VOLUNTEERS – VOLUNTEER SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS DEPLOYING FILIPINO VOLUNTEERS OVERSEAS SHALL PROVIDE THE LATTER WITH THE FOLLOWING:

(1) IN-COUNTRY ORIENTATION AND TRAINING;

(2) REPRESENTATION, TRANSPORTATION AND TRAVEL ALLOWANCE, AND HEALTH CARE AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE; AND

(3) LEGAL ASSISTANCE.

"(H) INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS PROGRAM (PNVAP) - THE NATIONAL OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER AWARD (NOVA) SHALL BE CONFERRED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES TO RECOGNIZE THE EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTIONS, DEDICATION TO SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN UPLIFTING THE LIVES OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM.

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

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

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

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


THE PNVSCA SHALL BE THE LEAD AGENCY IN THE OVERALL COORDINATION OF THE OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH. FOR THIS PURPOSE, IT SHALL CREATE A STEERING COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONALITIES FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR."

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

*Approved,*
FACT SHEET
House Bill No. 6555
(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 3134 and 3475)

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING VOLUNTEERISM AS 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”

Introduced by: REPRESENTATIVES MA. LOURDES ACOSTA-ALBA and JORGE ANTONIO P. BUSTOS

Committee Referral: COMMITTEE ON PEOPLE’S PARTICIPATION
Committee Chairperson: REPRESENTATIVE FLORIDA “RID” P. ROBES

OBJECTIVES:

- To provide for an institutionalized Philippine National Volunteer Awards Program (PNVAP) which recognizes volunteer individuals and organizations at the national level, for their exemplary dedication to serving and helping people and communities and for their outstanding contributions to the nation’s overall progress

- To emphasize the goal of a national volunteer service program in national development through strong partnership between and among government institutions, LGUs, NGOs, and other private sectors in the Philippine society

- To institutionalize December 5 and December 5 of every year as “National Volunteer Month” and “International Volunteer Day”, respectively

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Includes additional special provisions that provide recognition and incentives package for volunteers, including Filipino overseas volunteers

- Mandates the provision of the appropriate orientation and training for volunteers
• Requires the Office of the President to confer the National Outstanding Volunteer Award (NOVA) in accordance with such ceremonies as may be prescribed in the rules and regulations to be promulgated by this Act

• Sources funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act from the budget of the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) under the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)

• Requires the PNVSCA, in consultation with its multi-sectoral advisory body and other concerned agencies and organizations, to formulate the guidelines in the implementation of the PNVAP

• Mandates PNVSCA as lead agency in the overall coordination of the observance of the aforementioned dates.

RELATED LAW:

• Republic Act No. 9418, otherwise or the "Volunteer Act of 2007"