CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6555

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

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:

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.

“(b) x x x.

“(c) ‘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
is not limited to, provision of technical assistance and
sharing of technology within the academic circle, target
communities and other clienteles 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) xxx.

"(b) xxx;

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

"xxx.

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

"SEC. 12. Special Provisions.–

"(a) xxx.

"xxx.

"(d) Recognition and Incentives to Volunteers.–

Government agencies, [and nongovernment 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) xxx;
“(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 overseas volunteers 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 Section 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.
"ALL HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND
INSTITUTIONALITIES, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT-OWNED
AND -CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT UNITS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR
INCLUDING THE ACADEME, NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATIONS, THE CORPORATE SECTOR AND THE
TRI-MEDIA OUTFITS SHALL PROMOTE THE PRACTICE
AND IMPORTANCE OF VOLUNTEERISM THROUGH
THE CONDUCT OF FORA, EXHIBITS, DISPLAY OR SHOW
OF SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTEERS AND VOLUNTEERISM,
PUBLICATION OF VOLUNTEER STORIES, RECOGNITION
OF OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS WITHIN THE
ORGANIZATION, CONDUCT OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS, AND
OTHER SIMILAR ACTIVITIES TO INSPIRE AND MOTIVATE
PEOPLE TO DO THEIR SHARE IN NATION-BUILDING.

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

Approved,