

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6271



Introduced by Representatives Benjamin "Atong" D. Asilo, Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba,
Winston "Winnie" T. Castelo, and Catalina G. leonen-Pizarro

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A STRATEGY FOR [RURAL] NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, STRENGTHENING VOLUNTEERISM AS DOMAIN OF PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION, AND [FOR OTHER PURPOSES] AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9418 OR THE "VOLUNTEER ACT OF 2007"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The nationwide advocacy efforts and consultations conducted by the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA), following the enactment of the law in 2007, attest to the desire of different sectors to collaborate and harmonize their volunteering efforts for local and national development, as called for in RA 9418. It is in this context of partnership between and among the key players in volunteerism that the proposal for strengthening policies, programs and systems is anchored, including areas which were not considered in the existing provisions of the law.

The "National Volunteer Service Program" (NVSP) is invoked in the mandates of the said Agency but not defined in the law. However, we believe that the scope of the NVSP needs to be reviewed and defined in the context of PNVSCA- coordinated volunteer programs, other government volunteer programs, and private sector volunteer programs.

RA 9418 only encourages program implementers to provide volunteers with recognition and incentive package. And to operationalize the goal "to provide a conducive and enabling environment for volunteers and volunteer service organizations by setting mechanisms to protect volunteers' rights and privileges, and give due recognition to highlight their roles and contributions

to society," the law must mandate certain responsibilities and commitments by agencies and organizations implementing volunteer programs.

It is also important to address a concern over the implementation of volunteer programs which entails cost for projects and activities, volunteer support and operational management. At present, there is an inadequate human and financial resources to effectively implement the mandates of PNVSCA since RA 9418 does not provide the source of funding for volunteer programs.

The essence of this amendatory bill is to institutionalize volunteerism as an strategy, not only for rural development but also for national development, and in support to international commitment to volunteerism.

HON. BENJAMIN D. ASILO

HON. WINSTON T. CASTELO

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HON. CATALINA LEONEN-PIZARRO

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

SECTION 1. Sections 1, 4, 5, 9, and 12 of Republic Act No. 9418 are hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 1. Title. This Act shall be known and cited as the "NEW Volunteer Act of [2007] 2016."

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

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

(B) *Volunteerism* XX XX XX

(C) *Volunteer* XX XX XX

(D) *Volunteer Service Organization* XX XX

(E) *Voluntary Sector* XX XX XX

"Section 5. Role and Modalities of Volunteerism [in the Private Sector]

(a) Volunteerism in the Academe X X X.
THE ACADEME SECTOR SHALL COLLECTIVELY DEFINE TO INCLUDE BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES.

(b) Volunteerism in the Corporate Sector X X X.

GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND CONTROLLED-CORPORATIONS AND GOVERNMENT FINANCING INSTITUTIONS ARE ALSO CATEGORIZED UNDER THE CORPORATE SECTOR AS THEY IMPLEMENT THEIR VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS AS A COMPONENT OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.”

(c) Volunteerism by Not-for-Profit Organization X X X

“Section 9. Mandates of the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA). The PNVSCA shall have the following functions:

(a) XX XX XX

(c) Act as clearinghouse for matters pertaining to LOCAL and international volunteer services “

(h) XX XX XX

“Section 12. Special Provisions. -

(a) XX XX XX

(d) [Recognition and] Incentives to Volunteers.- Government agencies , PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS IMPLEMENTING VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS SHALL PROVIDE THE VOLUNTEERS WITH INCENTIVE PACKAGE WHICH INCLUDES, BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE HEALTH, ACCIDENT AND LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE, AND REASONABLE ALLOWANCES AS MAY BE AGREED BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION AND THE VOLUNTEER.

(F) ORIENTATION AND TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS. - GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS IMPLEMENTING VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS SHALL PROVIDE THE VOLUNTEERS WITH ORIENTATION ON THE VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENT AND APPROPRIATE TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS WHO WILL SERVE IN DISASTER RESPONSE AND THOSE WHO WILL ASSIST IN SOCIAL SERVICES FOR PERSONS IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

(G) INCENTIVES FOR FILIPINO OVERSEAS VOLUNTEERS.- VOLUNTEER SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS IMPLEMENTING PROGRAMS ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF FILIPINO VOLUNTEERS OVERSEAS SHALL PROVIDE THE VOLUNTEERS WITH THE FOLLOWING:

- (i) IN-COUNTRY ORIENTATION AND TRAINING;
- (ii) SUPPORT DURING THEIR OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO VOLUNTEER

ALLOWANCES , HEALTH, AND SAFETY ASPECTS INCLUDING EVENTS OF MEDICAL OR SECURITY EMERGENCIES, INSURANCE COVERAGES INCLUDING THIRD PARTY LIABILITY, AND INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TO /FROM COUNTRY OF ASSIGNMENT; AND

(iii) LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND REPRESENTATION IN CASES WHERE COURT PROCEEDINGS, WHETHER CIVIL OR CRIMINAL.

(H) INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS PROGRAM (PNVAP) COMPRISING OF A NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARD AND LOCAL VOLUNTEER AWARD-

(i) 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 PEOPLES AND COMMUNITIES THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM.

THE CONFERMENT SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUCH CEREMONIES AS MAY BE PRESCRIBED BY THE RULES AND REGULATIONS TO BE PROMULGATED HEREINAFTER. THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE COORDINATING AGENCY (PNVSCA) SHALL IMPLEMENT THE PNVAP.

THE FUNDS NECESSARY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NOVA PROGRAM SHALL BE INITIALLY SOURCED FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SOCIAL FUND (PSF) AND THEREAFTER, INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET OF THE PNVSCA UNDER THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT.

(ii) THE LOCAL OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER AWARD (LOVA) SHALL ALSO BE ESTABLISHED IN RECOGNITION OF THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF VOLUNTEER INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES.

THE LOVA PROGRAM SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT (LGU) AND THE AWARD SHALL BE CONFERRED BY THE RESPECTIVE LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE.

THE FUNDS NECESSARY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LOCAL AWARD SHALL BE SOURCED FROM THE BUDGET OF THE CONCERNED LGU.

