



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3475

Introduced by Representative Jorge Antonio P. Bustos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the month of 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 “*National Volunteer Act of 2007*.”

In 1964, then President Diosdado P. Macapagal issued Executive Order No. 134 which created the Philippine National Volunteer Service Committee to act as the national liaison with the International Secretariat for Volunteer Service (ISVS) that will recommend appropriate measures for economic cooperation through participation in ISVS programs.

In 1980, then President Ferdinand E. Marcos issued Executive Order No. 635 to create the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) primarily to effectively formulate policies and guidelines concerning volunteer service plans and programs in the country.

On December 5, 1985, the United Nations General Assembly, through Resolution 40/212 declared “*International Volunteer Day*” to be observed annually on December 5 of every year. In 1998, several years after the declaration of the International Volunteer Day, former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada issued Proclamation No. 55 declaring the month of December of every year as the National Volunteer Month.

In 2007, Republic Act (RA) No. 9418, otherwise known as the "*Volunteer Act of 2007*" was also enacted to provide a policy framework on volunteerism that underscores the fundamental principles necessary to harness and harmonize the broad and diverse efforts of the voluntary sector into an integrative and effective partnership for local and national development.

Under Section 13 of the "*Volunteer Act of 2007*," PNVSCA is mandated, among others, to establish institutional mechanism for continuing research, documentation, recognition and modeling of best volunteer practices in implementing development programs, projects and humanitarian activities. For the purpose of recognizing the volunteers and their contributions to the society, this proposed measure seeks to amend RA 9418 by adding a new section to declare and institutionalize under the same law December of every year as the National Volunteer Month. Further, this measure also seeks to make December 5 of every year as the National Volunteer Day.

The proposed amendment will further consolidate and concretize into law the common objectives of Proclamation No. 55 and RA 9418 to promote volunteerism. For the whole month of December, citizens are called upon to work together to heighten the "*bayanihan*" spirit and instill the value of volunteerism.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


CONG. JORGE ANTONIO P. BUSTOS



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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”**

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

SECTION 1. A new section denominated as Section 13-A is inserted
after Section 13 of Republic Act No. 9418 which shall read as follows:

“SEC. 13. *Institutional Mechanism for Research,
Documentation, Recognition and Modeling of Best Volunteer
Practices.* – To carry out the purposes of this Act, an institutional
mechanism shall be established, to be spearheaded and
administered by the PNVSCA, for continuing research,
documentation, recognition and modeling of best volunteer
practices as an important component of implementing development
programs and projects and undertaking humanitarian activities. For

1 this purpose, the PNVSCA in consultation with any and all
2 relevant government agencies, NGOs, private institutions and
3 persons shall effect the setting up of the mechanism as well as
4 determine all requirements and, or necessary acts to ensure its
5 effective implementation.

6 "SEC. 13-A. *CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL*
7 *VOLUNTEER MONTH.* – IN RECOGNITION OF
8 VOLUNTEERS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO
9 SOCIETY, THE MONTH OF DECEMBER OF EVERY
10 YEAR SHALL BE DECLARED AS NATIONAL
11 VOLUNTEER MONTH IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.

12 DECEMBER 5 OF EVERY YEAR IS ALSO
13 DESIGNATED AS THE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY.

14 THE CELEBRATION OF THE NATIONAL
15 VOLUNTEER MONTH SHALL BE SPEARHEADED BY
16 THE PNVSCA FOR COORDINATION PURPOSES.

17 ALL HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND
18 INSTRUMENTALITIES, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT-
19 OWNED AND -CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS AS
20 WELL AS LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND
21 EMPLOYERS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, ARE HEREBY

1 **MANDATED TO ENJOIN ALL THEIR PERSONNEL TO**
2 **ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE AND SUPPORT ACTIVITIES**
3 **AND PROGRAMS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF**
4 **NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH.”**

5 SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
6 the *Official Gazette* or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

7 Approved,