

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session



**COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 281**

Submitted by the Committee on People's Participation on MAR 10 2020

**Re :** **House Bill No. 6555**  
Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 3134 and 3475

**Sponsors :** Representatives Florida "Rida" P. Robes, Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, Jorge Antonio P. Bustos, and Rosanna "Ria" Vergara

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. Labadlabad, 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

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6555  
(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 3134 and 3475)

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Introduced by Representatives Maria Lourdes Acosta – Alba, Jorge Antonio P. Bustos, Florida “Rida” P. Robes, Rosanna “Ria” Vergara, Glona G. Labadlabad, Yasser Alonto Balindong, Solomon R. Chungalao, Macnell M. Lusotan, and Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr.

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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 the House of Representatives of the Philippines in congress assembled:*

1       **SECTION 1.** Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9418 is hereby amended to read as  
2 follows:  
3

4       “SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the following shall mean:  
5

6       “(a) X X X;  
7

8       “(E) *NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT* REFERS TO THE NATION’S GOAL  
9 TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF FILIPINOS THROUGH THE  
10 STRONG PARTNERSHIP AMONG GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS,  
11 LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS,  
12 AND OTHER GROUPS IN PHILIPPINE SOCIETY.  
13

14       “(F) *NATIONAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROGRAM* REFERS TO THE  
15 COLLABORATIVE UNDERTAKING OF THE VARIOUS SECTORS IN THE  
16 PHILIPPINES TO SUPPORT NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND  
17 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING THROUGH  
18 VOLUNTEERISM. ”  
19

20       **SEC. 2.** Section 5 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:  
21

22       “SEC.5. *Role and Modalities of Volunteerism in the Private Sector.* -  
23

24       “(a) Volunteerism in the academe includes [,but not limited to,]  
25 provision of technical assistance and sharing of technology within the  
26 academic circle, target communities and other clienteles and the  
27 upgrading of the quality of education and curriculum methodologies while



1 providing career enhancement and exposure to the volunteers;

2  
3 “(b) Volunteerism in the corporate sector as an expression of corporate  
4 social responsibility and citizenship, refers to activities recognized by the  
5 company, where employees give their time, skills and resources in the  
6 service of the company’s internal and/or external communities. These  
7 volunteering activities include [,but are not limited to,] employee giving of  
8 material resources to specific causes; employee-led fund-raising; one-time  
9 outreach activities; environmental campaign; medical and health-related  
10 advocacies; knowledge and change management; scholarship programs;  
11 and sharing of expertise, particularly of business and developmental skills  
12 through monitoring, tutoring, training, business consulting [/] AND advising,  
13 and rendering of *pro bono* services on a case-to-case basis; and  
14

15 “(c) Volunteerism by not-for-profit organizations includes [,but is not  
16 limited to,] provision of complementary service delivery and human resource  
17 development in underserved communities as well as advocacy and  
18 articulation of the cause of the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.  
19

20 “FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION ACADEME INCLUDES BOTH  
21 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS, STATE  
22 UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, WHILE CORPORATE SECTOR  
23 INCLUDES GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND CONTROLLED  
24 CORPORATIONS, AND GOVERNMENT FINANCING INSTITUTIONS  
25 WHICH IMPLEMENT VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS AS A COMPONENT OF  
26 CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.”  
27

28 **SEC. 3.** Section 9 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:  
29

30 “SEC.9. *Mandates of the PNVSCA.* – The PNVSCA shall have the following  
31 functions:  
32

33 “(a) X X X;  
34

35 “(b) X X X;  
36

37 “(c) Act as clearinghouse for matters pertaining to LOCAL AND  
38 international volunteer services;  
39

40 “X X X.”  
41

42 **SEC. 4.** Section 12 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:  
43

44 “SEC. 12. *Special Provisions.* -  
45

46 “(a) X X X;  
47

48 “X X X.  
49

50 “(d) Recognition and Incentives to Volunteers. - Government  
51 agencies, [and non-government organizations (NGOs)] PRIVATE  
52 SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE

1 ORGANIZATIONS [implementing volunteer programs are  
2 encouraged to develop and provide volunteers recognition and]  
3 SHALL PROVIDE VOLUNTEERS WITH AN incentive package  
4 which may include[, but not limited to allowance, insurance, training  
5 and the grant of privileges and status to Filipino overseas volunteers  
6 at par with Filipino overseas workers,] HEALTH, ACCIDENT, AND  
7 LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE, AND REASONABLE  
8 ALLOWANCES AS MAY BE AGREED UPON BETWEEN THE  
9 ORGANIZATION AND THE VOLUNTEER.

10  
11 ( e) X X X.

12  
13 "F) ORIENTATION AND TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS – THE  
14 GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS  
15 AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS IMPLEMENTING  
16 VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS SHALL CONDUCT ORIENTATION  
17 SEMINARS AND APPROPRIATE TRAININGS ON DISASTER  
18 RESPONSE AND ON PROVIDING SOCIAL SERVICES FOR  
19 PERSONS IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

20  
21 FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, *SOCIAL SERVICES*  
22 INCLUDE BENEFITS AND FACILITIES SUCH AS EDUCATION,  
23 FOOD SUBSIDIES, HEALTH CARE, DRUG REHABILITATION  
24 CENTERS, AND SUBSIDIZED HOUSING PROVIDED BY THE  
25 GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE THE LIFE AND LIVING  
26 CONDITIONS OF CHILDREN, THE DISABLED, ELDERLY AND  
27 THE POOR.

28  
29 "(G) INCENTIVES FOR FILIPINO OVERSEAS VOLUNTEERS –  
30 VOLUNTEER SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS DEPLOYING FILIPINO  
31 VOLUNTEERS OVERSEAS SHALL PROVIDE THE LATTER  
32 WITH THE FOLLOWING:

33  
34 (1) IN-COUNTRY ORIENTATION AND TRAINING;

35  
36 (2) REPRESENTATION, TRANSPORTATION AND TRAVEL  
37 ALLOWANCE, AND HEALTH CARE AND ACCIDENT  
38 INSURANCE; AND

39  
40 (3) LEGAL ASSISTANCE.

41  
42 "(H) INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL  
43 VOLUNTEER AWARDS PROGRAM (PNVAP) - THE NATIONAL  
44 OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER AWARD (NOVA) SHALL BE  
45 CONFERRED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES TO  
46 RECOGNIZE THE EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTIONS, DEDICATION  
47 TO SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF INDIVIDUALS AND  
48 ORGANIZATIONS IN UPLIFTING THE LIVES OF PEOPLE  
49 AND COMMUNITIES THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM.

50  
51 THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE  
52 COORDINATING AGENCY (PNVSCA), IN CONSULTATION WITH



1 ITS MULTI- SECTORAL ADVISORY BOARD AND OTHER  
2 CONCERNED AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS, SHALL  
3 FORMULATE THE GUIDELINES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
4 THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS PROGRAM  
5 (PNVAP).”  
6

7 THE AMOUNT NECESSARY FOR THE GRANT OF THE AWARDS  
8 SHALL BE CHARGED AGAINST THE BUDGET OF THE  
9 PHILIPPINE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE COORDINATING  
10 AGENCY (PNVSCA) UNDER THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND  
11 DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NEDA).”  
12

13 **SEC. 5.** A new Section, denominated as Sec. 13-A shall be inserted after  
14 Section 13, to read as follows:  
15

16  
17 “SEC. 13-A. *CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH*  
18 *AND NATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY.*- IN RECOGNITION OF  
19 VOLUNTEERS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO LOCAL AND  
20 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, THE MONTH OF DECEMBER OF  
21 EVERY YEAR IS DECLARED AS NATIONAL VOLUNTEER  
22 MONTH IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY. FURTHER, AS DESIGNATED  
23 BY THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY,  
24 INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY SHALL BE OBSERVED ON  
25 DECEMBER 5 OF EVERY YEAR.  
26

27 ALL HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND  
28 INSTRUMENTALITIES, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT- OWNED  
29 AND- CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS AND LOCAL  
30 GOVERNMENT UNITS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR INCLUDING  
31 THE *ACADEME*, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, THE  
32 CORPORATE SECTOR AND THE TRI-MEDIA OUTFITS SHALL  
33 PROMOTE THE PRACTICE AND IMPORTANCE OF  
34 VOLUNTEERISM THROUGH THE CONDUCT OF FORA,  
35 EXHIBITS, DISPLAY OR SHOW OF SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTEERS  
36 AND VOLUNTEERISM, PUBLICATION OF VOLUNTEER STORIES,  
37 RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS WITHIN THE  
38 ORGANIZATION, CONDUCT OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN  
39 PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS, AND OTHER  
40 SIMILAR ACTIVITIES TO INSPIRE AND MOTIVATE PEOPLE TO  
41 DO THEIR SHARE IN NATION-BUILDING.  
42

43  
44 THE PNVSCA SHALL BE THE LEAD AGENCY IN THE OVERALL  
45 COORDINATION OF THE OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL  
46 VOLUNTEER MONTH. FOR THIS PURPOSE, IT SHALL CREATE  
47 A STEERING COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF APPROPRIATE  
48 AGENCIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES FROM THE  
49 GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR.”  
50

51 **SEC. 6.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in  
52

1 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.  
2  
3  
4 *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 "RIDA" 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 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*”