

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
House Bill No. 3134



Introduced by Representative Maria Lourdes Acosta-Alba

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.

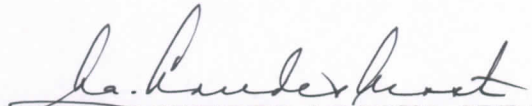
RA 9418 only encourages program implementers to provide volunteers with recognition and incentive package. And to operationalize the goal "to provide a conducive and enabling environment for volunteers and volunteer service organizations by setting mechanisms to protect volunteers' rights and privileges, 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 concerns over the implementation of volunteer programs which entail costs 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.

This Bill was also approved on Third Reading in the previous 17th Congress. In view of the foregoing, the passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.


MARIA LOURDES ACOSTA-ALBA
First District, Bukidnon

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**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 2019"**

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

SECTION 1. Section 12 of Republic Act No. 9418 is hereby amended to include
the following which shall be read as follows:

“SEC. 12. *Special Provisions.*

xxx

xxx

xxx

F). Institutionalization of the Philippine National Volunteer

Awards Program (PNVAP) Comprising of a National Volunteer
award and a 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 amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this act shall be charged against those authorized in the current and subsequent general appropriations acts.

(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 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 LOVA shall be sourced from the budget of the concerned LGU.

(iii) The PNVSCA, in consultation with its Multi-Sectoral Advisory Body (MSAB) and other concerned agencies and organizations shall formulate the guidelines in the implementation of the PNVAP.”

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

Approved,