

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 2660

Introduced by REP. ANTONIO T. ALBANO and
REP. RODOLFO B. ALBANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The growing number of societal challenges arising from climactic and environmental shocks triggering natural and man-made calamities, to national and internal security threats that impact on communal order, public safety, and the overall quality of life of our citizens in recent years render imperative for the State to strategically harness the country's most vital resource – the youth – toward the strengthening of our collective capabilities for survival and development as one nation and the preservation of our democratic social order.

The 1987 Constitution affirms in Article II, Section 13 thereof, the State's recognition of the vital role of the youth in nation-building and the enduring need for the State to inculcate in them the values of patriotism and nationalism , and to encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

This bill proposes a viable framework for preparing and harnessing of the youth for active and meaningful participation in activities that strengthen the nation's capabilities to overcome challenges to its survival and

development through the establishment of a Citizen Service Training Course (CATC).

The CSTC shall be mandatory for all tertiary-level students enrolled in baccalaureate degree courses or technical vocational courses in all public and private colleges, universities, and similar learning institutions. In addition to external and territorial defense training as a foundational component, akin to the envisioned goal of the creation of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) under Republic Act No. 7077, as amended, the course also provides training in internal security, peace and order, community service and disaster resiliency which assimilate the components of the National Service Training Program (NSTP) created through Republic Act No. 9163.

The abusive and corrupt practices that marred the ROTC and the NSTP in the past are addressed in this bill through the institution of safeguards that include the creation of a Citizen Service Mobilization Commission empowered to conduct an audit of the utilization of the fees collected for the CSTC, and to investigate all reports of corruption, graft, hazing, sexual harassment and other abuses.

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



REP. ANTONIO T. ALBANO



REP. RODOLFO B. ALBANO

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House Bill No. _____

Introduced by REP. ANTONIO T. ALBANO and
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**AN ACT INSTITUTING THE CITIZEN SERVICE TRAINING COURSE,
ESTABLISHING THE CITIZEN SERVICE CORPS, CREATING THE
CITIZEN SERVICE MOBILIZATION COMMISSION, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

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**ARTICLE I
TITLE**

3 **SECTION 1.** *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Citizen Service Act.”

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**ARTICLE II
DECLARATION OF POLICY**

6 **SECTION 2.** *Statement of Policy.* – It shall be the policy of the State:

- 7 a) To institutionalize the vital role of the youth in nation-building, promote
8 and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being;
9 to inculcate in them patriotism and nationalism; and to encourage their
10 involvement in public and civic affairs;
- 11 b) To constitute the youth into a major component of the citizen reserve
12 envisioned in the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, which

1 shall undergo training and may be called upon to defend the State and to
2 render personal military or civil service under conditions provided by law; and
3 c) To train, equip and organize the youth, within the current frameworks of
4 national and territorial defense, law enforcement and peace and order and
5 national disaster risk reduction and management, to prepare them for rapid
6 mobilization at the soonest possible time in order to address national and/or
7 local contingencies which may require manpower beyond the capabilities of
8 existing national government agencies or local government units.

ARTICLE III

INSTITUTION OF CITIZEN SERVICE TRAINING COURSE

SECTION 3. *Basic Citizen Service Training Course.* – There is hereby instituted a Basic Citizen Service Training Course (Basic CSTC) which shall form part of the curricula of all baccalaureate degree courses and all technical vocational courses (which may be completed in at least two (2) years).

15 The Basic CSTC shall have the following components:

16 a) External and Territorial Defense Training:

17 b) Internal Security and Peace and Order Training; and

18 c) Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Training.

19 The Basic CSTC shall be divided into four (4) training modules to be
20 administered for at least four (4) semesters over two (2) school years, unless
21 otherwise allowed by the Citizen Service Training Board. It shall include at
22 least sixty-four (64) hours of lecture and sixteen (16) hours of practical
23 training every semester, and at least sixteen (16) hours of field exercises every
24 year.

25 The trainees, who shall be referred to as cadets, shall be organized by squads,
26 platoons, companies, battalions, brigades and divisions similar to military
27 units. Military-type of discipline, organization and cadet movement shall be
28 observed in the conduct of the Basic CSTC. The Basic CSTC shall instill upon
29 the youth the ideals of patriotism, nationalism and respect for human rights.

1 Except for justifiable causes and upon the issuance of a Certificate of
2 Exemption by the Citizen Service Mobilization Commission (Commission), the
3 Basic CSTC must be completed, as far as practicable, within the first two (2)
4 years of all baccalaureate degree courses and technical vocational courses.
5 The completion of the Basic CSTC shall be a prerequisite for enrollment to the
6 third year of all baccalaureate degree courses and technical vocational
7 courses.

8 When the Basic CSTC is allowed to be taken beyond the first two (2) years of
9 all baccalaureate degree courses and technical vocational courses, completion
10 of the Basic CSTC shall be a requisite for graduation in the said courses.

11 **SECTION 4. Coverage.** – All tertiary-level students, male and female, enrolled
12 in baccalaureate degree courses or technical vocational courses (which may be
13 completed in at least two (2) years) in all public and private colleges,
14 universities, or similar learning institutions shall be required to undergo the
15 Basic CSTC.

16 **SECTION 5. Special CSTC for Students under Specific Circumstances.** – There
17 shall be no exemptions from the Basic CSTC. However, the Commission shall
18 prescribe Special CSTC to address the peculiar needs and circumstances of
19 students under the following circumstances:

20 a) Those who are classified and officially registered as persons with
21 disabilities;

22 b) Those whose religious beliefs prohibit the use of firearms in rendering
23 service to the country; and

24 c) Those who have been convicted by final judgment of crimes involving moral
25 turpitude;

26 Provided, that foreign citizens enrolled in baccalaureate degree courses or
27 technical vocational courses where CSTC is required shall also undergo a
28 Special CSTC prescribed by the Commission that would deepen their
29 understanding and appreciation of the Philippines, its people, society, culture

1 and government, and harness their potential as bridges to improve, their
2 respective countries' ties with the Philippines.

3 **SECTION 6. Advance CSTC.** – There is also hereby instituted an Advance
4 CSTC which may be pursued by all graduates of the Basic CSTC, except those
5 who have been convicted by final judgment of crimes involving moral
6 turpitude; and who have successfully finished a one-semester Officer
7 Qualifying Course within the first two (2) years of their baccalaureate degree
8 courses or technical vocational courses. The Officer Qualifying Course shall
9 include leadership and management training, which will equip the graduates
10 thereof to themselves administer the Basic CSTC, shall be completed in one (1)
11 semester; and shall consist of at least one hundred and twenty-eight (128)
12 hours of lecture, practical training and field exercises in external and
13 territorial defense, internal security and peace and order, and disaster risk
14 reduction and management. Graduates of the Officer Qualifying Course, who
15 shall be referred to as cadet officers, shall compose the Officer Corps of the
16 Basic CSTC in each campus and shall administer the conduct of the Basic
17 CSTC of each campus under the administrative control and supervision of the
18 Department of Citizen Service Training (DCST) of the respective campuses.

19 It shall be mandatory for all public and private colleges, universities and
20 similar learning institutions offering baccalaureate degree courses to offer the
21 Advance CSTC in all their campuses, which shall have a duration of at least
22 eight (8) semesters over four (4) school years, which shall include the first two
23 (2) years of Basis CSTC, unless otherwise allowed by the Training Board.

24 However, enrolment thereunder shall be voluntary. Graduates of the Advance
25 CSTC shall be posted to leadership roles in the Citizen Service Corps (Corps)
26 established herein.

27 **SECTION 7. Citizens Training Program (CTP) for Grades 11 and 12 -** – There is
28 hereby instituted a dual track Citizens Training Program for Grades 11 and
29 12 which shall be administered and implemented by the Department of
30 Education (DepEd) for all students, male and female, enrolled in Grades 11
31 and 12 in all public and private learning institutions. The dual track CTP

1 consists of (a) the Preparatory CSTC which is intended to provide introductory
2 or orientation courses to the Basic CSTC and (b) the Community Service
3 Immersion Program (CSIP) which is intended to engage students in various
4 community programs and services such as, among others, environmental
5 protection, community sanitation and enhancement, literacy programs,
6 community welfare services, health and fitness, disaster risk reduction and
7 relief. Students can choose any one of these programs. Each program shall
8 have a duration of 40 hours. Completion of one program is hereby declared a
9 requirement for graduation from high school and for enrollment in all
10 baccalaureate degree courses or technical vocational courses (which may be
11 completed in at least two (2) years) in all public and private colleges,
12 universities, and similar learning institutions.

13 **ARTICLE IV**

14 **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CITIZEN SERVICE CORPS**

15 **SECTION 8.** Citizen Service Corps. – There is hereby established a Citizen
16 Service Corps which shall be composed of all the graduates of CSTC and may
17 be called upon and mobilized to assist the national government, its agencies
18 and instrumentalities, and the local government units in their functions
19 related to external and territorial defense, internal security and peace and
20 order, and disaster risk reduction and management.

21 **ARTICLE V**

22 **CREATION OF THE CITIZEN SERVICE MOBILIZATION COMMISSION**

23 **SECTION 9.** Citizen Service Mobilization Commission. – There is hereby
24 created a Citizen Service Mobilization Commission, which shall oversee the
25 CSTC and the Corps, and implement the objectives and purposes of this Act.
26 The President shall appoint the Chairperson and the four (4) Commissioners
27 as provided herein within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act. The
28 Commission must organize itself in accordance with the provisions of this Act

1 within sixty (60) days from the appointment of all its members. The
2 Commission shall be an attached agency of the Office of the President.

3 The Commission shall ensure the full implementation of this Act within one (1)
4 year from the effectivity of this Act.

5 **SECTION 10.** Composition of the Commission. – The Commission shall be
6 composed of a Chairperson and four (4) Commissioners, namely, two (2)
7 Commissioners for Training and two (2) Commissioners for Mobilization. The
8 Secretary of the Department of National Defense (DND), the Secretary of the
9 Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Chairperson of the
10 Commission of Higher Education (CHED), and the Director General of the
11 Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), or their duly-
12 authorized representatives with a rank of at least Assistant Secretary for the
13 DND and the DILG, Commissioner for the CHED, or Board Member for the
14 TESDA, shall be ex-officio voting members of the Commission.

15 The Chairperson and the Commissioners shall be citizens and residents of the
16 Philippines, at least thirty-five (35) years of age, of good moral character, of
17 recognized probity and independence, and, through their training, experience,
18 and education, must have distinguished themselves as best-suited to
19 discharge the duties of their offices. They must not have been candidates for
20 any elective national or local office in the immediately preceding elections,
21 whether regular or special. The Chairperson and the Commissioners, who
22 shall have the rank equivalent of cabinet secretary and undersecretary,
23 respectively, shall be appointed by the President.

24 **SECTION 11.** Quorum. – Five (5) members of the Commission shall constitute
25 a quorum and the affirmative vote of at least a majority of those present, there
26 being a quorum, shall be necessary for the adoption of any rule, ruling, order,
27 resolution, decision, or other acts of the Commission; Provided, that the
28 affirmative vote of at least five (5) members of the Commission shall be
29 necessary for the exercise of the powers and functions of the Commission
30 under Section 15(a), (d), (f), (j), and (k), as well as those under Section 20,
31 paragraph 4, Section 29, and Section 31.

1 **SECTION 12.** Term of Office. – The term of office of the Chairperson and the
2 Commissioners shall be seven (7) years, without reappointment..Of those first
3 appointed, the Chairperson and the two (2) Commissioners first to be
4 appointed shall hold office for seven (7) years, while the two (2) Commissioners
5 last to be appointed shall hold office for five (5) years. Appointment to any
6 vacancy shall only be for the unexpired term of the predecessor.

7 **SECTION 13.** Compensation and Other Emoluments of the Members and
8 Employees of the Commission. – The compensation and other emoluments of
9 the members and employees of the Commission shall be exempted from the
10 coverage of Republic Act No. 6758, otherwise known as the Salary
11 Standardization Act. For this purpose, the compensation and other
12 emoluments of the Chairperson, Commissioners and employees of the
13 Commission shall be fixed based on an objective classification system, taking
14 into consideration the importance and responsibilities attached to their
15 respective positions, and shall be submitted to the President for his approval.

16 **SECTION 14.** Powers of the Commission. – The Commission shall have the
17 following powers:

- 18 a) Design, prescribe and/or approve the programs of instruction for the CSTC,
19 including special courses for students under specific circumstances;
- 20 b) Ensure the proper administration of the CSTC;
- 21 c) Exercise supervision and control over all agencies, offices and persons,
22 directly implementing the CSTC;
- 23 d) Recommend to the President the general, nationwide or large-scale
24 mobilization of the Corps;
- 25 e) Approve, as required under this Act, the deployment of a limited number of
26 the Corps to national government agencies and to local government units to
27 assist in regional, provincial, city, municipal or barangay level disasters,
28 emergencies and other contingencies;

- 1 f) Approve the regular deployment of a limited number of the Corps to the AFP,
2 the PNP and the OCD to serve as reservists and active duty cadres to meet the
3 peace time stand-by reserve requirements of said agencies;
- 4 g) Investigate or secure the services or assistance of the appropriate agencies
5 to investigate cases of corruption, graft, hazing, sexual harassment and other
6 abuses in the conduct of the CSTC, mobilization of the Corps and
7 implementation of this Act;
- 8 h) Issue serial numbers to all graduates of the CSTC;
- 9 i) Maintain and update a registry/database of all cadets and cadet officers of
10 the CSTC;
- 11 j) Promulgate the appropriate rules and regulations, in accordance with
12 Section 39 hereof, to fully implement the provisions of this Act;
- 13 k) Appoint, fix the compensation and determine the status, qualifications, and
14 duties of the staff of the Commission. The members of the technical staff,
15 except those performing purely clerical functions, shall possess at least a
16 baccalaureate degree;
- 17 l) Generate and utilize resources to fully implement the provisions of this Act;
- 18 m) Audit the utilization of funds appropriated, collected or advanced for the
19 implementation of this Act; and
- 20 n) Exercise such other powers as are necessary or essential to fully implement
21 the provisions of this Act.

22 **SECTION 15.** Organization of the Commission. – The Commission shall have a
23 Citizen Service Training Board and a Citizen Service Mobilization Board
24 (Mobilization Board).

25 **SECTION 16.** Citizen Service Training Board. – The Training Board shall be
26 composed of the Chairperson as head, the two (2) Commissioners for Training,
27 the Chairperson of the CHED and the Director General of the TESDA, or their
28 duly authorized representatives, which shall be a Commissioner for the CHED
29 and a Board Member for the TESDA. The Secretary of the DepEd, or his duly

1 authorized representative, with a rank of at least Assistant Secretary, shall be
2 a consulting non-voting member of the Training Board.

3 The Training Board shall come up with the initial CSTC Programs of
4 Instruction, including the Basic CSTC, the Advance CSTC, the Program
5 Managers Training Course and the Officer Qualifying Course (CSTC POI),
6 within sixty (60) days from the organization of the Commission. For this
7 purpose, the Training Board is hereby directed to tap the technical expertise of
8 the AFP, the PNP and the OCD, the expertise and experience of stakeholders
9 in both public and private sector, and the curriculum development expertise of
10 the CHED, the TESDA and the DepEd, as well as public and private colleges,
11 universities and similar learning institutions. The CSTC POI shall be subject
12 to the approval of the Commission. The Training Board shall also supervise
13 and see to the continuous development of the CSTC POI.

14 Thereafter, the Commission, through the Training Board, shall ensure the
15 incorporation of the CSTC POI in the curricula of all baccalaureate degree
16 courses and all technical vocational courses (which may be completed in at
17 least two (2) years) offered by public and private colleges, universities and
18 similar learning institutions, and in the curricula of Grade 11 and Grade 12 in
19 all public and private learning institutions.

20 The Training Board shall adopt guidelines, which shall be incorporated in the
21 rules and regulations of the Commission, for the organization of a DCST in
22 every public and private colleges, universities and similar learning
23 institutions. For colleges and universities with multiple campuses, there shall
24 be a DCST for each campus.

25 **SECTION 17.** Citizen Service Mobilization Board. – The Mobilization Board
26 shall be composed of the Chairperson as head, the two (2) Commissioners for
27 Mobilization, the Secretary of the DND and the Secretary of the DILG, or their
28 duly authorized representatives with a rank of at least Assistant Secretary.
29 The Secretary of the Department of Social Work and Development, or his duly
30 authorized representatives with a rank of at least Assistant Secretary, the
31 Chief of Staff of the AFP and the Director General of the PNP, or their duly

1 authorized representatives with a rank of at least Brigadier General,
2 Commodore or Chief Superintendent, as the case may be, shall be consulting
3 non-voting members of the Mobilization Board.

4 The Mobilization Board shall administer the process of deployment of the
5 Corps in accordance with the provisions of this Act. From time to time as
6 manpower and training resources may allow, the Mobilization Board may call
7 for retraining of the Corps to maintain and enhance its level of competency
8 and readiness for mobilization. For this purpose, the Mobilization Board may
9 call for training mobilizations for periods not exceeding fifteen (15) days.

10 **SECTION 18.** Annual Reports. – The Commission shall regularly publish an
11 annual report containing a list of its accomplishments, status of its
12 operations, number and demography of the Corps, assessment of readiness for
13 mobilization and the incidence and details of each mobilization for the year
14 concerned. The annual report shall also include the results of the audit
15 investigation on the spending of funds appropriated, collected or advanced for
16 the implementation of the provisions of this Act, as referred to under Section
17 31, Section 32 and Section 33 hereof.

18 **ARTICLE VI**

19 **DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITIZEN SERVICE TRAINING COURSE**

20 **SECTION 19.** Department of Citizen Service Training. – Within each campus
21 of their respective institutions, all public and private colleges, universities and
22 similar learning institutions shall establish and maintain, in accordance with
23 the structure and organization provided in the rules and regulations of the
24 Commission, an autonomous Department of Citizen Service Training, which
25 shall be tasked with the primary duty and responsibility of fully implementing
26 the CSTC in their respective campuses. The DCST shall have an overall
27 department head, a commandant for external and territorial defense, a
28 commandant for internal security and peace and order, and a commandant for
29 disaster risk reduction management.

1 The head of each campus and/or learning institution shall appoint a
2 department head within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of the rules and
3 regulations implementing this Act. Within thirty (30) days from acceptance of
4 his appointment, the department head shall submit a list of three (3) names
5 for each commandant position from which the head of each campus and/or
6 learning institution shall appoint, within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the
7 lists, the three (3) commandants.

8 The DCST shall be directly under the office of the head of each campus and/or
9 learning institution. It shall be civilian in character and shall administer the
10 CSTC. However, it is understood that personnel of the AFP, PNP and the OCD
11 shall not be disqualified from being appointed as heads of the DCST.

12 The head of the DCST shall be chosen by the head of the learning institution
13 from among candidates who by reason of their training, experience and/or
14 education in the fields of external and territorial defense, internal security and
15 peace and order and/or disaster risk reduction management is best qualified
16 to be the head of the DCST. The Commission shall have the authority to
17 prescribe the qualifications for the head of DCST.

18 Should a learning institution fail to organize a DCST and/or appoint a DCST
19 head within the period stated above, the Commission shall cause the
20 establishment of a DCST and/or appoint the head thereof.

21 **SECTION 20.** The University of the Philippines as Curriculum and
22 Development Center. – The University of the Philippines (U.P.), as the National
23 University, through its various DCSTs in each of its campuses, shall serve as
24 the CSTC POI research and development center for the Commission. For this
25 purpose, there is hereby created a U.P. Center for Citizen Service Training
26 (CCST), which shall be within the U.P. System and under the Office of the U.P.
27 President. It shall have the following powers:

- 28 a) Undertake studies, surveys, and research to assess and/or enhance the
29 implementation of the CSTC;
- 30 b) Design and develop CSTC subjects and modules for the review and approval
31 of the Commission;

- 1 c) Pilot test CSTC subjects, modules and programs it designed and developed
- 2 within the U.P. system for purposes of assessment; and

3 d) Subject to the approval of the U.P. President and the U.P. Board of Regents,
4 prepare the plantilla of the U.P. CCST.

5 The governing body of the U.P. CCST shall be an executive committee
6 composed of the department heads of the various DCSTs in each campus of
7 the U.P. System. The chairperson of the executive committee shall be elected
8 for a term of three (3) years from among the members of the executive
9 committee.

10 The U.P. CCST shall be located at the U.P. Diliman DCST.

SECTION 21. Development of the CSTC POI. – The U.P. CCST shall propose improvements to the CSTC POI, which shall undergo pilot-testing in each of the U.P. campuses. The pilot-tested CSTC POI shall be submitted for the assessment, consideration and approval of the Commission within thirty (30) days from the last day of the pilot-testing semester.

16 The Commission and the U.P. CCST shall ensure the participation of third-
17 party stakeholders and experts in the fields of external and territorial defense,
18 internal security and peace and order, and disaster risk reduction and
19 management in the continued development and improvement of the CSTC
20 POI.

ARTICLE VII
DEPLOYMENT OF THE CITIZEN SERVICE CORPS

23 **SECTION 22.** Requests for Deployment. – The Corps may be called upon and
24 mobilized to assist the national government, its agencies and instrumentalities
25 and the local government units in their functions related to external and
26 territorial defense, internal security and peace and order, and disaster risk
27 reduction and management, through requests for deployment by the heads of
28 such national government agencies or local government units submitted to the
29 Mobilization Board. The requests shall contain a justification for the

1 deployment of the Corps and shall contain information as may be required by
2 the Commission, including the nature of the national or local contingencies to
3 be addressed, the purpose of the requested deployment, the number of
4 personnel requested to be deployed and the period of deployment.

5 **SECTION 23.** Evaluation of the Requests for Deployment. – The Mobilization
6 Board shall evaluate the requests for deployment. When the number of
7 personnel requested does not exceed one hundred and fifty (150) and the
8 period of deployment does not exceed sixty (60) days, the Mobilization Board
9 shall decide whether to approve or disapprove the request within twenty-four
10 (24) hours from receipt thereof. When the number of personnel requested
11 exceeds one hundred and fifty (150) or the period of deployment exceeds sixty
12 (60) days, the Mobilization Board shall make a recommendation to the
13 Commission within twenty-four (24) hours from receipt of the request. The
14 Commission shall decide whether to approve or disapprove the request within
15 twenty-four (24) hours from receipt of the recommendation of the Mobilization
16 Board.

17 In case of the approval of the request for deployment, the Mobilization Board
18 shall issue an Order of Deployment requiring the Corps, or a number thereof,
19 to assist the national government, its agencies and instrumentalities and the
20 local government units in their functions related to external and territorial
21 defense, internal security and peace and order, and disaster risk reduction
22 and management.

23 **SECTION 24.** Deployment in Case of a Declaration of a State of War, State of
24 Lawless Violence or State of Calamity; Nationwide Mobilization. – In case of a
25 declaration of a state of war, state of lawless violence or state of calamity, the
26 Commission may motu proprio recommend the mobilization of the Corps to
27 the President of the Philippines. The President of the Philippines, by himself,
28 shall also have the power to order the mobilization of the Corps to respond to
29 national or local contingencies related to external and territorial defense,
30 internal security and peace and order and/or disaster risk reduction
31 management.

1 **SECTION 25.** Mobilization Centers. – There shall be established in each
2 province and city as many mobilization centers as needed according to the
3 number and geographical distribution of the Corps, where they will report in
4 case of deployment. The local government units shall provide an office, which
5 shall be known as the Citizen Service Office, which shall handle the
6 administrative aspects of mobilization.

7 In case of mobilization, the equipment of the Corps shall be supplied in close
8 coordination with the AFP, the PNP and the OCD, with the end in view of
9 achieving rapid mobilization.

10 **SECTION 26.** Lines of Command. – Upon deployment, operational control over
11 the Corps shall be vested upon the head of the requesting national
12 government agency or local government unit: Provided, that, in case of
13 deployment for purposes of external and territorial defense, when the Corps is
14 mobilized to expand the AFP in the event of war, invasion, rebellion or similar
15 circumstances, operational control shall be vested upon the AFP.

16 **SECTION 27.** Expenses of Deployment. – The role of the Commission shall be
17 to provide and marshal the required personnel to address national or local
18 contingencies involving external and territorial defense, internal security and
19 peace and order, and national disaster risk reduction and management. Upon
20 deployment, the national government agency or the local government unit to
21 which the Corps is deployed shall shoulder the operational expenses of
22 deployment.

23 **SECTION 28.** Operationalization of Deployment. – The Mobilization Board,
24 subject to the approval of the Commission, shall promulgate the specific
25 mechanisms by which deployment is efficiently implemented, including the
26 organization of the Corps to be deployed, their territorial assignments, how
27 deployment orders are communicated to each member of the Corps and to
28 which mobilization center they will report.

29 **SECTION 29.** Serial Numbers and Registry. – Upon completion of the Basic
30 CSTC, the graduates shall be issued individual serial numbers, which will
31 serve as their identification in case of deployment.

1 The Commission shall maintain and update a registry/database containing
2 the names of the members of the Corps, their serial numbers, address, contact
3 details and such other information as the Commission may determine. For
4 this purpose, all public and private colleges, universities and learning
5 institutions are hereby mandated to annually transmit their records of the
6 graduates of the CSTC to the Commission, in the form as may be determined
7 by the Commission.

8 All graduates of CSTC are required to update their addresses and contact
9 details on file with the Commission as often as necessary. Orders of
10 deployment sent to the addresses and/or through the contact details on file
11 with the Commission shall be sufficient notice for the purpose of Section 37
12 hereof.

13 **SECTION 30.** Termination of Deployment. – Upon the expiration of the
14 requested period of deployment, without an extension having been requested
15 and approved by the Commission, the Corps shall be discharged of its duties.
16 The deployment may also be terminated earlier upon a determination by the
17 Commission, in consultation with the requesting national government agency
18 or local government unit, that such deployment is no longer in accordance
19 with the objectives and purposes of this Act.

20 **SECTION 31.** Effect on Employment. – Deployment of employees in
21 accordance with the provisions of this Act shall not be a ground for dismissal
22 or diminution of any benefit enjoyed by such employees prior to their
23 deployment. Employees shall be entitled to their regular wage or salary during
24 the period of their deployment; Provided, that employers shall be entitled to
25 deduct such regular wage or salary from their gross income for the same
26 taxable year that the regular wage or salary was granted.

27 **ARTICLE VIII**

28 **FUNDING OF THE CITIZEN SERVICE CORPS**

29 **SECTION 32.** Citizen Service Fund. – A Citizen Service Fund is hereby
30 established exclusively for the implementation of the objectives and purposes

1 of this Act. The Office of the President shall monitor and evaluate the activities
2 and the balances of the Fund.

3 **SECTION 33.** Appropriations. – All funds previously appropriated for the
4 establishment, maintenance, and operation of the Reserve Officers' Training
5 Corps Program of the AFP, established under Republic Act No. 7077, as
6 amended, and which will subsequently and hereafter be appropriated for such
7 purpose shall be used exclusively for the implementation of the objectives and
8 purposes of this Act. All funds appropriated for the implementation of the
9 National Service Training Program under Republic Act No. 9163 shall also be
10 used exclusively for the implementation of the objectives and purposes of this
11 Act.

12 An initial funding of Fifty million pesos (P50,000,000.00) shall be allocated
13 from the Presidential Social Fund to sustain the operation of the Commission
14 and the implementation of this Act for the first year of its effectivity.
15 Thereafter, the Citizen Service Fund shall be included in the annual General
16 Appropriations Act.

17 **SECTION 34.** School Fees. – Public colleges, universities and similar learning
18 institutions covered by Republic Act No. 10931, otherwise known as the
19 Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act, shall not collect any fee for
20 the CSTC. The training costs shall be included in the annual appropriations of
21 such public colleges, universities and similar learning institutions. In cases of
22 students not eligible to avail of the benefits under Republic Act No. 10931,
23 public colleges, universities and similar learning institutions may collect a
24 training fee of not more than fifty percent (50%) of the tuition fee per academic
25 unit.

26 Colleges, universities and similar learning institutions not covered by Republic
27 Act No. 10931 shall have the option of collecting a training fee of not more
28 than fifty percent (50%) of the tuition fee per academic unit, or of not
29 collecting any fee for the CSTC; Provided that, in the latter case, the actual
30 expenses for the administration of CSTC incurred by such institutions shall be
31 allowed as a deduction from the gross income of such institutions for the same

1 taxable year that the expenses are incurred. The covered institutions shall
2 elect an option and inform the Commission not later than one hundred and
3 twenty (120) days before the start of the school year. Such election may be
4 changed only once every four (4) school years, unless specifically allowed by
5 the Commission.

6 For this purpose, the Department of Finance, through the Bureau of Internal
7 Revenue, shall formulate the appropriate regulations for the deduction
8 provided under this section. The Commission shall promulgated budgetary
9 guidelines for all covered institutions to ensure that the budget appropriated,
10 collected or advanced for the training costs are reasonable and sufficient to
11 ensure proper administration of the CSTC.

12 **SECTION 35.** Incentives for Students Pursuing Advance CSTC. – Students
13 pursuing the Advance CSTC shall be entitled to tuition fee discounts according
14 to the following schedule:

15 a) Cadet officers shall be entitled to fifty percent (50%) discount on their
16 tuition fees effective the semester after their completion of the officer qualifying
17 course until their completion of the Basic CSTC provided they serve as officers
18 of the CSTC; and

19 b) During their training under the Advance CSTC, they shall be entitled to one
20 hundred percent (100%) discount on their tuition fees. Cadet officers pursuing
21 the Advance CSTC who, for any reason, fail to qualify for benefits under
22 Republic Act No. 10931 are nonetheless entitled to the incentives provided
23 above. For this purpose, all colleges, universities and similar learning
24 institutions shall issue tuition waivers/discounts in favor of the said cadet
25 officers.

26 For private colleges, universities and similar learning institutions, the tuition
27 fee waivers/discounts granted pursuant to this section may likewise be
28 claimed as a deduction from the gross income of such institutions for the
29 same taxable year that the discounts/waivers were granted. For income tax-
30 exempt private colleges, universities and similar learning institutions, they

1 may claim reimbursement of the discounts/waivers granted under this section
2 against the Citizen Service Fund created under Section 31 hereof.

3 Cadet officers shall likewise be entitled to a uniform allowance, which shall be
4 provided and given in kind by the Commission.

5 Upon completion of the Advance CSTC and subject to the taking of the Reserve
6 Officer Qualifying Examination under Section 44 hereof, the graduates of
7 Advance CSTC shall be commissioned as reserve second lieutenant or its
8 equivalent in the AFP, PNP or OCD; Provided, that they shall have obtained
9 their baccalaureate degree courses within four (4) years from such completion,
10 failing which their reserve commission shall be deemed revoked by operation
11 of law.

12 The Commission shall ensure that an adequate portion of the Citizen Service
13 Fund is allocated for the above incentives. The budget of the Commission to be
14 submitted to the President shall likewise incorporate such allocation.

15 **SECTION 36.** Audit of Funds. – Without prejudice to the audit jurisdiction of
16 the Commission on Audit and the Bureau of Internal Revenue under existing
17 laws and regulations, there shall be created an Audit Division within the
18 Commission with the limited authority to conduct audit investigation on the
19 spending of colleges, universities and similar learning institutions of funds
20 appropriated, collected or advanced for the administration of the CSTC, with
21 the specific purpose of ensuring that such funds are exclusively spent for
22 program implementation and direct training costs.

23 **ARTICLE IX**

24 **PENAL AND DISCIPLINARY PROVISIONS**

25 **SECTION 37.** Failure to Respond. – a) Failure to respond to the order of
26 deployment despite notice sent to the address and/or contact details on file
27 with the Commission for external and territorial defense shall be punishable in
28 accordance with the Articles of War, and shall, upon conviction by a court-
29 martial, be punishable by imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but
30 not more than two (2) years;

1 b) Failure to respond to the order of deployment for internal security and
2 peace and order or disaster risk reduction and management shall, upon
3 conviction by a civil court, be punishable as follows:

4 First Offense: One hundred and twenty (120) hours of community service;

5 Second Offense: Two hundred and forty (240) hours of community service; and

6 Third and Subsequent Offenses: Six (6) months imprisonment and four
7 hundred and eighty (480) hours of community service.

8 **SECTION 38.** Disciplinary and Corrective Proceedings. – Administrative
9 offenses committed by persons involved in or in relation to the implementation
10 of this Act, including the administration of the CSTC and the conduct of the
11 Summer Citizen Service Training Camp, shall be subject to administrative
12 penalties in accordance with the applicable civil service rules.

13 Complaints against heads and commandants of DCSTs or their equivalent,
14 officers of the Commission and such employees of the Commission as may be
15 identified in the implementing rules and regulations of this Act, shall be filed
16 with and decided by a Disciplinary Board to be composed of the Chairperson
17 of the Commission, a Commissioner for Training and a Commissioner for
18 Mobilization, both of which shall be selected by the Chairperson. All
19 complaints must be decided by the Disciplinary Board within one hundred
20 and twenty (120) days from filing thereof.

21 Complaints against officers and employees of the DCSTs, as well cadet officers,
22 shall be filed with and decided by the heads of their respective DCSTs. All
23 complaints must be decided by the head of the DCST within thirty (30) days
24 from filing thereof, subject to a one-time extension of thirty (30) days granted
25 by the Chairperson of the Commission. Unless stayed by the Disciplinary
26 Board for meritorious reasons, all decisions of the heads of DSCTs on the
27 complaints shall be immediately executory.

28 No motions for reconsideration shall be allowed from the decision of the heads
29 of the DCSTS, but the same may be appealed within fifteen (15) days from
30 receipt thereof by filing a memorandum of appeal with the Disciplinary Board

1 of the Commission. If the penalty imposed by the heads of the DCSTs is
2 dismissal, the decision shall be automatically reviewed to the Disciplinary
3 Board.

4 In all cases of appeal by parties and automatic review by the Disciplinary
5 Board, the entire records of the cases shall be transmitted to the Disciplinary
6 Board within thirty (30) days from the promulgation of the decision by the
7 heads of the DCSTs. All appeals and automatic reviews shall be resolved by
8 the Disciplinary Board within one hundred and twenty (120) days from receipt
9 of the entire records of the cases.

10 The decisions of the Disciplinary Board shall be final and may be assailed only
11 by a petition for *certiorari* under Rule 65 of the Rules of Court before the Court
12 of Appeals.

13 **SECTION 39.** Corruption, graft, hazing and other abuses. – For acts already
14 penalized under existing laws such as corruption, graft, hazing, sexual
15 harassment, and other abuses committed by persons authorized to administer
16 the CSTC and deployment of the Corps, the maximum penalty imposable
17 under existing laws shall be imposed.

ARTICLE X

IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS

20 **SECTION 40.** Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). – The Commission
21 shall be tasked to formulate and approve the necessary rules and regulations
22 to implement the objectives and purposes of this Act within sixty (60) days
23 from its organization. The rules and regulations shall include provisions on
24 the structure and organization of the Corps under Section 9, the structure and
25 organization of the Department of Citizen Service Training under Section 20,
26 the specific mechanisms for the efficient mobilization and deployment of the
27 Corps under Section 29, the incentives for students pursuing Advance CSTC
28 under Section 35, and such other matters as the Commission may deem
29 necessary or essential to fully implement the objectives and purposes of this
30 Act.

1

ARTICLE XI

2

TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

3 **SECTION 41.** Period of Implementation. – To ensure efficient transition and to
4 enable all public and private colleges, universities, and similar learning
5 institutions to adopt the necessary structural changes within their units in
6 accordance with the provisions of this Act, the CSTC shall be administered in
7 all public colleges, universities, and similar learning institutions after the
8 Commission has promulgated the necessary implementing rules and
9 regulations described in Section 39.

10 **SECTION 42.** Initial Program Managers. – The Training Board shall ensure
11 that the initial set of program managers who shall instruct and train the first
12 sets of enrollees in the CSTC in all public and private colleges, universities and
13 similar learning institutions are properly trained and equipped. For this
14 purpose, the Training Board shall develop a Program Managers Training
15 Course (PMTC). All covered institutions are required to send program
16 managers, in number sufficient to implement the CSTC, to undergo and
17 successfully pass the PMTC to be administered and conducted by the
18 Commission.

19 **SECTION 43.** Current Enrollment under Republic Act No. 9163. – In all cases,
20 students who are currently enrolled under the curriculum implemented by
21 virtue of Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the National Service
22 Training Program Act of 2001, shall be allowed to finish the curriculum and be
23 deemed to have satisfied the requirement for graduation after completion
24 thereof.

25 **SECTION 44.** Integration of Existing Reserve Units and Service Corps. – All
26 reservists included in the Reserved Force created under Republic Act No.
27 7077, otherwise known as the Citizen Armed Forces of the Philippines
28 Reservist Act, and all members of the National Service Reserve Corps created
29 under Republic Act No. 9163, shall be absorbed under the Citizen Service
30 Corps created under this Act. The Citizen Service Mobilization Board shall
31 determine their ranks and designations within the Citizen Service Corps.

SECTION 45. Organization of Reserve Components. – To complement the existing AFP Reserve Force, the Commission is hereby authorized and mandated to organize the reserve components of the PNP and the OCD within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act. Thereafter, the administration, operational control and funding of the newly organized reserve components shall be vested upon the PNP and the OCD, respectively.

7 The Commission shall also develop a Reserve Officer Qualifying Examination
8 to be administered by the Commission to the cadet officers prior to the start of
9 the eight (8th) semester of their Advance CSTC to determine their competencies
10 for the purpose of assigning them as officers of the respective reserve
11 components of the AFP, PNP or OCD. Thereafter, the respective reserve
12 commands of the reserve components shall be responsible for the training and
13 advancement of their reserve officers, where they shall be commissioned as
14 officers.

ARTICLE XII

FINAL PROVISIONS

17 **SECTION 46.** Repealing Clause. – Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as
18 the National Service Training Program Act of 2001, is hereby repealed. The
19 relevant provisions of Republic Act No. 7707, otherwise known as the Citizen
20 Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act,, are hereby amended as
21 appropriate. All other laws, orders, rules regulations and other issuances, or
22 parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are likewise hereby
23 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 47. Separability Clause. – Any provision of this Act declared unconstitutional shall not affect the validity of the other provisions thereof.

SECTION 48. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

28 *Approved,*