

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9418, April 10, 2007 ]**

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A STRATEGY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT, STRENGTHENING VOLUNTEERISM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known and cited as the "Volunteer Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*- It shall be the policy of the State to promote the participation of the various sectors of the Filipino society, and as necessary, international and foreign volunteer organizations in public and civic affairs, and adopt and strengthen the practice of volunteerism as a strategy in order to attain national development and international understanding. The inculcation of volunteerism as a way of life shall rekindle in every Filipino the time-honored tradition of bayanihan to foster social justice, solidarity and sustainable development.

SEC. 3. *Statement of Goals and Objectives.* - To carry out the foregoing policy, the government shall pursue the attainment of the following goals and objectives:

- a. To provide a policy framework on volunteerism that shall underscore the fundamental principles necessary to harness and harmonize the broad and diverse efforts of the voluntary sector in the country into an integrative and effective partnership for local and national development as well as international cooperation and understanding;
- b. 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; and
- c. To provide an effective institutional mechanism to strengthen the role of the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) to perform its mandates and to oversee the implementation of this Act.

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

- a. "Volunteerism" refers to an act involving a wide range of activities, including traditional forms of mutual aid and developmental interventions that provides an enabling and empowering environment both on the part of the beneficiary receiving and the volunteer rendering the act, undertaken for reasons arising from socio developmental, business or corporate orientation, commitment or conviction for the attainment of the public good and where monetary and other incentives or reward are not the primary motivating factors.
- b. "Volunteer" refers to an individual or group who for reasons arising from their sociodevelopmental, business and corporate orientation, commitment or

conviction, contribute time, service and resources whether on full-time or part-time basis to a just and essential social development cause, mission or endeavor in the belief that their activity is mutually meaningful and beneficial to public interest as well as to themselves.

- c. "Volunteer service organization" refers to a local or foreign group that recruits, trains, deploys and supports volunteer workers to programs and projects implemented by them or by other organizations or any group that provides services and resources, including but not limited to, information, capability building, advocacy and networking for the attainment of the common good.
- d. "Voluntary sector" refers to those sectors of Philippine society that organizes themselves into volunteers to take advocacy and action primarily for local and national development as well as international cooperation and understanding.

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

- a. Volunteerism in the academe includes, but is not limited to, provision of technical assistance and sharing of technology within the academic circle, target communities and other clienteles and the upgrading of the quality of education and curriculum methodologies while providing career enhancement and exposure to the volunteers;
- b. Volunteerism in the corporate sector as an expression of corporate social responsibility and citizenship, refers to activities recognized by the company, where employees give their time, skills and resources in the service of the company's internal and/or external communities. These volunteering activities include, but are not limited to, employee giving of material resources to specific causes; employee-led fund-raising; one-time outreach activities; environmental campaign; medical and health-related advocacies; knowledge and change management; scholarship programs; and sharing of expertise, particularly of business and developmental skills through mentoring, tutoring, training, business, consulting/advising and rendering of pro bono services on a case-to-case basis; and
- c. Volunteerism by not-for-profit organizations includes, but is not limited to, provision of complementary service delivery and human resource development in underserved communities as well as advocacy and articulation of the cause of the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

*SEC. 6. Role and Modalities of Volunteerism by Foreign Volunteer Organizations. -* Volunteerism by foreign volunteer organizations includes, but is not limited to, provision of technical assistance not locally accessible in priority development areas within the framework of technical cooperation and sociocultural exchange.

*SEC. 7. Role of the Government. -* The government shall coordinate, facilitate and encourage the participation of the voluntary sector in the promotion, utilization and recognition of volunteerism in national development and international cooperation. This shall be achieved through the provision of enabling and conducive environment for volunteer work.

*SEC. 8. The Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA). -* The PNVSCA created by Executive Order No. 134, as amended, shall undertake the implementation and execution of the provisions of this Act.

*SEC. 9. Mandates of the PNVSCA. -* The PNVSCA shall have the following functions: