

**[ PVAO, June 25, 2013 ]**

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE VETERANS FEDERATION  
OF THE PHILIPPINES**

**PREAMBLE**

We, the Filipino veterans of wars and military campaigns, dedicating ourselves to God, country, people, in order to uphold and defend the democratic way of life as envisioned in the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, recognize and respect the identity of the individual veteran, their widows and orphans, enrich our cultural heritage, nurture the traditions of sincerity, courage, integrity and humanity, assist in the efforts of our government to instill discipline and unity among our people, to observe peace and order, to foster love of country and to inculcate individual and collective civic consciousness, preserve our dignity and enjoyment of equal opportunities for a better life, do hereby promulgate, adopt and ordain this Constitution and Bylaws pursuant to Republic Act No. 2640, as amended.

**Article I**

**Name, Office and Seal**

**Section 1. Name.** - The name of this organization shall be "Veterans Federation of the Philippines" or "VFP" for short, hereafter referred to as the "Federation".

**Section 2. Office.** - The principal office of the Federation shall be located in the City of Manila, Philippines.

**Section 3. Seal.** - The seal of the Federation shall consist of a royal blue oval field. In the center is a golden kris in an upright position, point up, the grip facing to its right. Superimposed across the kris is a narra branch containing twenty three leaves. A red, white and blue ribbon is tied to and hangs from the stem of the branch. A gold sun with eight rays and three gold stars arranged around it are to the right of the point. Inscribed on a gold band around the field is the name "VETERANS FEDERATION OF THE PHILIPPINES".

**Article II**

**Nature**

The Federation shall be non-sectarian and non-political in character. Affiliation thereto shall not increase or diminish liability for military service.

**Article III**

**Powers**

The said Federation shall have perpetual succession, with power to sue and be sued; to hold such real and personal property as shall be necessary for its purposes, and to receive real and personal property by gift, devise or bequest; to invest its funds for the exclusive benefit of the veterans of the Philippines; to extend, within its

capabilities, all necessary assistance, and operate such enterprise as may further the material or moral well-being of veterans; to adopt a seal, and to alter or destroy the same at pleasure; to have offices and conduct its business and affairs in the City of Manila and/or provinces, cities, municipalities and barrios of the Philippines and to amend said laws, regulations and rules; to establish and operate branches of its offices anywhere in the Philippines; to publish a magazine and/or publications; and generally, to do all such acts and things as may be necessary to carry into effect the provisions of Republic Act No. 2640, as amended, and to promote the purpose of said Federation.

Any action or decision of the Federation or of the Supreme Council shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of National Defense.

## **Article IV**

### **Aims and Purposes**

**Section 1.** The aims and purposes of the Federation shall be as follows:

- a. Implement the Constitutional mandate for the State to provide immediate and adequate care, benefits and other forms of assistance to war veterans and veterans of military campaigns, their surviving spouses and orphans;
- b. Uphold and defend the democratic way of life as envisioned in the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines; to represent and to defend the interests of all Filipino veterans; to coordinate the efforts of all different veterans of the Philippines in behalf of the interests of respective members; to promote mutual help among former comrades-in-arms; to perpetuate their common experiences in war; to undertake acts of charity and relief work; to preserve peace and order; to foster love of country and things Filipino and inculcate individual civic consciousness;
- c. Provide the leadership, formulate the policies and set the priorities and directions of member veterans organizations;
- d. Provide opportunities and operate such enterprises as may further the material and moral well-being of veterans;
- e. Establish the national machinery for the promotion of such services and programs designed for self-reliance and social and economic progress of veterans in support of the declared national policies to improve their living standards;
- f. Encourage wide participation of all sectors in preparing the country's future veterans;
- g. Manage and administer for veterans' needs, benefits and welfare veterans properties, assets, businesses and resources entrusted under its name and possession; and
- h. Maintain the honor and dignity of the veterans as a group or as an individual, promote their welfare and well-being, further the cause of veteranism and keep alive the ideals of freedom and democracy.

In general, the Federation shall exist solely for purposes of a benevolent character, and not for pecuniary profit of its members.

## **Article V**

### **Organization and Membership**

**Section I. Composition** - The Federation is composed of organizations under the following categories:

- a. Charter Organizations- Organizations named in Section I of Republic Act No. 2640.
- b. Affiliate Organizations- Organizations integrated by veterans as defined in the succeeding section, under the following categories:
  - 1) Fraternal Organizations - Integrated by veterans bound together by common experiences such as service in the same military organization or participation in the same military campaign or practice of the same profession or possession of the same classification or category; and
  - 2) Regional Veterans Organizations - Integrated by veterans residing or found in the same geographical areas in accordance with the country's existing political subdivisions such as in provinces or congressional districts.

Membership in different veterans organizations is allowed.

**Section 2. Definition of Veteran** - For the purpose of and when used in this Constitution and Bylaws, a veteran shall mean any person who served in the naval, air, or land arms or service of the Philippines at some time in the Philippine revolution, or World Wars I or II, or in the United States Army Forces in the Far East in World War II, or in the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea in the Korean Campaign, or in any armed conflict in which the Philippines may be involved in the future, or retirees of the Armed Forces of the Philippines who had served in the military service for a minimum of ten years: Provided, however, that said veterans, or retirees have been honorably discharged or separated from the service or continue in the active military service or are carried on the military rosters on inactive reserve.

**Section 3. Requirements for Membership in the Federation** - Member organizations are organizations complying with Section 1 hereof, which subscribe to the Federation's aims and purposes, agree to abide by this Bylaws and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership. It shall have a set of duly-elected officers with their respective addresses and shall maintain a principal office address.

Affiliate Organizations shall have at least fifty (50) members who are veterans as defined herein and whose annual membership fees are being deducted from their pensions and remitted to the Federation by the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office pursuant to Section 23, Republic Act No. 6948, as amended.

Absent any of the foregoing requirements, the organization shall not be affiliated with the Federation or if already affiliated, it shall be deactivated as members of the Federation. Deactivated members shall not participate in the activities of the Federation and shall cease to receive social and material benefits accruing to any member of the Federation, except those benefits and privileges provided by other laws.

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Members of deactivated organizations shall have the option to transfer membership to another veterans organization affiliated with the Federation of his own choice, subject however to the membership requirements of that veteran's organization.

**Section 4. Application for Membership in the Federation** - The application for membership in the Federation shall be made in writing in a form provided for the purpose duly supported by a resolution of the Board or the governing body of the veterans organization.

**Section 5. Veterans' Widows, Sons & Daughters, and Orphans** - Veterans' Widows, Sons & Daughters, and Orphans may organize into separate, independent and exclusive associations for purposes similar to the aims and purposes of the member-organizations, and may affiliate with the Federation as associate member without the right to vote or be voted upon, subject further to the rules and regulations issued by the Supreme Council and approved by the Secretary of National Defense. They shall undertake complementary activities with the Federation and such other activities approved by the Supreme Council.

**Section 6. Duties of Member-Organization** - Every member-organization shall have the following duties:

- a. Accept as members pensioners endorsed by the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office thru the Federation pursuant to Section 23, of Republic Act No. 6948, as amended: Provided, that such organization is the organization of choice of the pensioner;
- b. Submit annual reports of the organization's transactions and activities including the list of officers to the Federation and the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office;
- c. Obey the rules and regulations issued by the Federation and this Constitution and Bylaws, and policies and decisions that may be promulgated by the Federation; and

- d. Promote the interest and welfare of its members and the members of the Federation as a whole.

**Section 7. Rights of Member-Organization** - Every member-organization in good standing shall have the following rights: a. Participate in the activities of the Federation and receive the social and material benefits accruing to every member of the Federation; b. Avail of and enjoy the services of the Federation; c. Participate in the deliberations during membership assembly and meetings; d. Vote and be voted upon; e. Seek any elective position, subject to the provisions of this Bylaws; f. Inspect and examine the books of accounts, the minutes book, and other records of the Federation during regular office hours and exercise other rights and privileges of membership; and g. Enjoy such other rights appurtenant to member-organization

A member-organization in good standing is one which has not violated any provision of this Constitution and Bylaws, the rules and regulations issued by the Supreme Council, the policies and decisions of the Federation, and complies with all obligations, duties, and undertakings of membership.

**Section 8. Termination of Membership** - Membership in the Federation may be terminated in any of the following:

- a. Withdrawal - Any member-organization desiring to terminate its membership by withdrawal shall submit a written notice of withdrawal of its membership provided it has no pending obligation with the Federation;
- b. Dissolution - Any member-organization in the process of dissolution shall submit a written notice of termination of its membership provided it has no pending obligation with the Federation; and
- c. Expulsion - If a member-organization commits any act prejudicial to the interest of the Federation, the Supreme Council may, following a hearing, expel such member, or in lieu of expulsion, order the suspension of the member's right to vote until such time as the Supreme Council shall determine. During the period of suspension, the presence of such member shall not be considered in determining the existence of a quorum or in the requirements of voting.

**Section 9.** No membership fee or dues shall be returned to any member in case of withdrawal, expulsion or dissolution.

## **Article VI**

### **Organizational Structure**

**Section 1. Structure** - The following units shall comprise the structural organization of the Federation:

- a. The Supreme Council - The Supreme Council shall be the governing body of the Federation and headed by a Chairman, with a Vice-Chairman and a Corporate Secretary. It shall be assisted by an Executive Board and such other committees in carrying out its functions.
- b. Management - The Chairman of the Supreme Council shall be the Federation President. He shall act as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Federation. He shall be assisted by an Executive Vice President who is the Chief Operating Officer (COO) and such other executive officers recommended by the Supreme Council and approved by the Secretary of National Defense.