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SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 424

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM LAW, PARTICULARLY SECTION 11 CREATING THE NATIONAL SERVICE RESERVE CORPS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, on December 19, 2001, the National Service Training Program (NSTP) Act was passed, and affirmed that the prime duty of the government is to serve and protect its citizens. In turn, it shall be the responsibility of all citizens to defend the security of the State and in fulfillment thereof, the government may require each citizen to render personal, military or civil service;¹

WHEREAS, the NSTP Act created three service components, namely:

1. The Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), which was made voluntary and optional upon the effectivity of the NSTP Act;
2. The Literacy Training Service (LTS);
3. The Civic Welfare Training Service (CWTS);²

WHEREAS, Section 5 of the NSTP Act requires students, male and female, of any baccalaureate degree course or at least two (2)-year technical vocational course in public and private educational institutions to complete one (1) of the NSTP components as requisite for graduation;³

WHEREAS, Section 10 of the NSTP Act grants school authorities academic and administrative supervision over the design, formulation, adoption and implementation of the different NSTP components in their respective schools while the CHED and TESDA regional offices shall oversee and monitor the implementation of the NSTP

¹ An Act Establishing the National Service Training Program (NSTP) for Tertiary Level Students, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 7077 and Presidential Decree No. 1706, and for Other Purposes [NSTP Act], Republic Act No. 9163, Sec. 2 (2001).

² NSTP Act, Sec. 4.

³ *Id.* Sec. 5.

under their jurisdiction to determine if the trainings are being conducted in consonance with the objectives of the NSTP Act;⁴

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 8 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the NSTP Act, it clarifies that CHED Regional Offices, TESDA Provincial District Offices and the DND/AFP (through the Major Service Reserve Commands) shall oversee and monitor the implementation of the NSTP under their respective jurisdiction, to determine if the trainings conducted are in consonance with the Act;⁵

WHEREAS, Section 11 of the NSTP Act created the National Service Reserve Corps (NSRC) to be composed of the graduates of the non-ROTC components. Members of the NSRC may be tapped by the State for literacy and civic welfare activities through the joint effort of the DND, CHED and TESDA. On the other hand, graduates of the ROTC shall form part of the Citizens' Armed Force, pursuant to Republic Act No. 7077;⁶

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the IRR also requires the Higher Education Institution (HEI) to submit an Annual Report to the CHED Regional Office of the following:

1. Names of those who finished each NSTP component;
2. The programs, projects and activities undertaken with pictorials and documentation as much as possible; and
3. Financial statements on the funds collected, allocated and utilized;⁷

WHEREAS, Section 12 of the IRR further obliges CHED, TESDA or the DND to issue a Certificate of Completion with a corresponding serial number to students who have successfully complied with the program requirements;⁸

WHEREAS, Section 11 of the IRR requires CHED, TESDA and the DND (through the Office of Civil Defense),⁹ in consultation with other concerned government and non-government agencies, to issue the necessary guidelines for the establishment, organization, maintenance and utilization of the National Service Reserve Corps;¹⁰

WHEREAS, in 2012, CHED adopted the Implementing Guidelines and Procedures (IGP) relating to the NSRC and designated the Local Government Units and Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils as responsible for the development, organization, training, administration, protection and funding of community-based NSRC units from the provincial down to the barangay level;¹¹

⁴ NSTP Act, Sec. 10.

⁵ Rules and Regulations Implementing the National Service Training Program Act of 2001, Section 8 (2001).

⁶ NSTP Act, Sec. 11.

⁷ Rules and Regulations Implementing the National Service Training Program Act of 2001, Section 7 (2001).

⁸ *Id.* Sec. 12.

⁹ Commission on Higher Education, Memorandum providing for the Implementing Guidelines and Procedures (IGP) on the Development, Organization, Training, Administration, Utilization, Mobilization, Operation, Accreditation, Protection and Funding of National Service Reserve Corps (Oct. 17, 2012).

¹⁰ Rules and Regulations Implementing the National Service Training Program Act of 2001, Section 7 (2001).

¹¹ *Id.* Sec. 11.

¹¹ Commission on Higher Education, Memorandum providing for the Implementing Guidelines and Procedures (IGP) on the Development, Organization, Training, Administration, Utilization, Mobilization, Operation, Accreditation, Protection and Funding of National Service Reserve Corps (Oct. 17, 2012).

WHEREAS, students who underwent either CWTS or LTS reported that they never received any serial number upon graduation. Further, said students of either CWTS or LTS from various schools also reported that their training involved participating in fun runs, lectures, and other activities, which did not necessarily reflect the object and purpose of the NSTP Act;

WHEREAS, since the adoption of the NSTP Act, there have been millions of graduates who should have been formally instituted as part of the the NSRC. In line with National Disaster Consciousness Month this July,¹² there is a need to review the database of the NSRC to ensure that CHED, TESDA and administrators of HEIs comply with their duties and responsibilities insofar as disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) and national preparedness are concerned;

WHEREAS, there has been no initiative on the part of government to assess the effectivity and impact of the CWTS and LTS components;¹³

WHEREAS, there is a need to review the implementation of the NSTP Law to determine whether the NSRC is operative, fully functional, and ready for mobilization in the event that they are called by the president of the Philippines to aid in DRRM and other service endeavors;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines to direct the appropriate Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the implementation of the National Service Training Program Law, particularly Section 11 creating the National Service Reserve Corps, with the end in view of strengthening the National Service Training Program.

Adopted,



¹² Declaring the Month of July of Every Year as National Disaster Consciousness Month and Institutionalizing the Civil Defense Deputization Program, Executive Order No. 137 s. 1999.

¹³ Ferdinand Pascual, Reserve command, Sir, are we ready?, *available at*, <http://www.philstar.com/opinion/2017/05/18/1701064/reserve-command-sir-are-we-ready> (last accessed Jun. 8, 2017).