



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE]
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES]
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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 1023

Introduced by SENATOR WIN T. GATCHALIAN

A RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NSTP LAW WITH THE END IN VIEW
OF STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING
PROGRAM AND ITS RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING
CORPS (ROTC) COMPONENT**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the prime duty of the government to serve and protect the people, Article II, Section 4 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "the government may call upon the people to defend the State, and in fulfillment thereof, all citizens may be required under conditions provided by law to render personal military or civil service";

WHEREAS, On June 27, 1991, Republic Act No. 7077 was enacted for the purpose of the development, administration and utilization of the citizen armed force, alternately referred to as the Reserve Force, to provide the base for the expansion of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the event of war, invasion or rebellion; to assist in relief and rescue during disasters or calamities; to assist in socio economic development; and to assist in the operation and

maintenance of essential government or private utilities in the furtherance of overall mission;¹

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7077 is explicit that military training for students enrolled in colleges, universities and similar institutions of learning is mandatory² and as such, ROTC units should be established and maintained in these institutions for the purpose of producing enlisted and officer reservists.³

WHEREAS, during its compulsory implementation, the ROTC program was shaken by allegations of corruption and abuses, prompting various groups to call for its abolition, particularly after the death of Mark Chua in 2001 following his expose' of the alleged irregularities in the ROTC unit of his university;

WHEREAS, On January 23, 2002, Republic Act No. 9163 was subsequently enacted, recognizing the youth's vital role in nation-building by promoting civic consciousness and defense preparedness by offering and institutionalizing National Service Training Program ("NSTP") in higher and technical-vocational educational institutions;

WHEREAS, with the passage of the aforesaid law, NSTP became a requisite for graduation and part of the curricula of all baccalaureate degree courses and of at least two (2) years technical-vocational courses, with three (3) service components, namely: 1) The Reserve Officers' Training Corps, 2) The Literacy Training Service and 3) The Civil Welfare Training Service;

WHEREAS, the NSTP law suspended the mandatory implementation of the ROTC program in tertiary level and made it a

¹ Section 7, R.A. No 7077.

² Section 38, R.A. No. 7077.

³ Section 39, R.A. No. 7077.

mere “optional” component in the NSTP courses of colleges and universities;

WHEREAS, the implementation of NSTP Law in 2002 led to the drastic reduction of enrollment in the ROTC program from 314,225 in SY 2000-2001 to 170,071 in SY 2002-2003, down to 106,892 in SY 2004-2005,⁴ effectively creating serious repercussions on the AFP Reserve Force;

WHEREAS, while the existing NSTP classes stir up the civic consciousness of our students, these do not fully attain the objective of developing military and defense preparedness among our youth especially in light of non-traditional threats brought about by natural disasters and climate change, as well as threats against our national security;

WHEREAS, the state of the ROTC program today shows that it is challenged in many fronts – primarily issues not on waning enrollment but in a lack of ROTC graduates volunteering for the Ready Reserve, issues on leadership and diverse policies on designation of commandants in the ROTC units, the lack of manpower, logistics and funding, the lack of adequate training facilities; issues on the Program of Instruction which is not congruent with the warfighting and nation-building mission of the Reserve Force to which the ROTC plays a vital role in producing the reservists it needs, as well as not fitting it to the generation of students today;⁵

WHEREAS, a comprehensive review of the NSTP law, particularly its ROTC component is necessary to measure its effectiveness and introduce appropriate legislative measures or

⁴ Data from the Manpower Development and Administration Division, OJ9.

⁵ “The Challenge of the ROTC: Transforming Towards an Adaptive and Responsive Program to Meet the Demand of the Evolving Security Environment” by General Rolando Rodil.

amendments in the existing law with the goal of strengthening the country's Reserve Force;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Philippines, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the implementation of the NSTP law with the end in view of strengthening the national service training program and its ROTC component.

Adopted,



SHERWIN T. GATCHALIAN