



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6713

BY REPRESENTATIVES BELMONTIE (F.), TINGA, RODRIGUEZ (R.), MANDANAS, DAZA, REMULLA, CLIMACO, GONZALES (N), LAGMAN, BAGAISING, VALENCIA, ANGARA, GOMEZ, CASTELO, ABAD, BANAL, HERRERA-DY, DIMAPORO (F.), KHO (D.), CAJAYON, ASILO, CRUZ-GONZALES, OLIVAREZ, ARQUIZA, SAMBAR, MARIANO, TY, CABALUNA, ANGPING, OBILLO, TREÑAS, ARENAS, AGGABAO, GULLAS, MAGSAYSAY (M.), SUAREZ, TIANGCO, CAGAS, GUNIGUNDO, ARNAIZ, GONZALEZ, VILLAFUERTE, LIMKAICHONG, ALMARIO, GARIN (S.), RAMOS, SARMIENTO (M.), VILLARICA, DEL MAR, LOYOLA AND EBDANE, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2481

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN NATION-BUILDING THROUGH THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF A STRATEGIC VOLUNTEERISM-BASED MULTISECTORAL PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK IN ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs) AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS IN THE COUNTRY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Filipino
2 Volunteerism in Nation-Building (VNB) or Bayanihan sa Bagumbayan (BSB)
3 Act”.

4 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – (a) It shall be the policy of the State
5 to promote the participation of the various sectors of Filipino society in public
6 and civic affairs, adopt and strengthen the practice of volunteerism as a

1 strategy in national and local development, and to inculcate the “Bayanihan”
2 spirit as a way of life.

3 (b) The State recognizes and respects the vital role of civil society
4 organizations (CSOs), which include, among others, nongovernment
5 organizations (NGOs), volunteer service organizations (VSOs) and people’s
6 organizations (POs), as effective conduits in harnessing people power to
7 promote and achieve nation-building through a strategic volunteerism
8 multisectoral public-private partnership approach.

9 (c) The State shall ensure the institutionalization of a committed,
10 participative and sustained partnership between the local government units
11 (LGUs), congressional districts and the private sector in the process of
12 community-building through volunteerism.

13 SEC. 3. *Statement of Goals and Objectives.* – Pursuant to the
14 foregoing policy, the government shall attain the following goals and
15 objectives:

16 (a) To provide a framework for a strategic multisectoral public-private
17 partnership through volunteerism;

18 (b) To institutionalize volunteerism as a strategy for local development;
19 and

20 (c) To establish a coordinating mechanism to harmonize national and
21 local volunteering efforts.

22 SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following
23 terms shall be defined as follows:

24 (a) *Accreditation* refers to the formal recognition by the LGUs of CSOs
25 for the purpose of registering, certifying and enabling them to participate in the
26 VNB program.

27 (b) *Civil society organizations* refer to NGOs, POs, cooperatives, trade
28 unions, professional associations, faith-based organizations, media groups,

1 indigenous peoples' movements, foundations, and other citizen groups formed
2 primarily for social and economic development, to monitor government
3 programs and projects, engage in policy discussions, and actively participate in
4 collaborative activities with the government.

5 (c) *Congressional District* refers to a territorial division which under
6 the 1987 Philippine Constitution is entitled to elect one (1) member to the
7 Philippine House of Representatives.

8 (d) *Volunteer* refers to an individual or group who, for reasons arising
9 from their socio-developmental, business and corporate orientation,
10 commitment or conviction, contribute time, service and resources whether on
11 full-time or part-time basis to a just and essential social development cause,
12 mission or endeavor in the belief that their activity is mutually meaningful and
13 beneficial to public interest as well as to themselves.

14 (e) *Volunteer service organization* refers to a local or foreign group
15 that recruits, trains, deploys and supports volunteer workers to programs and
16 projects implemented by them or by other organizations or any group that
17 provides services and resources including, but not limited to, information,
18 capability-building, advocacy and networking for the attainment of common
19 good.

20 (f) *Volunteerism* refers to an act involving a wide range of activities,
21 including traditional forms of mutual aid and developmental interventions that
22 provides an enabling and empowering environment, both on the part of the
23 beneficiary receiving and the volunteer rendering the act, undertaken for
24 reasons arising from socio-developmental, business or corporate orientation,
25 commitment or conviction for the attainment of the public good and where
26 monetary and other incentives or reward are not the primary motivating
27 factors.

1 SEC. 5. *VNB Mission-Vision.* – National government agencies (NGAs),
2 LGUs and the volunteer sector shall be committed to the VNB mission and
3 vision, which shall harness the spirit of volunteerism as stimulus for local
4 development and as a way of life for each Filipino in recognition of the time-
5 honored tradition of “Bayanihan” that has evolved to include the participation
6 of organized groups and institutions as volunteer partners of government in
7 local development and governance. The LGUs and the congressional districts
8 shall also perform critical roles in mobilizing, harmonizing and sustaining
9 volunteering efforts.

10 The VNB program shall harness the support of the abovestated sectors
11 in the following areas of governance:

- 12 (a) Community-building through shelter and other infrastructure
13 support;
- 14 (b) Community, child, youth and maternal health;
- 15 (c) Child and youth education;
- 16 (d) Community entrepreneurship;
- 17 (e) Food sufficiency;
- 18 (f) Gender equality and women empowerment;
- 19 (g) Peace efforts;
- 20 (h) Cultural preservation and promotion;
- 21 (i) Ecotourism;
- 22 (j) Environmental preservation and protection; and
- 23 (k) Micro-finance and livelihood.

24 SEC. 6. *VNB Key National and Cooperating Agencies.* – To
25 harmonize and facilitate the support of various government agencies in the
26 implementation of the VNB, the following NGAs, including their concerned
27 bureaus/attached agencies, shall take lead roles in the following key areas: the
28 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in the review and

1 implementation of the VNB socio-welfare projects and activities; the Housing
2 and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) in the approval of
3 the VNB local shelter plan and coordination of all shelter agencies for the
4 provision of support to the VNB program; the Department of the Interior and
5 Local Government (DILG) in the coordination of the LGUs with the local
6 VNB projects; the Department of Finance (DOF) in the promulgation of
7 guidelines for the availment of tax exemption and other related incentives and
8 benefits and for the oversight of their implementation and supervision; and the
9 Department of Budget and Management (DBM) in overseeing and monitoring
10 the budget utilization of concerned lead or cooperating government agencies in
11 the implementation of the VNB program.

12 Other government agencies shall provide the necessary support for the
13 VNB program, namely: the Office of the President (OP), the National
14 Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the Department of
15 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Land Registration Authority
16 (LRA), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Technology Resource
17 Center (TRC), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Labor and
18 Employment (DOLE), the Department of Education (DepED), the Technical
19 Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the Commission on
20 Higher Education (CHED), the Department of Public Works and Highways
21 (DPWH), the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Department of Agrarian
22 Reform (DAR), the Department of Energy (DOE), the National Electrification
23 Administration (NEA) and the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA).

24 *SEC. 7. VNB Coordinating Agency.* – The Philippine National
25 Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) shall serve as the
26 coordinating agency for the implementation of the VNB program. More
27 specifically, the PNVSCA shall have the following functions:

- 1 (a) Formulate and review policies and guidelines on the VNB program;
- 2 (b) Develop and implement a monitoring and evaluation system for the
3 VNB program;
- 4 (c) Develop and implement an advocacy campaign for the
5 implementation of the VNB program;
- 6 (d) Provide a report to the OP and to both Houses of Congress on
7 matters related to the implementation of the VNB program; and
- 8 (e) Administer all funds related to the VNB program.

9 The VNB Program Management Unit shall be created as an attached
10 unit to the Office of the Executive Director of the PNVSCA to perform
11 technical and administrative tasks to carry out the abovementioned functions.
12 This unit shall be headed by an officer who shall supervise a team of volunteer
13 service officers. The PNVSCA, in coordination with the DBM, shall prepare
14 the staffing pattern of the program management unit.

15 SEC. 8. *Interagency Coordinating Committee.* — The existing
16 Multisectoral Advisory Body (MSAB) of the PNVSCA shall serve as the
17 interagency coordinating committee which shall perform the following
18 functions:

- 19 (a) Provide advice in the formulation of policies and guidelines for the
20 VNB program;
- 21 (b) Serve as link between and among lead and cooperating national
22 government agencies in the implementation of the VNB; and
- 23 (c) Serve as forum for the review of the VNB implementation with
24 VNB stakeholders.

25 For this purpose, the composition of the MSAB shall be expanded to
26 include the HUDCC, the DOF and the DBM.

1 The MSAB may call on the other VNB cooperating agencies and
2 concerned institutions on matters pertaining to the implementation of the VNB
3 program.

4 SEC. 9. *VNB Coordinating Desk.* – All lead and other cooperating
5 agencies shall establish their respective VNB coordinating desk or tap existing
6 related unit to serve as the focal unit in coordinating the delivery of support
7 services in the implementation of the VNB program.

8 At the LGU, the VNB coordinating desk shall serve as the focal unit to
9 perform, but not limited to, the following functions:

10 (a) Undertake the identification of VNB projects and activities;

11 (b) Accredite volunteer partners for the implementation of VNB projects
12 and activities; and

13 (c) Monitor and evaluate the progress of the VNB projects, including
14 submission of reports to the Local Development Council and the MSAB.

15 At the district level, the representative concerned shall designate a VNB
16 liaison officer to serve as the link with the lead and cooperating national
17 government agencies and concerned LGU VNB desk officers.

18 SEC. 10. *Accreditation of VNB Partners and Stakeholders.* – All
19 VNB program partners shall be required to be accredited by LGUs concerned,
20 in coordination with the appropriate agencies, to enable them to participate in
21 the VNB program.

22 A system of accreditation shall be developed for adoption and
23 implementation by the LGUs with proper consultation with the concerned
24 agencies.

25 SEC. 11. *Incentives for VNB Partners and Stakeholders.* – Any VNB
26 and Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR)-accredited donor and donee under a
27 VNB program, project or activity shall enjoy the following incentives:

1 (a) All donations in cash and in kind, including land, all of which are
2 actually, directly and exclusively used by the VNB movement, in its programs,
3 projects and activities that provide shelter, basic utilities of electricity and
4 water, education, healthcare, livelihood, environment and peace efforts, that
5 shall inure to the benefit of poor communities identified by the PNVSCA shall
6 be fully tax deductible from the gross income of the donor, under the new
7 nomenclature of donations for “nation-building”, upon submission to the BIR
8 of the VNB requirements for that purpose. The implementation of this
9 incentive shall be patterned after the applicable provisions on “Allowable
10 Deductions” under Republic Act No. 8424, as amended.

11 (b) A donor’s tax exemption shall be enjoyed by the VNB donor, upon
12 submission to the BIR of the VNB requirements for that purpose.

13 The DOF, in coordination with the PNVSCA, the BIR, the Bureau of
14 Customs (BoC), and the DBM shall set the guidelines for the screening
15 evaluation and approval of all tax incentives and benefits used for VNB
16 purposes, as well as the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) specifically
17 to implement the incentives provided herein. In line with proper fiscal
18 administration policies, the DOF, in coordination with the VNB, shall
19 determine the compliance criteria for “utilization”, “valuation”, “deductibility”,
20 “proof of utilization” and “proof of deductions” of all VNB donations, whether
21 in cash or in kind, as basis to determine the availment of, and continued
22 applicability or withdrawal of all such tax incentives and benefits, in
23 accordance with Republic Act No. 8424, as amended.

24 (c) The socialized housing tax as authorized to be imposed by the
25 LGUs, under Section 43 of Republic Act No. 7279, otherwise known as the
26 “Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992” shall be used as additional
27 government equity under the VNB framework, subject to an interagency
28 memorandum of agreement.

1 (d) Priority in the grant of acquired land. The government shall also
2 consider VNB partners as priorities in the grant of land for socialized housing
3 acquired under Republic Act No. 7279 which shall include community
4 mortgage, land swapping, land assembly or consolidation, land banking,
5 donation to the government, joint venture agreement, negotiated purchase and
6 expropriation.

7 (e) All donations from foreign sources to the VNB shall be exempt
8 from customs duties: *Provided*, That the donees are duly accredited with the
9 BoC.

10 The mechanics, criteria, qualifications, all documentary proof of
11 donation in cash or in kind, and proof of utilization of donation requirements,
12 and the implementation guidelines for all the incentives and benefits provided
13 under this section, shall be carried out in accordance with the 1987
14 Constitution, Republic Act No. 8424, as amended, and other applicable laws,
15 rules and regulations, and shall be included and clearly specified in the IRR, to
16 ensure that these incentives and benefits shall properly benefit the intended
17 recipients, to fully and faithfully implement the true intent and spirit of the
18 VNB Act.

19 The incentives provided under this Act shall be effective for a period of
20 eight (8) years, with one (1) extension of another six (6) years, subject to
21 satisfactory submission of and compliance with all VNB requirements, terms
22 and conditions, including all documentary proof of donation in cash or in kind,
23 and proof of utilization of donation requirements for purposes of the VNB Act.
24 Thereafter, upon evaluation of and recommendation by the PNVSCA-MSAB
25 and the DOF, further extension to the effectivity of the said incentives, and
26 corollarily, to the continued existence and operation of the VNB shall be
27 subject to congressional action.

1 SEC. 12. *Incentives for VNB Volunteers.* – All VNB program partners
2 shall provide volunteers with recognition and incentive package.

3 SEC. 13. *Special Provision.* – *VNB Framework Guide Book.* – A
4 VNB Framework Guide Book shall be prepared and disseminated to all LGUs
5 and congressional districts to assist them in the implementation of the VNB
6 program.

7 SEC. 14. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to implement the
8 provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
9 Act.

10 The LGUs shall likewise allocate the necessary funds for the
11 implementation of the VNB program.

12 SEC. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – The
13 PNVSCA, in consultation with the MSAB, the DSWD, the HUDCC, the
14 DILG, the DOF and the DBM, shall promulgate the implementing rules and
15 regulations (IRR) necessary to implement this Act within sixty (60) days after
16 its effectivity.

17 SEC. 16. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is
18 declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not
19 affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

20 SEC. 17. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or
21 issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or
22 regulation contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this Act is hereby
23 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

24 SEC. 18. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
25 days after its complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper
26 of general circulation.

Approved,