



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 1979

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AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN NATION-BUILDING THROUGH
THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF A STRATEGIC
VOLUNTEERISM-BASED MULTISECTORAL PUBLIC-PRIVATE
PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK IN ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT
UNITS 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
3 (BSB) 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 Philippine society in
6 public and civic affairs, adopt and strengthen the practice of volunteerism as a
7 strategy in national and local development, and to inculcate the “bayanihan
8 spirit” as a way of life.

9 (b) The State recognizes and respects the vital role of civil society
10 organizations (CSOs) which include, among others, nongovernment

1 organizations (NGOs), volunteer service organizations (VSOs) and people's
2 organizations (POs), as effective conduits in harnessing people power to
3 promote and achieve nation-building through a strategic volunteerism-based
4 multisectoral public-private partnership approach.

5 (c) The State shall ensure the institutionalization of a committed,
6 participative and sustained partnership among the local government units
7 (LGUs), congressional districts and the private sector in the process of
8 community-building through volunteerism.

9 SEC. 3. *Statement of Goals and Objectives.* – Pursuant to the
10 foregoing policy, the government shall pursue the following goals and
11 objectives:

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

14 (b) To institutionalize volunteerism as a strategy for national and local
15 development; and

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

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

20 (a) *Accreditation* refers to the formal recognition by LGUs of CSOs,
21 for the purpose of registering, certifying and enabling them to participate in the
22 VNB program;

23 (b) *Civil society organizations* refer to NGOs, POs, cooperatives, trade
24 unions, professional associations, faith-based organizations, media groups,
25 indigenous people's movements, foundations and other citizen groups formed
26 primarily for social and economic development, to monitor government
27 programs and projects, engage in policy discussions, and actively participate in
28 collaborative activities with government;

1 (c) *Congressional district* refers to a territorial division which, under
2 the 1987 Philippine Constitution, is entitled to elect one (1) member to the
3 Philippine House of Representatives;

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

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

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

23 SEC. 5. *VNB Mission and Vision.* – The national government agencies
24 (NGAs), the LGUs and the volunteer sector shall be committed to the VNB
25 mission and vision, which shall harness the spirit of volunteerism as stimulus
26 for local development and as a way of life for each Filipino in recognition of
27 the time-honored tradition of “bayanihan” that has evolved to include the
28 participation of organized groups and institutions as volunteer partners of

1 government in local development and governance. The LGUs and
2 congressional districts shall also perform critical roles in mobilizing,
3 harmonizing and sustaining volunteering efforts.

4 The VNB program shall support the abovestated sectors in the following
5 areas of governance:

6 (a) Community-building through shelter and other infrastructure
7 support;

8 (b) Community, child, youth and maternal health;

9 (c) Child and youth education;

10 (d) Community entrepreneurship;

11 (e) Food sufficiency;

12 (f) Gender equality and women empowerment;

13 (g) Peace efforts;

14 (h) Cultural preservation and promotion;

15 (i) Ecotourism;

16 (j) Environmental preservation and protection; and

17 (k) Micro-finance and livelihood.

18 *SEC. 6. VNB Key National and Cooperating Agencies.* – To
19 harmonize and facilitate the support of various government agencies in the
20 implementation of the VNB, the following NGAs, including their concerned
21 bureaus/attached agencies, shall take lead roles in the following key areas: the
22 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in the review and
23 implementation of the VNB socio-welfare projects and activities; the Housing
24 and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) in the approval of the
25 VNB local shelter plan and coordination of all shelter agencies for the
26 provision of support to the VNB program; the Department of the Interior and
27 Local Government (DILG) in the coordination of LGUs with local VNB
28 projects; the Department of Finance (DOF) in the promulgation of guidelines

1 for the availment of tax exemption and other related incentives and benefits,
2 and for the oversight of their implementation and supervision; and the
3 Department of Budget and Management (DBM) in overseeing and monitoring
4 of the budget utilization of concerned lead or cooperating government agencies
5 in the implementation of the VNB program.

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

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

- 23 (a) Formulate and review policies and guidelines on the VNB program;
24 (b) Develop and implement a monitoring and evaluation system for the
25 VNB program;
26 (c) Develop and implement an advocacy campaign for the
27 implementation of the VNB program;

1 (d) Provide reports to the OP and both Houses of Congress on matters
2 related to the implementation of the VNB program; and

3 (e) Administer all funds related to the VNB program.

4 The VNB Program Management Division shall be created as an attached
5 division to the Office of the Executive Director of the PNVSCA to perform
6 technical and administrative tasks to carry out the abovementioned functions.
7 This division shall be headed by an officer who shall supervise a team of
8 volunteer service officers. The PNVSCA, in coordination with the DBM, shall
9 prepare the staffing pattern of the Program Management Division.

10 SEC. 8. *Interagency Coordinating Committee.* – The existing
11 Multi-Sectoral Advisory Body (MSAB) of the PNVSCA shall serve as the
12 interagency coordinating committee which shall perform the following
13 responsibilities:

14 (a) Provide advice in the formulation of policies and guidelines for the
15 VNB program;

16 (b) Serve as link between and among lead and cooperating national
17 government agencies in the implementation of the VNB; and

18 (c) Serve as forum for the review of the VNB implementation with
19 VNB stakeholders.

20 For this purpose, the composition of the MSAB shall be expanded to
21 include the HUDCC, the DOF and the DBM. The MSAB may call on the other
22 VNB cooperating agencies and concerned institutions on matters pertaining to
23 the implementation of the VNB program.

24 SEC. 9. *VNB Coordinating Desk.* – All lead and other cooperating
25 agencies shall establish their respective VNB coordinating desk or tap an
26 existing related unit to serve as the focal unit in coordinating the delivery of
27 support services in the implementation of the VNB.

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

3 (a) Identify the VNB projects and activities;

4 (b) Accredite volunteer partners for the implementation of the VNB
5 projects and activities; and

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

8 At the district level, the Congressional District Representative concerned
9 shall designate a VNB liaison officer to serve as its link with the lead and
10 cooperating NGAs and concerned LGU VNB desk officers.

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

15 A system of accreditation shall be developed for adoption and
16 implementation by the LGUs with proper consultation with the concerned
17 agencies.

18 SEC. 11. *Incentives for VNB Partners and Stakeholders.* – Any VNB
19 and BIR-accredited donor and donee under the VNB program, project or
20 activity shall enjoy the following incentives:

21 (a) All donations in cash or in kind, including land, all of which are
22 actually, directly and exclusively used by the NGAs, including their concerned
23 bureaus/attached agencies, the PNVSCA and the LGUs, in its programs,
24 projects and activities that provide shelter, basic utilities of electricity and
25 water, education, healthcare, livelihood, environment and peace efforts that
26 shall inure to the benefit of poor communities identified by the PNVSCA, shall
27 be exempt from the donor's tax and fully deductible from the gross income of
28 the donor, under the new nomenclature of donations for "nation-building",

1 upon submission to the BIR of the VNB requirements for that purpose. The
2 implementation of this incentive shall be patterned after the applicable
3 provisions on “Allowable Deductions” and “Donor’s Tax” under the National
4 Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

5 (b) All donations from foreign sources to the VNB shall be exempt
6 from customs duties: *Provided*, That the donees are duly accredited with the
7 Bureau of Customs (BOC);

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

19 (d) The socialized housing tax as authorized to be imposed by LGUs,
20 under Section 43 of Republic Act No. 7279, otherwise known as the “Urban
21 Development and Housing Act of 1992”, shall be used as additional
22 government equity under the VNB framework, subject to an interagency
23 memorandum of agreement; and

24 (e) Priority in the grant of acquired land. The government shall also
25 consider VNB partners as priority-beneficiaries in the grant of land for
26 socialized housing acquired under Republic Act No. 7279 through community
27 mortgage, land swapping, land assembly or consolidation, land banking,

1 donation to the government, joint-venture agreement, negotiated purchase and
2 expropriation.

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

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

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

23 SEC. 13. *Special Provision-VNB Framework Guide Book.* – A VNB
24 Framework Guide Book shall be prepared and disseminated to all LGUs and
25 congressional districts to assist them in the implementation of the VNB
26 program.

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

1 Act. The LGUs shall likewise allocate the necessary funds for the
2 implementation of the VNB program.

3 SEC. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)*. – The PNVSCA,
4 in consultation with the MSAB, the DSWD, the HUDCC, the DILG, the DOF
5 and the DBM, shall promulgate the IRR necessary to implement this Act
6 within sixty (60) days after its effectivity.

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

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

14 SEC. 18. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
15 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) national newspapers
16 of general circulation, whichever date comes earlier.

Approved,

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