



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6687

BY REPRESENTATIVES ROMUALDEZ (F.M.), ROMUALDEZ (Y.M.), ACIDRE, DALIPE, GO (M.), ROMULO, GONZALES (A.), PALMA, AUMENTADO, FRESNEDI, GATCHALIAN, TEVES (A.), LACSON, YAP (EDVIC), YAP (ERIC), DUTERTE, SORIANO, SALCEDA, ACOP, EUDELA, TUPAS, MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, SAKALURAN, VIOLAGO, GOMEZ, ROBES, GOLEZ, NOEL, LACSON-NOEL, SINGSON-MEEHAN, ABANTE, VILLAFUERTE (L.R.), VILLAFUERTE (M.L.), HORIBATA, ENCISO, TAMBUNTING, RILLO, CAJAYON-UY, YAP (C.), ALBANO, RODRIGUEZ (R.), CAGAS, TAN-TAMBU, CRUZ (A.), MASTURA, ALMARIO, VALMAYOR, SAGARBARRIA, CAMPOS, MARQUEZ, COLLANTES, CALDERON, RIVERA, GATO, CHUNGALAO, VELASCO, GASATAYA, FUENTEBELLA, LOYOLA, BULUT-BEGTANG, GARCIA (D.), ARROGANCIA, CO (E.), UNGAB, SUAREZ, QUIMBO, ALVAREZ (M.), ALVAREZ (J.), ARENAS, BAUTISTA-LIM, BERNOS, BONGALON, CABREDO, CO (A.N.), CUA, CUARESMA, DEL MAR, DY (F.), ESPINA, GONZAGA, HARESCO, LARA, LIMKAICHONG, MATUGAS, NAVA, SINGSON (R.V.), TIANGCO, TY, UMALI, YU (D.G.), ZAMORA (M.C.), ZUBIRI, ADVINCULA, BASCUG, BOSITA, CARDEMA, CHATTO, CO-PILAR, CRUZ (R.), DIMAPORO (S.A.), DIONISIO, GARDIOLA, HERNANDEZ, LAGON (D.), LAGON (S.), LAZATIN, MAGSINO, MANGAOANG, MANQUIZ, MATIBAG, MERCADO, NOGRALES (M.I.), OUANO-DIZON, PANALIGAN, PANCHO, PLEYTO, REYES, REVILLA (R.J.), RODRIGUEZ (E.), SALI, TALLADO, TAN (J.), TANCHAY, TULFO (J.), VERGARA, VERZOSA, TARRIELA, ACHARON, CARI AND CASTRO (J.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 252

AN ACT
INSTITUTING A NATIONAL CITIZENS SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9163, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM ACT”, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

ARTICLE I
TITLE

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the "National Citizens
2 Service Training Program Act".
3

ARTICLE II
DECLARATION OF POLICY

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5
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7 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It shall be the policy of the State:
8

- 9 a) To institutionalize the vital role of the youth in nation-building, promote, propagate and
10 protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being; to inculcate in
11 them patriotism, nationalism and respect for human rights; and to encourage their
12 involvement in public and civic affairs;
13
- 14 b) To constitute the youth into a major component of the Citizen Armed Force envisioned in
15 the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, which shall undergo training and may
16 be called upon to defend the State and to render personal military or civil service under
17 conditions provided by law;
18
- 19 c) To train, equip and organize the youth, within the current frameworks of national and
20 territorial defense, law enforcement and peace and order and national disaster risk
21 reduction and management, to prepare them for rapid mobilization at the soonest possible
22 time in order to address national and local contingencies which may require personnel
23 beyond the capabilities of existing national government agencies or local government units;
24 and
25
- 26 d) To capacitate the youth with the knowledge and practical skills to survive, respond, and
27 recover individually and as part of a bigger community in times of national and local
28 emergencies, contingencies and disasters, both natural and man-made.
29

ARTICLE III
DEFINITION OF TERMS

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31
32
33 **SEC. 3. *Definition of terms.*** – As used in this Act:

- 1 a) ***Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Citizen Armed Force*** refers to the component of
2 the AFP comprised of Citizen Soldiers or AFP Reservists trained and recruited in
3 accordance with Republic Act No. 7077, otherwise known as the Citizen Armed Force or
4 Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act, that serves as the base for the expansion of
5 the AFP in the event of war, invasion or rebellion; to assist in relief and rescue during
6 disaster or calamities; to assist in socioeconomic development; and to assist in the
7 operation and maintenance of essential government or private utilities in the furtherance of
8 its overall mission. It is alternately referred to as the *AFP Reserve Force*;
9
- 10 b) ***AFP reservist*** refers to a graduate of the National Citizens Service Training (NCST) as
11 established under this Act and as defined under Republic Act No. 7077. An AFP Reservist
12 is alternately referred to as Citizen Soldier;
13
- 14 c) ***Authorized organization*** refers to a legitimate juridical entity created by law, or registered
15 with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or the Cooperative Development
16 Authority (CDA) which has the competence to deliver courses of the NCST, a track record
17 of undertaking quality programs, projects and activities for the youth which inculcate in
18 the beneficiaries the values of patriotism, love of country, civic-mindedness, civic duty,
19 service to others, and authorized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) or the
20 Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to deliver courses under
21 the NCST Program;
22
- 23 d) ***Cadet officer*** refers to a cadet who completed five (5) months of specialized training to be
24 an officer with the intention of undergoing and completing the Reserve Officers Training
25 Corps (ROTC) Program;
26
- 27 e) ***Citizen-cadet*** refers to a student undergoing NCST and ROTC Training;
28
- 29 f) ***Community-based NSRC Unit*** refers to the official aggrupation, organization, and
30 operational unit of National Service Reserve Corps (NSRC) based in the *barangays*;
31
- 32 g) ***Higher education*** refers to the stage of formal education, or its equivalent, requiring
33 completion of secondary education and covering programs of study leading to bachelor
34 and advanced degrees, including associate degrees;
35
- 36 h) ***Higher education institution (HEI)*** refers to an institution of higher learning which
37 primarily offers degree-granting programs duly recognized by the CHED and leading to
38 the conferment of a diploma;
39
- 40 i) ***National Citizens Service Training Monitoring and Oversight Committee*** refers to a
41 multi-agency committee with private sector representatives mandated to ensure that the
42 provisions and intent of this Act are properly implemented and adhered to. It shall ensure
43 that there shall be no abuse of any kind in both the conduct of the trainings and the
44 deployment of National Service Reservists and Citizen Soldiers;
45
- 46 j) ***National Citizens Service Training Program*** refers to a two-year mandatory citizen
47 service program administered and implemented by the CHED and TESDA in accordance
48 with this Act;

- 1 **k) *National Service Reserve Corps*** refers to the official aggrupation and organization of
2 National Service Reservists maintained and placed under the control and supervision of
3 the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) through the
4 Office of Civil Defense (OCD) pursuant to Section 13 of Republic Act No. 10121, or the
5 Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010. It shall be civilian in
6 nature and shall be a source for volunteers and conscripts in times of national or local
7 necessity, calamities, emergencies, disasters, or armed conflict to perform non-combat
8 duties and render services as the President or the appropriate local *sanggunian* may deem
9 necessary;
10
- 11 **l) *National Service Reservist*** refers to a graduate of the NCST Program registered under the
12 NSRC as defined under this Act;
13
- 14 **m) *Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program*** refers to a citizen service and military training
15 program designed to produce officers for both the AFP Regular and Reserve Force;
16
- 17 **n) *School-based NSRC Unit*** refers to the official aggrupation, organization and operational
18 unit of National Service Reservists based in an HEI;
19
- 20 **o) *School-based ready reserve unit*** refers to an operational unit of the AFP Citizen Armed
21 Force based in an HEI;
22
- 23 **p) *Sector or skill-based NSRC unit*** refers to the official aggrupation, organization and
24 operational unit of the NSRC organized according to their sector, or competencies;
25
- 26 **q) *Technical-vocational education and training (TVET) program or course*** refers to the
27 education processes designed for the post-secondary and lower tertiary levels and are
28 officially recognized as non-degree programs aimed at preparing technicians, para-
29 professionals and other categories of middle-level workers by providing them with a broad
30 range of general education, theoretical, scientific and technological training, and related
31 job skills training;
32
- 33 **r) *Technical-vocational institution (TVI)*** refers to a TESDA-registered or accredited
34 learning institution offering postsecondary TVET;
35
- 36 **s) *Tertiary education*** refers to the stage of education following the secondary cycle which
37 subsumes post-secondary non-degree diploma, TVET, and higher education programs,
38 including graduate education;
39
- 40 **t) *Tertiary education institution (TEI)*** refers to a learning institution that provides post-K-
41 12 education or training and covers both HEIs and TVIs; and
42
- 43 **u) *Undergraduate degree program*** refers to any postsecondary program, also known as
44 baccalaureate, leading to a degree as may be authorized and recognized by the CHED.
45
46

47 **ARTICLE IV**
48 **THE NATIONAL CITIZENS SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM**
49

1 **SEC. 4. Establishment of the National Citizens Service Training Program (NCST)**
2 **Program.** – There is hereby established a NCST Program, which shall be implemented by the
3 CHED in all HEIs and by the TESDA in all TVIs, both in consultation with the Department
4 of National Defense (DND).
5

6 **SEC. 5. Coverage of the NCST Program.** – The NCST shall be mandatory for all
7 students enrolled in undergraduate degree programs in all public and private HEIs and at least
8 two-year TVET programs in all TVIs in the Philippines.
9

10 The NCST shall be administered to cover undergraduate and postsecondary TVET
11 students for at least four (4) semesters or two hundred forty (240) hours over two (2) school
12 years, unless otherwise allowed by the CHED or TESDA in accordance with the rules
13 recommended by the NCST Technical Panel.
14

15 **SEC. 6. NCST Program Technical Panel.** – The NCST Program design, curriculum,
16 modes and method of delivery shall be formulated, periodically reviewed and updated by a
17 Technical Panel to be composed of representatives from the CHED, TESDA, DND,
18 NDRRMC through the OCD, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG),
19 Philippine National Police (PNP), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD),
20 National Youth Commission (NYC), Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating
21 Agency (PNVSCA), Philippine Red Cross, one representative each from the Philippine
22 Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC), Coordinating Council of Private
23 Educational Associations (COCOPEA), and the Association of Local Colleges and
24 Universities (ALCU), representative from the union of teachers and representative from the
25 students, and two (2) private sector representatives who shall be recognized experts or
26 practitioners in the fields of citizen service training, disaster preparedness, reservist training,
27 or related fields. The student representative and one (1) of the private sector representatives
28 shall be appointed by the CHED Chairperson and one (1) private sector representative shall
29 be appointed by the TESDA Director General. The NCST Program Technical Panel shall be
30 under the CHED. The annual funds of the Technical Panel shall be included in the annual
31 appropriations of the CHED.
32

33 The NCST Technical Panel shall formulate and recommend to the CHED the policies,
34 standards, and guidelines to make the four (4) year ROTC program an appropriate
35 baccalaureate degree program.
36

37 **SEC. 7. The Curriculum of the NCST Program.** – The NCST Program design and
38 curriculum shall provide the students with practical and applicable knowledge and skills that
39 are necessary, essential, and ideal for survival, and for attaining resilience, and to ensure the
40 immediate availability of these skills in times of local and national emergencies and disasters,
41 both natural and man-made. It shall instill in students the values of civic mindedness,
42 volunteerism, and genuine service to others. It shall develop tertiary education students to be
43 community crisis managers and leaders in times of emergencies and disasters.
44

45 The curriculum of the NCST Program shall ensure that students who finish the NCST
46 Program shall have undergone the appropriate citizen competency training which shall
47 include civic duty inculcation, literacy training services, survival and safety techniques
48 including first-aid administration, and community or mass emergency and disaster response
49 and management.
50

1 Except for justifiable causes and only upon the issuance of a Certificate of Exception
2 by the CHED or TESDA, the NCST Program must be completed, as far as practicable, within
3 the first two (2) years of all undergraduate degree programs and a two (2)-year TVET
4 program.

5 The NCST shall be a requisite for graduation of covered tertiary education students.
6

7 **SEC. 8. *Special NCST Program for Students under Special Circumstances.*** – There
8 shall be no exemptions from the NCST Program. However, the CHED or TESDA, based on
9 rules recommended by the NCST Technical Panel, shall prescribe alternative NCST
10 Programs to address students with special needs and persons with disabilities.
11

12 Filipino students enrolled in TVET Programs conducted for less than two (2) years
13 shall be provided special seminars, as the TESDA and the appropriate government agency
14 may prescribe.
15

16 **SEC. 9. *Special Program for Foreign Nationals.*** – Foreign nationals enrolled in
17 undergraduate degree programs or TVET courses where the NCST is required shall also
18 undergo a Special NCST Program prescribed by the CHED or TESDA that would deepen
19 their understanding and appreciation of the Philippines, its people, society, culture and
20 government, and harness their potential as bridges to improve the relationship of their
21 respective countries with the Philippines:
22

23 **SEC. 10. *Venue of Training.*** – The NCST Program shall be administered by HEIs or
24 TVIs within their campuses or facilities. Should it be determined that it is impracticable to do
25 so, HEIs and TVIs should immediately make the same known to the CHED Regional Office
26 or TESDA Regional Office, and recommend the designation of safe and appropriate venues
27 for the NCST. As far as practicable, the venue shall be proximate to the campuses or facilities
28 of the public and private HEI or TVI. Citizens Military Training Centers established in
29 accordance with Republic Act No. 7077 may be utilized as training venues for purposes of
30 this Act.
31

32 **SEC. 11. *Prohibition on the Charging of Fees for Venues.*** – All local and national
33 government agencies and instrumentalities that are managing sites and venues designated by
34 CHED or TESDA for the conduct of NCST activities shall not charge any fees, except for
35 reasonable fines and penalties for violations of the rules and regulations of the areas.
36

37 **SEC. 12. *Delivery of Courses by Authorized Organizations or Partner Government***
38 ***Agencies and Entities.*** – The CHED and TESDA, subject to rules as may be recommended
39 by the NCST Technical Panel, may allow lawfully established non-partisan organizations and
40 government agencies to partner with HEIs and TVIs in delivering the non-military NCST
41 courses to students.
42

43 Any private organization which seeks to be recognized by the CHED or TESDA shall
44 apply with the CHED or TESDA for such recognition and present evidence to establish its (1)
45 track record for noteworthy values-forming programs, projects and activities with the youth
46 and (2) capacity and competence to deliver the knowledge or skill required for the course to
47 be delivered. Only legitimate juridical entities created by law or registered with the SEC or
48 the CDA may apply for registration.
49

1 Applying organizations must also submit appropriate security clearances from the
2 PNP and National Bureau of Investigation.

3
4 Private HEIs are allowed to implement such courses in-house without the need for
5 partnerships with organizations. They may also partner with other HEIs and establish
6 consortia for the delivery of training programs.

7
8 **SEC. 13. NCST Graduates as National Service Reservists and AFP Reservists.** –
9 Upon completion of the NCST, citizen-cadets shall be deemed NCST graduates and shall be
10 incorporated in the NSRC and the AFP Reserve Force.

11
12 The HEI or TVI shall, in accordance with rules recommended by the NCST Technical
13 Panel and approved by CHED and TESDA, issue the National Service Reservist Serial
14 Numbers to NCST graduates.

15
16 The HEIs or TVIs shall submit the names, serial numbers, permanent and current
17 addresses, electronic mail addresses, and mobile numbers of NCST graduates to the OCD for
18 inclusion in the official master list of the NSRC. The OCD may submit a copy of the same
19 list to the appropriate government agency, as required.

20
21 The serial number of the NCST graduates shall be reflected in their official transcript
22 of records to be released by the TEIs.

23
24 **SEC. 14. Completion of the Compulsory Military Training Under Republic Act No.**
25 **7077.** – All students who have completed the NCST Program shall be considered to have
26 complied with the mandatory military registration and training under Section 14 of Republic
27 Act No. 7077.

28
29 **ARTICLE V**
30 **THE OPTIONAL RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS**

31
32 **SEC. 15. Modified NCST Program.** – A modified NCST Program shall be designed
33 by the NCST Technical Panel and approved by the CHED and DND which shall incorporate
34 a five-(5) month cadet officer's leadership course. The optional ROTC shall be administered
35 and implemented by the CHED and AFP pursuant to the rules and regulations prescribed by
36 the CHED and the DND.

37
38 **SEC. 16. Curriculum of the ROTC Program.** – The curriculum of the optional
39 ROTC Program shall be designed by the DND and CHED and administered by the AFP. It
40 shall be primarily designed to train volunteer tertiary education students to be officers of the
41 Regular and Reserve Force of the AFP. The curriculum shall be designed in such a way that
42 graduates of the four (4) year ROTC Program shall be capable of immediate deployment as
43 commissioned officers of the AFP immediately after graduation from the ROTC even as they
44 continue with their baccalaureate degree program. The ROTC program of instruction shall
45 include advanced military subjects and courses, practical exercises and field exercises
46 necessary and appropriate for an entry level officer commission in the AFP.

47
48 The DND, AFP, and CHED shall design a separate four (4) year ROTC baccalaureate
49 degree program subject to the policies, standards, and guidelines recommended by the NCST
50 Technical Panel and approved by the CHED.

1 for volunteers and conscripts in times of national or local necessity, calamities, emergencies,
2 disasters, or armed conflict to perform non-combat and non-military duties and services as
3 the President or the appropriate local *sanggunian* may deem necessary.
4

5 **SEC. 23. Program and Mobilization.** – The NDRRMC shall, through the OCD and in
6 consultation with the PNVSCA, local government units (LGUs), and other agencies with
7 public service and volunteerism mandates, undertake programs and activities to provide and
8 promote avenues and platforms for NSRs to volunteer their services even under normal or
9 non-emergency conditions and circumstances.
10

11 LGUs shall establish programs that would continuously enhance and imbibe the spirit
12 of volunteerism among NSRs and strengthen NSRC Units within their respective territorial
13 jurisdictions through local mobilizations, sustained participation in local events and activities,
14 annual local awards and recognition systems for outstanding local citizen service programs
15 and local stakeholders and other analogous programs.
16

17 **SEC. 24. Mandatory Registration and Enlistment in the NSRC.** – All graduates of
18 the NCST shall be enlisted as NSRs in the NSRC. The NDRRMC shall, through the OCD,
19 provide for the rules and regulations governing community, school, sector or skill-based
20 registration of all NCST graduates.
21

22 **SEC. 25. School-based and Community-based National Reserve Corps Units.** – The
23 NDRRMC shall, through the OCD, have the authority to organize the NSRs in school and
24 community-based units. College students, including medical degree students in HEIs shall
25 register with the School-based NSRC Unit of their respective HEIs. The NSRs enrolled in
26 graduate programs may opt to register with the School-based NSRC Unit of their HEIs or
27 register with the Community-based NSRC Unit of the barangays where they reside or where
28 their places of work are. All other NSRs shall register with the Community-based NSRC
29 Units of the barangays where they reside or where their places of work are, subject to rules as
30 the NDRRMC may prescribe.
31

32 The NDRRMC may, through the OCD, require HEIs offering baccalaureate degree
33 programs and barangay governments to provide appropriate office space, access to facilities
34 and personnel to assist the NDRRMC and the OCD in managing and administering School-
35 based and Community-based NSRC Units.
36

37 The NDRRMC may, through the OCD and in consultation with the DILG and the
38 CHED, promulgate the rules and regulations governing the organization, establishment and
39 management of community and school-based NSRC Units. Such rules and regulations shall
40 provide for nationwide and localized mobilization of all NSRs.
41

42 **SEC. 26. Sector and Skill-Based National Reserve Corps Units.** – The NDRRMC
43 shall, through the OCD, have the authority to organize and mobilize NSRs based on their
44 sector, skills, or competencies. As far as practicable, NSRs shall be mobilized and deployed
45 based on their possessed competencies and skills.
46

47 **SEC. 27. Continuous Training of NSRs.** – The NDRRMC shall, through the OCD,
48 develop systems and promulgate the necessary rules to ensure that NSRs are regularly
49 provided readiness enhancement trainings to maintain their state of readiness. Attendance in
50 NSRC Readiness Enhancement Trainings shall be deemed as a form of NSRC deployment. A

1 recognition and badge system for NSRs for the acquisition and enhancement of citizen
2 service-relevant skills and competencies, as may be recommended by the NCST Technical
3 Panel, shall be adopted and implemented by the OCD.

4
5 **SEC. 28. Annual NSRC Mobilization.** – The OCD shall, in consultation with the
6 DILG, DSWD, DND and Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Offices, ensure
7 that all Community-based and School-based NSRC Units conduct at least one (1)
8 mobilization exercise every year to ensure the readiness of NSRC Units and NSRs.

9
10 **SEC. 29. Prohibition against the mobilization of NCST Citizen-Cadets.** – Only
11 NSRs shall be mandatorily deployed or conscripted in times of national or local necessity,
12 calamities, emergencies, disasters, or armed conflict to perform non-combat and non-military
13 duties and services as the President or the appropriate local *sanggunian* may so declare. No
14 student undergoing NCST shall be required to render service as an NSR.

15
16 **SEC. 30. Benefits and privileges of NSRs.** – Deployed NSRs shall be entitled to the
17 following benefits:

- 18
19 a) Free hospitalization, medicines, and medical care in any government hospital in
20 case of accident or injury during deployment;
21
22 b) For those that have a cumulative deployment period of one hundred eighty (180)
23 days, a grant of eligibility for local disaster risk reduction and management item
24 positions, subject to rules to be issued jointly by the DILG and Civil Service
25 Commission; and
26
27 c) Free food, accommodations, and such other amenities necessary or essential to the
28 performance of their mandated tasks as deployed NSRs.

29
30 **SEC. 31. Effect of NSRC or AFP Citizen Armed Force deployment on employees**
31 **and students.** – Deployment of employees in accordance with the provisions of this Act shall
32 not be a ground for dismissal or diminution of any benefit enjoyed by such employees prior
33 to their deployment.

34
35 Deployment of students in accordance with the provisions of this Act shall not
36 prejudice the academic standing, status, scholarship, privilege, or grant enjoyed by the
37 students prior to and during deployment.

38
39 **SEC. 32. Awards and Recognition System for National Service Reservists.** – The
40 NCST Monitoring and Oversight Committee shall establish a national-level system of awards
41 and recognition for outstanding NSRs and Citizen-Cadets and Exemplary Volunteer and
42 Service Programs under this Act.

43
44 All LGUs shall adopt and implement annual local awards and recognition system for
45 outstanding citizen service programs, reservists, cadet-citizens, cadets and other stakeholders
46 within their respective areas of jurisdiction.

47
48
49 **ARTICLE VII**
50 **ORGANIZATION AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE AFP CITIZEN ARMED FORCE**

- 1
2 a) Review, monitor, and provide strategic guidance on the implementation of this
3 Act;
4
5 b) Receive and cause the immediate and expedient investigation of all complaints or
6 reports of forms of abuses, corruption, hazing, torture, data privacy rights
7 violation, and all forms of violation of human rights in any of the programs under
8 the NCST and mobilization system;
9
10 c) Conduct announced and unannounced inspections of citizen service classes and
11 activities, NCST and ROTC sessions and facilities, NSRC Units, SBRRUs and
12 other Reserve Units under the AFP Citizen Armed Force;
13
14 d) Immediately inform and compel concerned agencies, organizations or personnel
15 engaged or involved in the implementation of this Act to undertake corrective
16 actions or measures to address any abuse, inefficiency or lapses in the
17 implementation of this Act;
18
19 e) Receive annual reports from the DND, OCD, and AFP on the proper
20 implementation of the NCST, ROTC, NSRC, and AFP Citizen Armed Force;
21
22 f) Establish a national-level recognition system for outstanding NSRC and AFP
23 Reservists, Citizen-cadets and Cadets and Exemplary Volunteer and Service
24 Programs; and
25
26 g) Deputize or delegate to agencies, organizations or individuals any of its mandated
27 powers and functions under this Act.
28

29 **SEC. 38. NCST Monitoring and Oversight in HEIs.** – CHED shall provide
30 guidelines for the establishment offices within the HEIs to receive and hear complaints of
31 abuses; assist student-trainees on their needs; and promote the welfare of student-trainees
32 under the Program.
33
34

35 **ARTICLE IX**
36 **PENAL PROVISIONS**
37

38 **SEC. 39. Maximum Penalty.** – Any act of abuse, corruption, hazing, torture, data
39 privacy rights violation, or violation of human rights committed in direct or indirect relation
40 to the implementation of this Act, which are punished criminally or administratively by
41 existing laws, rules or regulations, shall be prosecuted in accordance with such laws, rules or
42 regulations: *Provided*, That the penalty to be imposed shall be the maximum penalty. The
43 accessory penalty of permanent or temporary absolute disqualification from government
44 service may also be imposed on government officers and employees found to have committed
45 the acts prohibited under this Section.
46

47 **SEC. 40. Prosecution not a bar to civil action.** – Criminal or administrative
48 prosecution shall not be a bar to any civil action for damages or any appropriate relief a
49 victim of any act of abuse, corruption, hazing, torture, data privacy rights violation, or

1 violation of human rights committed in direct or indirect relation to the implementation of
2 this Act may file.

3
4 **ARTICLE X**
5 **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

6 **SEC. 41. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of
7 this Act shall be charged against the current year’s appropriations of the offices and agencies
8 concerned. Thereafter, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
9 Appropriations Act.

10
11 **SEC. 42. School Fees.** – Covered HEIs and TVIs may collect a reasonable NCST
12 training fee of not more than fifty percent (50%) of the tuition fee per academic unit or
13 subject. Such funds shall be used only for the implementation of the NCST. The CHED,
14 TESDA and DND shall determine the reasonable distribution of the fees among the HEI, TVI
15 and DND to cover the cost of training and related expenses.

16
17 Public HEIs and TVIs covered by Republic Act No. 10931, otherwise known as the
18 Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act, shall not collect any fee for the NCST or
19 ROTC. The training costs shall be included in the annual appropriations of such HEIs or
20 TVIs. In cases of students not eligible to avail of the benefits under Republic Act No. 10931,
21 public colleges, universities, and similar learning institutions may collect a training fee of not
22 more than fifty percent (50%) of the tuition fee per academic unit.

23
24 The HEIs and TVIs not covered by Republic Act No. 10931 may collect a training fee
25 of not more than fifty percent (50%) of the tuition fee per academic unit. Such funds shall be
26 used only for the implementation of the NCST and ROTC programs and the maintenance of
27 the School-based NSRC Units and School-based Ready Reserve Units, if any.

28
29 **SEC 43. Annual Reports.** – The OCD shall regularly publish an annual report
30 containing information on the deployment and employment of NSRs, the accomplishments of
31 the NSRC, an assessment of readiness for mobilization of NSRs, and the incidence and
32 details of each mobilization for each year. Such report shall be submitted to the President, the
33 Senate President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of National
34 Defense, the Secretary of Education, the CHED Chairperson, and the TESDA Director
35 General.

36
37 **SEC. 44. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days from the
38 effectivity of this Act, the CHED, TESDA and DND shall, in consultation with the DILG,
39 DSWD, NYC, PASUC, COCOPEA, and ALCU, formulate and jointly promulgate rules and
40 regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

41
42 **ARTICLE XI**
43 **TRANSITORY PROVISIONS**

44
45 **SEC. 45. Transition Period of Implementation.** – To ensure efficient transition and
46 to enable all public and private schools to adopt the necessary structural changes within their
47 units in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the NCST and ROTC under this Act shall
48 be administered only after the promulgation of the implementing rules and regulations:

1 *Provided*, That the implementation of the programs shall commence within a non-extendable
2 period of twenty-four (24) months from the effectivity of this Act.

3
4 **SEC. 46. *Current Enrollment under Republic Act No. 9163.*** – In all cases and until
5 such time as the rules and regulations of this Act are published and have taken effect,
6 students who are currently enrolled under the curriculum implemented by virtue of Republic
7 Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the “National Service Training Program Act of 2001”,
8 shall be allowed to finish the curriculum and be deemed to have satisfied the requirement for
9 graduation after completion thereof.

10
11 **SEC. 47. *Priority employment of NSRs as NSTP Personnel under Republic Act No.***
12 **9163.** – Upon the effectivity of this Act, lecturers, instructors, and other personnel
13 implementing the NSTP program shall be prioritized for hiring into the new program
14 established under this Act to assist in the management of the NCST in HEIs and TVIs. They
15 may also be granted authority, subject to rules to be issued by the CHED and TESDA, to be
16 NCST Program lecturers, instructors and implementers.

17
18 **ARTICLE XII**
19 **FINAL PROVISIONS**
20

21 **SEC. 48. *Repealing Clause.*** – Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the
22 “National Service Training Program Act of 2001”, is hereby repealed. The relevant
23 provisions of Republic Act No. 7077, otherwise known as the “Citizen Armed Force or
24 Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act”, which are inconsistent with the relevant
25 provisions of this Act are hereby amended. All other laws, orders, rules, regulations and other
26 issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the relevant provisions of this Act are
27 likewise amended or modified accordingly.

28
29 **SEC. 49. *Separability Clause.*** – Any provision of this Act that is declared
30 unconstitutional or invalid shall not affect the validity of the other provisions hereof.

31
32 **SEC. 50. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
33 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,