Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1752

Introduced by: **HONORABLE PROSPERO A. PICHAY, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution is clear on the role of the military establishment in Philippine society when it declared thus: "Civilian authority is, at all times, supreme over the military. The Armed Forces of the Philippines is the protector of the people and the State. Its goal is to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory." (Section 3, Article II)

Many times over the past this constitutional decree has been repeatedly ignored by certain sectors in the military. Not a few uniformed men and women, under the guise of serving the people's interests, launched destabilizing moves subverting the very democracy they purport to uphold. The latest of this messianic tendency was manifested in what came to be known as the Oakwood incident of July 27, 2003.

It is ironic that military adventurists come from the ranks of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), the top institution tasked to mold officers who will be at the forefront of our defense against constitutional adversaries. Without in any way discounting the validity of some concerns aired by them, the fact remains that the method used is deplorable and counterproductive. Many admit that the "mistah system" in the PMA is a big contributory factor in emboldening the resolve of these misguided ranks in the institution.

This bill intends, among others, to lessen, if not eradicate, the baneful effects of the mistah system in the Philippine military by establishing separate academies that would shape the men and women who would eventually lead the major services of the military, without sacrificing the quality of future officers produced.

In view of the urgency and gravity of the evils it seeks to remedy, immediate approval of this proposed measure is earnestly requested.

PROSPERO A. PICHAY, JR.



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AN ACT
CREATING TRI-SERVICE ACADEMIES FOR THE MAJOR SERVICES COMMAND OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* This Act shall be known as the "Tri-Service Academies Act".

SEC. 2. *Tri-Service Academies.* For the purpose of this Act, the Philippine Army Military Academy (PAMA), Philippine Air Force Military Academy (PAFMA) and Philippine Naval Military Academy (PNMA) are hereby created to comply with the officers needed by the Major Services Command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

The present Philippine Military Academy (PMA) shall be hereafter known as the PAMA and shall provide for the military schooling of the Army cadet officers.

SEC. 3. *Curriculum.* The Tri-Service Academies shall provide a two-year officer course that shall embody the academic and training needs of the Major Services Command. The Secretary of National Defense, in consultation with the AFP Chief of Staff and the Major Service Commanders, shall create a curriculum for this purpose: Provided, however, That applicants to the Tri-Service Academies shall have finished a basic two-year college course equivalent to seventy two (72) units: Provided, further, That the applicant is nineteen (19) years of age but not more than twenty one (21) at the time of his entry at the Academy concerned.

SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules.* The Secretary of National Defense in consultation with the Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff shall formulate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for this purpose, and shall submit the said IRR to the Committees on National Defense of both Houses of Congress within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act for their concurrence.

SEC. 5. *Appropriations.* The initial amount necessary for this purpose shall be included in the General Appropriation Act in the succeeding fiscal year from the effectivity of this Act. Thereafter, all funds needed thereof shall form part of the regular budget of the Department of National Defense.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, executive orders and all other issuances which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

SEC. 8. *Transitory Provisions.* All cadet soldiers currently enrolled in the PMA and all officer candidate soldiers undergoing the Officer Candidate Soldier Course in the Major Services Command, upon effectivity of this Act, shall continue their prescribed curriculum until they shall have graduated. Thereafter, all aspiring officers shall be enrolled and graduated from the Tri-Service Academies created under this Act.

Approved.