



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Sixteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3625**

Introduced by Honorable Herminia B. Roman

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to include a Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness Service as a program component of the National Service Training Program, amending for the purpose Republic Act (RA) No. 9163, otherwise known as the "*National Service Training Program Act of 2001*."

The country's geographical and physical characteristics significantly contribute to its exposure to disasters. It is an archipelago located in the world's busiest typhoon belt with an average of twenty typhoons hitting the country every year. It is likewise situated in the seismic belt making it vulnerable to earthquakes and tsunamis. Recently, the country has also experienced the worst flooding and storm surges in years. The recurring calamities that the country faces every year continue to be an impediment to the country's progress.

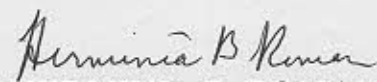
The recent calamities that hit the country once again underscored the importance of disaster mitigation and preparedness and of being knowledgeable on what to do before, during and after a calamity. Raising public awareness and improving the people's understanding of disasters would greatly help in lessening the socioeconomic and environmental impact of disasters.

Recognizing that the youth is the most valuable resource of the nation, RA 9163 was enacted on January 23, 2002 to motivate, train, organize and mobilize the youth in military training, literacy, civic welfare and other similar endeavors. The primary objective of the law in establishing the

National Service Training Program (NSTP) is to enhance the civic consciousness and defense preparedness in the youth while developing the ethics of service and patriotism.

As the country reels from the devastation of the recent disasters that affected the country, it is appropriate to include a Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness Service as another program component of the NSTP. Through this additional program component, tertiary students would be educated on the disaster risk reduction and preparedness programs of the government, including climate change risks, and enable them to help their families and communities adapt and mitigate risks posed by hazards. The program is also aimed at training the students in first-aid, search and rescue operations, medical missions, humanitarian relief assistance, and other related activities. This program component will help the government raise public awareness on disaster risks and instill patriotism, social consciousness and responsibility among our youth who, we believe, would rise to the occasion and be depended on during times of calamities.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


HERMINIA B. ROMAN



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AN ACT
INCLUDING THE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND
PREPAREDNESS SERVICE AS A PROGRAM COMPONENT OF
THE NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR
TERTIARY LEVEL STUDENTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9163, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM ACT OF 2001"

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 9163 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following are hereby defined as follows:

(a) "National Service Training Program (NSTP)" is a program aimed at enhancing civic consciousness and defense preparedness in the youth by developing the ethics of service and patriotism while undergoing training in any of its [three (3)]

FOUR (4) program components. Its various components are specially designed to enhance the youth's active contribution to the general welfare.

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(F) “DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND PREPAREDNESS SERVICE” REFERS TO A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO TRAIN AND INCULCATE AMONG THE STUDENTS THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE NECESSARY FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION AND TO ORGANIZE AND MOBILIZE THEM IN THE EVENT OF EARTHQUAKE, FIRE, FLOOD OR ANY NATURAL OR MAN-MADE CALAMITIES.”

SEC. 2. Section 4 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 4. *Establishment of the National Service Training Program.* – There is hereby established a National Service Training Program, which shall form part of the curricula of all baccalaureate degree courses and of at least two (2)-year technical vocational courses and is a requisite for graduation, consisting of the following service components:

(1) The Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), which is hereby made optional and voluntary upon the effectivity of this Act;

(2) The Literacy Training Service; [and]

(3) The Civic Welfare Training Service; **AND**

(4) THE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND PREPAREDNESS SERVICE.

THE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND PREPAREDNESS SERVICE MUST INSTILL IN THE MINDS OF THE STUDENTS THE CRITICAL ROLE THEY PLAY IN THIS TIME OF RECURRING DISASTERS AND CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS. THE PROGRAM MUST ENABLE THEM TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT IN IMPLEMENTING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION MEASURES THAT WILL LESSEN THE SOCIOECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF DISASTERS. THE PROGRAM MUST ALSO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO ORGANIZE AND MOBILIZE THE STUDENTS IN ENHANCING THE RESPONSE CAPABILITIES OF COMMUNITIES.

OTHER THAN TRAININGS ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND PREPAREDNESS MEASURES, THE

PROGRAM MUST INCLUDE FIRST-AID, SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS, MEDICAL MISSIONS, HUMANITARIAN RELIEF ASSISTANCE AND OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES.

The ROTC under the NSTP shall instill patriotism, moral virtues, respect for rights of civilians, and adherence to the Constitution, among others. Citizenship training **AND SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS AND RESPONSIBILITY** shall be given emphasis in all [three (3)] **FOUR (4)** program components.

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SEC. 3. Section 7 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 7. *NSTP Offering in Higher and Technical-Vocational Educational Institutions.* – All higher and technical-vocational institutions, public and private, must offer at least one of the program components: *Provided*, That State universities and colleges shall offer the ROTC, **THE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND PREPAREDNESS SERVICE** component and at least one **OF THE** other componentS as provided herein; *Provided, further*, That private higher and technical-vocational education institutions may also offer the ROTC if they have at least three hundred and fifty (350) cadet students.

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SEC. 4. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,