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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 5086



Introduced by TUCP Party-List Representative
RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP) was chartered under Republic Act No. 2640 as a public corporation under the control and supervision of the Secretary of the Department of National Defense (DND).

But the reality is that the VFP is organized and operated as a non-government organization, where membership is voluntary. Members pay membership dues to sustain the operations of the VFP. There are no funds appropriated by the government for its maintenance and operations including the salaries of its officers and employees.

Unlike other organizations designated by law as public corporations, such as the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, the Girl Scouts of the Philippines and the Knights of Rizal, the VFP operates without autonomy. The law provides that any action or decision of the Federation is subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Department of National Defense.

This bill seeks to relieve the Secretary of National Defense of the responsibility of micro-managing a purely civilian organization of voluntary members so that the Secretary can concentrate on his primary governmental function of ensuring the defense of the country against external and internal threats to national security and the efficient operation of the government agencies assigned or attached to the Department. Passage of the bill will empower the VFP to act as an independent people's organization, autonomous and distinct from government. This will further ensure that the VFP can undertake what it deems as needed policy research, advocacy and other activities without fear or favor, and answerable only to its membership. It will encourage an organization which is truly run by, directed by and organized solely and purely by the Veterans sector.

1 Passage of this bill will finally clarify the working relationship between the
2 Department of National Defense and Veterans Federation of the Philippines, a
3 non-government organization.
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5 This bill seeks to modify certain provisions of the original law to conform to the
6 current situation and prevailing conditions.
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8 In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.
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RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA
TUCP Party-List

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House Bill No. 5086

Introduced by TUCP Party-List Representative
RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA

AN ACT

AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 2640
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT TO CREATE A PUBLIC
CORPORATION TO BE KNOWN AS THE VETERANS FEDERATION OF
THE PHILIPPINES, DEFINING ITS POWERS, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES".

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

Section 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 2640 is hereby amended to read as
follows:

"Section 1. The following persons, to wit; Emilio
Aguinaldo of Asociacion de los Veteranos de la Revolucion;
Margarito Torralba of the AFP Retired Veterans Association
(AFPREVA); Lorenzo B. Cabrera of the Confederation of Filipino
Veterans (CONVETS); Teodoro V. Kalaw of the Defenders of
Bataan and Corregidor; Fausto S. Alberto of the ECLGA Veterans
Association; Enrique C. Rimando of the FAIT Veterans Legion;
Francisco L. Gonzales of the Filipino Disabled Veterans
Association; Basilia M. Baja of the Gold Star Mothers and United
War Widows and Orphans Association of the Philippines; Simeon
C. Medalla of the Hunters ROTC Association; Antonio F. Garcia of
the Magsaysay Veterans Legion; Dionisio S. Ojeda of the
PEFTOK Veterans Association; Primitivo Lovina of the Philippine
National Guard Veterans Legion; Jose V. Andrada of the
Philippine Naval Veterans Legion; Jaime Piopongco of the
Philippine Veterans Legion; Sofia L. Prudenciado of the Philippine
Association of War Widows, Parents and Orphans; Eugenio B.
Recto of the United Disabled Veterans Association of the
Philippines; Gaudencio Antonino of USAFIP-NL and their
associates and successors are hereby created a body Corporate,

1 [under the control and supervision of the Secretary of National
2 Defense] under the name, style and title of "Veterans Federation
3 of the Philippines", hereinafter referred to as the Federation. The
4 principal office of the Federation shall be in the NATIONAL
5 CAPITAL REGION [City of Manila], Philippines."
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7 **Section 2.** Section 2 of Republic Act. No. 2640 is hereby amended to read as
8 follows:

9 "Section 2. The said Federation shall have perpetual
10 succession, with power to sue and be sued; to hold such real and
11 personal property as shall be necessary for its purposes, and to
12 receive real and personal property by gift, devise or bequest; to
13 invest its funds for the exclusive benefit of the veterans of the
14 Philippines; to extend, within its capabilities all necessary
15 assistance, and operate such enterprises as may further the
16 material and moral well-being of veterans; to adopt a seal; and to
17 alter or destroy the same at pleasure; to have offices and
18 conduct its business and affairs in the City of Manila and/or
19 provinces, cities, municipalities and BARANGAYS [barrios], of
20 the Philippines; TO ADOPT and to amend ITS CONSTITUTION
21 AND BY-LAWS [said laws], regulations and rules; to publish a
22 magazine and/or other publications; and generally to do all such
23 acts and things as may be necessary to carry into effect the
24 provision of this Act and to promote the purposes of said
25 Federation. "[Any action or decision of the Federation of the
26 Supreme Council shall be subject to the approval of the
27 Secretary of National Defense.]"

28
29 **Section 3.** Section 5 of Republic Act No. 2640 is hereby amended to read as
30 follows:

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32 "Section 5. The Federation shall be a NON-
33 GOVERNMENT, non-secretarian and non-political
34 ORGANIZATION [in character], and [that] affiliation thereto shall
35 not increase or diminish liability for military service. THIS ACT
36 DOES NOT CONFER THE STATUS OF A PUBLIC,
37 GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED
38 CORPORATION ON THE FEDERATION."
39

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41 **Section 4.** Section 7 of Republic Act No. 2640 is hereby amended to read as
42 follows:

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44 "Section 7. The governing body of the said Federation
45 shall be its Supreme Council. The number, qualifications, manner
46 of election and terms of office of the members of this Supreme
47 Council and of the officers of the Federation shall be prescribed by
48 its own constitution and by-laws. [The persons named in Section
49 one of this Act shall constitute its Supreme Council and the

1 persons elected for the term of office of beginning March, nineteen
2 hundred sixty, shall be the first officers of said Federation; to serve
3 as such until their successors are duly elected and have qualified].
4 The by-laws shall prescribe the number of members of the
5 Supreme Council necessary to constitute a quorum.”
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8 **Section 5.** Section 8 of Republic Act No. 2640 is hereby amended to read as
9 follows:
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11 “Section 8. REGULAR MEETINGS [An annual meeting] of
12 the Supreme Council [affiliated members] shall be held TWICE A
13 [once every] year after the date of the creation of the Federation, at
14 such time and place as shall be prescribed in the constitution and
15 by-laws, when the annual report of the Federation shall be
16 presented, and members of the Supreme Council and officers shall
17 be designated OR [and] elected. Special meetings of the Supreme
18 Council may be called upon such notice as may be prescribed in
19 the constitution and by-laws, which shall further fix the number of
20 [affiliated] members which shall constitute a quorum at any
21 REGULAR [annual] or special meeting. The Supreme Council shall
22 have power to hold their meeting and keep the seal, books,
23 documents and papers of the Federation at the principal office of
24 the Federation.”
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27 **Section 6.** Section 12 of Republic Act No. 2640 is hereby amended to read
28 as follows:
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30 “Section 12. On or before the last day of the month
31 following the end of each fiscal year, the Federation shall transmit,
32 FOR THE INFORMATION OF [to] the President of the Philippines
33 THROUGH [or to] the Secretary of National Defense, a report of
34 its proceedings for the past year, including a full, complete and
35 itemized report of receipts and expenditures of whatever kind.”
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37 **Section 7.** Separability Clause. - If any part of this Act is held invalid or
38 unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions thereof same shall remain valid
39 and effective.
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41 **Section 8.** Repealing Clause - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
42 regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this
43 Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
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46 **Section 9.** Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
47 publication in at least two newspapers of general circulation.
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50 *Approved,*