

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session
7198
HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Introduced by **AGRI PARTYLIST Representative Orestes T. Salon**

Bayanihan is an age-old concept that has defined the Filipino people's sense of community.

The voluntary and even joyful sharing of burdens captured by our greatest artists in images of the bahay kubo being carried on a community's shoulders or communal preparations during festivities may not be the form by which we associate *bayanihan* now. Nevertheless, the spirit of voluntarism is alive and well. This is evident not only with the existence of groups such as Gawad Kalinga that stresses shared responsibility in providing houses and livelihood for the poor.

Rather, voluntarism is increasingly exhibited with every calamity that hits the nation. Filipinos pool resources together to help others in need. Even distance has not diminished the effectiveness of this spirit, with many of our fellows utilizing technology to help though they may be physically absent.

This same spirit drives this bill. Through this legislation, the institutionalization of voluntarism as a strategy for local development and nation-building is sought. It is hoped that this bill will spur each local community to rediscover the values that have defined our race and use these as tools to uplift the general welfare.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "OST", written over a horizontal line.

Rep. Orestes T. Salon
AGRI Partylist

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Seventeenth Congress
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HOUSE BILL NO. 7198

Introduced by AGRI PARTYLIST Representative Orestes T. Salon

1 **AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN NATION-BUILDING THROUGH THE**
2 **INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF STRATEGIC VOLUNTEERISM BASED MULTI-**
3 **SECTORAL PUBLIC – PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK, IN ALL LOCAL**
4 **GOVERNMENT UNITS AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS IN THE COUNTRY,**
5 **AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**
6

7 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress*
8 *assembled:*
9

10 **Section 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the *“Filipino Volunteerism in Nation –*
11 *Building (VNB)” or “Bayanihan Sa Bagumbayan (BSB) Act.”*
12

13 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – (a) It shall be the policy of the State to promote the
14 participation of the various sectors of Filipino society in public and civic affairs, adopt and
15 strengthen the practice of volunteerism as a strategy in national and local development, and to
16 inculcate the *“Bayanihan spirit”* as a way of life.

17 (b) The State recognizes and respects the vital role of civil society organizations
18 (CSOs) which include, among others, non-government organizations (NGOs), volunteer
19 service organizations (VSOs) and people organizations (POs), as effective conduits in
20 harnessing people power to promote and achieve nation-building through a strategic
21 volunteerism multi-sectoral public-private partnership approach.

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

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

- a. To provide a framework for a strategic multi-sectoral public-private partnership through volunteerism;
- b. To institutionalize volunteerism as a strategy for local development; and
- c. C. To establish a coordinating mechanism to harmonize national and local volunteering efforts.

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

a. **Accreditation** refers to the formal recognition by LGUs of CSOs, for the purpose of registering, certifying and enabling them to participate in the VNB program.

b. **Civil society organizations** refers to NGOs, POs, cooperatives, trade unions, professional associations, faith-based organizations, media groups, indigenous people's movements, foundations and other citizen groups formed primarily for social and economic development to monitor government programs and projects, engage in policy discussions, and actively participate in collaborative activities with government.

c. **Congressional District** refers to a territorial division which under the 1987 Philippine Constitution is entitled to elect one member to the Philippine House of Representatives;

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

6 e. **Volunteer service organization** refers to a local or foreign group that recruits,
7 trains, deploys and supports volunteer workers to programs and projects implemented by
8 itself or by other organizations or any group that provides services and resources, including
9 but not limited to, information, capability building, advocacy and networking for the
10 attainment of common good; and

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

17
18 **Sec. 5. VNB Mission – Vision.** National Government Agencies (NGAs), LGUs, and the
19 volunteer sector shall be committed to the VNB mission and vision, which shall harness the
20 spirit of volunteerism as stimulus for local development and as a way of life for each Filipino
21 in recognition of the time-honored tradition of “*Bayanihan*” that has evolved to include the
22 participation of organized groups and institutions as volunteer partners of government in local
23 development and governance. The LGUs and congressional districts shall also perform
24 critical roles in mobilizing, harmonizing, and sustaining volunteering efforts.

1 The VBN Program shall support the above stated sectors in the following areas of
2 governance: (a) community building through shelter and other infrastructure support; (b)
3 community, child, youth, and maternal health; (c) child and youth education; (d) community
4 entrepreneurship; (e) food sufficiency ; (f) gender equality and women empowerment; (g)
5 peace efforts; (h) cultural preservation and promotion; (i) eco-tourism; (j) environmental
6 preservation and protection; and (k) micro-finance and livelihood.

7
8 **Sec. 6. VBN Key National and Cooperating Agencies.** – To harmonize and facilitate the
9 support of various government agencies in the implementation of the VBN, the following
10 NGAs, including their concerned bureaus/attached agencies, shall take lead roles in the
11 following key areas: the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in the
12 review and implementation of VNB socio-welfare projects and activities; the Housing and
13 Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) in the approval of the VNB local
14 shelter plan and coordination of all shelter agencies for the provision of support to the VNB
15 program; the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) in the coordination of
16 LGUs with local VNB projects; the Department of Finance (DOF) in the promulgation of
17 guidelines for the availment of tax exemption and other related incentives and benefits and
18 for the oversight of their implementation and supervision; and the Department of Budget and
19 Management (DBM) in overseeing and monitoring of the budget utilization of concerned lead
20 or cooperating government agencies in the implementation of the VNB program.

21 Other government agencies shall provide the necessary support for the VNB program,
22 namely: Office of the President (OP), National Economic and Development Authority
23 (NEDA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Land Registration
24 Authority (LRA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Technical Education and Skills
25 Development Authority (TESDA), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Department

1 of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of
2 Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Energy (DOE), National Electrification
3 Administration (NEA), and Cooperative Development Authority (CDA).

4
5 **Sec. 7. VNB Coordinating Agency.** – The Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating
6 Agency (PNVSCA) shall serve as the coordinating agency for the implementation of the
7 VNB program. More specifically, the PNVSCA shall have the following functions:

8 (a) Formulate and review policies and guidelines on the VNB program;

9 (b) Develop and implement a monitoring and evaluation system for the VNB
10 program;

11 (c) Develop and implement an advocacy campaign for the implementation of the
12 VNB program;

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

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

16 The VNB Program Management Division shall be created as an attached division to
17 the Office of the Executive Director of the PNVSCA to perform technical and administrative
18 tasks to carry out the abovementioned functions. This division shall be headed by an officer
19 who shall supervise a team of volunteer service officers. The PNVSCA, in coordination with
20 the DBM, shall prepare the staffing pattern of the program management division.

21
22 **Sec. 8. Inter-agency Coordinating Committee.** – the existing Multi-Sectoral Advisory Board
23 (MSAB) of the PNVSCA shall serve as the interagency coordinating committee which shall
24 perform the following responsibilities:

25 a. Provide advice in the formulation of policies and guidelines for the VNB program;

1 b. Serve as link between and among lead and cooperating national government
2 agencies in the implementation of the VNB; and

3 c. Serve as forum for the review of the VNB implementation with VNB
4 stakeholders.

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

8
9 **Sec. 9. *VNB Coordinating Desk.*** – All lead and other cooperating agencies shall establish
10 their respective VNB coordinating desk or tap an existing related unit to serve as the focal
11 unit in coordinating the delivery of support services in the implementation of the VNB.

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

14 a. Identify the VNB projects and activities;

15 b. Accredite volunteer partners for the implementation of the VNB projects and
16 activities;

17 c. Monitor and evaluate the progress of the VNB projects, including the submission
18 of reports to the Local Development Council and the MSAB.

19 At the district level, the Congressional District Representative concerned shall be
20 required to be accredited by LGUs concerned, in coordination with the appropriate agencies,
21 to enable them to participate in the VNB agencies.

22
23 **Sec. 10. *Accreditation of VNB Partners and Stakeholders.*** – All VNB program partners shall
24 be required to be accredited by LGUs concerned, in coordination with the appropriate
25 agencies, to enable them to participate in the VNB program.

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

3
4 **Sec. 11. Incentives for VNB Partners and Stakeholders.** – Any VNB and BIR-accredited
5 donor and done under a VNB program, project or activity shall enjoy the following
6 incentives:

- 7 a. All donations in cash in kind, including land, all of which are actually, directly
8 and exclusively used by the National Government Agencies (NGAs), including
9 their concerned bureaus/attached agencies, the Philippine National Volunteer
10 Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) and the Local Government Units
11 (LGUs), in its programs, projects, and activities that provide shelter, basic utilities
12 of electricity and water, education, healthcare, livelihood, environment and peace
13 efforts that shall inure to the benefit of poor communities identified by the
14 PNVSCA, shall be exempt from the donors tax and fully deductible from the gross
15 income of the donor, under the new nomenclature of donations for “*nation-*
16 *building*”, upon submission to the BIR of the VNB requirements for that purpose.
17 The implementation of this incentive shall be patterned after the applicable
18 provisions on “*Allowable Deductions*” and “*Donor’s Tax*” under the National
19 Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended;
- 20 b. All donations from the foreign sources to the VNB shall be exempt from customs
21 duties, provided that the donees are duly accredited with the Bureau of Customs
22 (BOC);
- 23 c. The DOF, in coordination with the PNVSCA, the BIR, the BOC, and the DBM
24 shall set the guidelines for the screening, evaluation, and approval of all tax
25 incentives and benefits used for VNB purposes, as well as the Implementing Rules

1 and Regulations (IRR) to implement the incentives provided herein. In line with
2 proper fiscal administration policies, the DOF in coordination with VNB, shall
3 determine the compliance criteria for "*utilization*", "*valuation*", "*deductibility*",
4 "*proof of utilization*", and "*proof of deductions*" of all VNB donations, whether
5 in cash or in kind, as basis to determine the availment of, and continued
6 applicability of withdrawal of all such tax incentives and benefits, in accordance
7 with RA 8424, as amended;

8 d. The socialized housing tax as authorized to be imposed by LGUs, under Section
9 43 of RA 7279; otherwise known as "the Urban Development and Housing Act of
10 1992" shall be used as additional government equality under the VNB framework,
11 subject to an inter-agency Memorandum of Agreement; and

12 e. Priority in the grant of acquired land. The government shall also consider VNB
13 partners as priority-beneficiaries in the grant of land for socialized housing
14 acquired under R.A. No. 7279 through community mortgage, land swapping, land
15 assembly or consolidation, land banking, donation to the government, joint-
16 venture agreement, negotiated purchase, and expropriation.

17 The mechanics, criteria, equalizations, all documentary proof of donation in cash or in
18 kind, and proof of utilization of donation requirements, and the implementation guidelines for
19 all the incentives and benefits provided under this section, shall be carried out in accordance
20 with the 1987 Constitution, RA 8284, as amended, and other applicable laws, rules and
21 regulations, and shall be included and clearly specified in the IRR, to ensure that these
22 incentives and benefits shall properly benefit the intended recipients, to fully and faithfully
23 implement the true intent and spirit of the VNB Act.

24 The incentives provided under this Act shall be effective for a period of eight (8)
25 years, with one extension of another six (6) years, subject to satisfactory submission of and

1 compliance with all VNB requirements, terms and conditions, including all documentary
2 proof of donation in cash or in kind, and proof of utilization of donation requirements, for
3 purposes of the VNB Act. Thereafter, upon evaluation of and recommendation by the said
4 incentives, and corollary, to the continued existence and operation of the VNB shall be
5 subject to congressional action.

6
7 **Sec. 12. *Incentives for VNB volunteers.*** – All VNB program partners shall provide volunteers
8 with recognition and incentive package.

9
10 **Sec. 13. *Special Provision – VNB Framework Guide Book.*** – A VNB Framework Guide
11 Book shall be prepared and disseminated to all LGUs and Congressional Districts to assist
12 them in the implementation of the VNB Program.

13
14 **Sec. 14. *Appropriations.*** The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this act shall
15 be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The LGUs shall likewise allocate the
16 necessary funds for the implementation of the VNB program.

17
18 **Sec. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).*** – the PNVSCA, in consultation with
19 MSAB, the DSWD, the HUDCC, the DILG, the DOF, and the DBM, shall promulgate the
20 implementing rules and regulations (IRR) necessary to implement this Act, within sixty (60)
21 days after its effectivity.

22
23 **Sec. 16. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
24 unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain in full
25 force and effect.

1 **Sec. 17. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, Presidential Decree or issuance, Executive Order,
2 Letter of Instruction, Administrative Order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with
3 any provision of this Act is hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

4
5 **Sec. 18 *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
6 *Official Gazette* or in at least two national newspapers of general circulation, whichever date
7 comes earlier.

8 Approved