

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H. No. 10660

Introduced by Representative Raul C. Tupas

EXPLANATORY NOTE

AN ACT GRANTING CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBILITY TO GRADUATES OF THE
PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY

There shall be established a military training school to be named the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), for the training of selected candidates for permanent commission in the Regular Force. The student body in the Military Academy shall be known as the Cadet Corps of the Army of the Philippines (Commonwealth Act No. 1, Article IV, Sec. 30).

The mission of the PMA is *"to instruct, train and develop cadets so that each graduate shall possess the character, the broad and basic military skills and the education essential to the successful pursuit of a progressive military career."* Its vision is that *"by 2028, the Philippine Military Academy shall have reached the international standards for military academies in producing principled and competent officers."*

PMA adopts a holistic view of man as body, soul, and spirit. PMA believes that future leaders can be selected, formed, and developed to their fullest potentials. PMA is principally an institution for military leadership and it is from this the total view of man that PMA's leader development program is based. It contains character development, a balanced college education, military leadership, and physical development, necessary to prepare the cadets for the profession of arms and to be responsive to the needs of the Armed Forces and the nation (Philippine Military Academy Citizen's Charter, 2023, 1st edition).

Last March 26, 2023, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) administered the civil service exam to PMA cadets for the first time. PMA Cadets, 297 to be exact, took the exams. The cadets took the exams, as requested by the CSC, to validate the PMA claim that the standard of education that they are giving to their cadets is higher than the standard of Commission on Higher Education (CHED). This is in line with the plan to grant special eligibility to cadets so they may still serve the country, in the civil service, and not only under the AFP.

Civil Service Commissioner Aileen Lizada reported that 288 out of 297 cadets of Batch 2023 passed the Civil Service Exam-Pen and Paper Test (CSC-PPT). This represents a 97% passing rate compared to the national passing rate of only 16.88%.

The CSC examination results validate the high standard of education provided by the PMA to its students. The PMA educational program consists of an academic program and a military program. The academic program is tasked with the mission of "implementing the academic portion of the Academy curriculum according to the standards prescribed by the Academic Board." Military Program. The military program is headed by the Commandant of Cadets and is responsible for the professional

military training, character development, leadership, and physical training of the cadets. The mission of the Tactics Group is likewise carried out by the tactical officers who are responsible for the different companies of the Cadet Corps.

While the ultimate objective of the PMA is to provide its students a progressive and rewarding career as an officer of one of the branches of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, there are numerous instances wherein PMA graduates later decide to join the civil service and take up positions that requires civil service eligibility. PMA graduates after retirement from the AFP are also still eligible for appointment and employment in the civil service.

This bill provides for the grant of special eligibility to PMA graduates. This will enable PMA graduates to be appointed to civil service positions and avoid the situation of those who were applying or already hired from being disqualified or disapproved for appointment simply for lack of civil service eligibility.

This will benefit the civil service and the general public considering that PMA graduates are well educated in the fields of management, humanities, engineering, mathematics, social science, information and computing science aside from their leadership training.

This bill also safeguards the investment of the government to PMA graduates. This will ensure that the government will still benefit from the knowledge, training, and rich experience of PMA graduates who left the service or who retired instead of losing them to the private sector.

Finally, this bill shall ensure that PMA graduates shall continue to exhibit the core values of "selfless service to God and country, honor and excellence" as they render service in the public sector.

In view thereof, the approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.


RAUL "BOBOY" C. TUPAS

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**AN ACT GRANTING CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBILITY TO GRADUATES OF
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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the
Philippines in Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. *Conferment of Civil Service Eligibility.* – An eligibility equivalent to a Career Service Professional Eligibility is hereby conferred upon a holder of a four-year bachelor's degree from the Philippine Military Academy that will qualify them for regular or permanent employment in the government.

Provided, That the eligibility granted under this section shall be considered appropriate for second and first level positions in the career service respectively, except those which require licenses and/or requiring board examinations and other special eligibilities provided under special laws.

SECTION 2. *Coverage.* – This Act shall cover all graduates who have been conferred a four-year bachelor's degree by the Philippine Military Academy.

SECTION 3. *Commencement of Eligibility.* – Eligibility shall commence on the date of the conferment of the bachelor's degree by the Philippine Military Academy; *Provided,* that for those who have already been conferred a bachelor's degree prior to the passage of this Act, their eligibility shall be deemed to commence from the approval thereof.

SECTION 4. *Duty of PMA Registrar.* – The PMA Registrar shall furnish the Civil Service Commission with a list of PMA graduates who have been conferred a bachelor's degree within sixty (60) days after the approval of this Act and within thirty (30) days thereafter for subsequent PMA graduates.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Civil Service Commission and the Department of National Defense shall, within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, promulgate the rules and regulations for the necessary implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof,

inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general publication.

Approved,