

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4706**

Introduced by Representative **MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS**



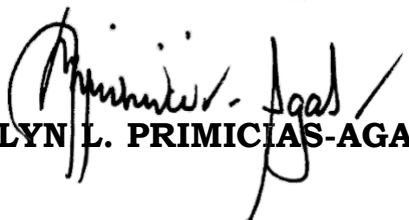
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Volunteerism has long been a cornerstone of Filipino society, embodying the spirit of bayanihan and collective action for the common good. The enactment of *Republic Act No. 9418*, otherwise known as the "*Volunteer Act of 2007*," institutionalized this tradition by providing a comprehensive framework for the promotion, coordination, and recognition of volunteer efforts across the nation. The law recognizes the vital contributions of volunteers in advancing rural development, fostering social justice, and strengthening national solidarity.

Despite these legislative gains, there remains a need to further elevate the profile of volunteerism and to encourage broader participation from all sectors of society. Designating the month of December as National Volunteer Month and December 5 as National Volunteer Day will serve not only to honor the invaluable service of Filipino volunteers but also to inspire a new generation to embrace volunteerism as a way of life. This initiative is consistent with the objectives of *RA 9418*, which underscores the importance of an enabling environment for volunteerism and the recognition of volunteers' roles in nation-building.

Moreover, aligning the National Volunteer Day with the globally observed International Volunteer Day on December 5 affirms the Philippines' commitment to international cooperation and understanding. The proposed measure mandates the active participation of government agencies, local government units, and the private sector in the observance of these occasions, thereby ensuring a whole-of-society approach to the celebration and promotion of volunteerism.

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


MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4706**

Introduced by Representative **MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS**

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9418, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
“VOLUNTEER ACT OF 2007,” TO DECLARE THE MONTH OF DECEMBER AS
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH AND DECEMBER 5 AS NATIONAL
VOLUNTEER DAY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Section 13 of Republic Act No. 9418, otherwise known as the
“*Volunteer Act of 2007*”, is hereby amended to include a new section denominated as
Section 13-A, and shall read as follows:

SEC. 13. *Institutional Mechanism for Research, Documentation, Recognition and Modeling of Best Volunteer Practices.* - To carry out the purposes of this Act, an institutional mechanism shall be established, to be spearheaded and administered by the PNVSCA, for continuing research, documentation, recognition and modeling of best volunteer practices as an important component of implementing development programs and projects and undertaking humanitarian activities. For this purpose, the PNVSCA in consultation with any and all relevant government agencies, NGOs, private institutions and persons shall effect the setting up of the mechanism as well as determine all requirements and, or necessary acts to ensure its effective implementation.

SEC. 13-A. *DECLARATION OF NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH.*
- THE MONTH OF DECEMBER OF EVERY YEAR SHALL BE DECLARED AS NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY, IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY VOLUNTEERS TO SOCIETY.

PURSUANT THERETO, DECEMBER 5 OF EVERY YEAR IS ALSO DESIGNATED AS THE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY, CORRESPONDING TO THE INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH SHALL BE SPEARHEADED BY THE PNVSCA FOR COORDINATION PURPOSES.

ALL HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND -CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS, AS WELL AS LGUS, AND EMPLOYERS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR ARE HEREBY MANDATED TO ENJOIN ALL THEIR PERSONNEL TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE AND SUPPORT ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS FOR THE OBSERVATION AND CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH.”

SEC. 2. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 3. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,