

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6837



Introduced by Representative ALEXANDER T. PIMENTEL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution vests in the State the primary duty to secure the sovereignty of the Republic and the integrity of the national territory. In recent years, the Philippines has confronted an increasingly complex and uncertain security environment marked by heightened geopolitical tensions, evolving forms of external aggression, and non-traditional threats that directly implicate the nation's territorial integrity, maritime rights, and airspace security.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) remains the principal instrument for national defense. However, the AFP continues to be heavily burdened by a wide range of internal security, disaster response, and civil support functions. While these roles are vital, their cumulative effect constrains the AFP's ability to fully develop and sustain a credible **external defense posture** — one that is focused on deterring aggression, defending sovereign rights, and responding decisively to threats originating beyond the country's borders.

This proposed measure seeks to establish the **Philippine National Guards** as a distinct, organized, and trained reserve component dedicated primarily to territorial defense, homeland security support, and augmentation of the AFP during national emergencies and external defense contingencies. The creation of the Philippine National Guards will allow the AFP to recalibrate its strategic focus toward external defense, while ensuring that the nation maintains a ready, disciplined, and community-based force capable of rapid mobilization.

The Philippine National Guards shall serve as a force multiplier, bridging the gap between the regular armed forces and the civilian population. Drawing from trained reservists and citizen-soldiers, the Guards will strengthen national preparedness, enhance deterrence, and reinforce the State's capacity to respond to external threats without undermining democratic civilian control over the military.

Moreover, the establishment of the Philippine National Guards aligns with global best practices among democratic states, where national guard or territorial defense forces play a crucial role in reinforcing external defense, protecting critical infrastructure, and ensuring continuity of government and civil order during crises.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought to institutionalize a robust national guard system, enable the Armed Forces of the

Philippines to adopt a more focused and credible external defense posture, and strengthen the overall national defense architecture of the Republic of the Philippines.

The passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


REP. ALEXANDER T. PIMENTEL

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL GUARDS,
DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the “Philippine National Guards Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to:

- a) Uphold the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national security of the Republic of the Philippines;
- b) Strengthen the country’s capacity for national defense, disaster response, humanitarian assistance, and civil support operations;
- c) Promote citizen participation in national defense consistent with the Constitution; and
- d) Establish a trained, organized, and disciplined auxiliary force under civilian authority to complement the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

SEC. 3. Creation of the Philippine National Guards. There is hereby created a force to be known as the Philippine National Guards (PNG), which shall be placed under the Department of National Defense (DND) and shall operate as an organized reserve and auxiliary component of the national defense establishment.

SEC. 4. Nature and Character. The Philippine National Guards shall be:

- a) A uniformed, disciplined, and hierarchical organization;
- b) Primarily a reserve and civil support force, mobilized as necessary;
- c) Subject at all times to civilian authority, and
- d) Non-partisan and apolitical in character.

SEC. 5. Mission and Functions. The Philippine National Guards shall have the following missions:

- a) Augment the Armed Forces of the Philippines during times of war, invasion, rebellion, or national emergency;
- b) Assist in disaster risk reduction, emergency response, humanitarian assistance, and rehabilitation efforts;

- c) Support law enforcement agencies upon proper authorization and in accordance with the Constitution and existing laws;
- d) Assist in the protection of critical infrastructure and national assets during emergencies; and
- e) Perform such other functions as may be directed by the President, through the Secretary of National Defense.

SEC. 6. Organization and Command. a) The Philippine National Guards shall be under the overall supervision and control of the Secretary of National Defense.

b) The President of the Philippines shall be the Commander-in-Chief of the Philippine National Guards.

c) The DND shall establish a National Guard Command, headed by a Commanding General, whose rank and qualifications shall be determined by the Secretary of National Defense.

d) Units may be organized at the national, regional, provincial, and local levels, as may be necessary.

SEC. 7. Composition and Membership. The Philippine National Guards shall be composed of:

a) Qualified Filipino citizens who voluntarily enlist;

b) Members of the AFP Reserve Force who may be integrated or cross-assigned; and

c) Such other personnel as may be authorized by law.

Membership shall be subject to age, fitness, educational, and moral standards to be prescribed by the DND.

SEC. 8. Training and Discipline. a) Members of the Philippine National Guards shall undergo regular military, disaster response, and civil defense training;

b) Training programs shall be coordinated with the Armed Forces of the Philippines and other relevant agencies;

c) Members shall be subject to a code of conduct and disciplinary system, as provided in the implementing rules and regulations.

SEC. 9. Mobilization and Deployment. a) The Philippine National Guards may be mobilized by the President in times of national emergency or as may be provided by law;

b) Deployment for law enforcement support shall require coordination with appropriate civilian authorities and shall respect human rights and the rule of law.

SEC. 10. Funding and Logistics. Funds necessary for the initial and continuing implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the Department of National Defense. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 11. Relationship with Local Government Units. The Philippine National Guards shall coordinate with local government units in disaster preparedness and emergency response, without diminishing the autonomy of LGUs as provided by law.

SEC. 12. Safeguards and Limitations. a) The Philippine National Guards shall not be used to suppress legitimate political dissent;

b) All operations shall be conducted in accordance with the Constitution, existing laws, and international human rights standards.

SEC. 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of National Defense shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SEC. 14. 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. 15. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 16. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.