



Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency
NEDA Complex, EDSA, Quezon City

**IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9418
“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A STRATEGY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
STRENGTHENING VOLUNTEERISM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”**

Rule I –GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Purpose and General Coverage. - This Implementing Rules and Regulations is promulgated pursuant to Section 14 of Republic Act No. 9418, entitled “An Act Institutionalizing A Strategy for Rural Development, Strengthening Volunteerism and for Other Purposes” otherwise known as “Volunteer Act of 2007.”

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. - It shall be the policy of the State to promote the participation of the various sectors of the Filipino society, and as necessary, international and foreign volunteer organizations in public and civic affairs, and adopt and strengthen the practice of volunteerism as a strategy in order to attain national development and international understanding. The inculcation of volunteerism as a way of life shall rekindle in every Filipino the time-honored tradition of bayanihan to foster social justice, solidarity and sustainable development.

Section 3. Statement of Goals and Objectives. - To carry out the foregoing policy, the government shall pursue the attainment of the following goals and objectives:

- 3.1. To provide a policy framework on volunteerism that shall underscore the fundamental principles necessary to harness and harmonize the broad and diverse efforts of the voluntary sector in the country into an integrative and effective partnership for local and national development as well as international cooperation and understanding.
- 3.2. To provide a conducive and enabling environment for volunteers and volunteer service organizations by setting mechanisms to protect volunteers’ rights and privileges and give due recognition to highlight their roles and contributions to society; and
- 3.3. To provide an effective institutional mechanism to strengthen the role of the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) to perform its mandates and to oversee the implementation of this Act.

Section 4. Definition of Terms. - For purposes of this IRR, the following shall mean:

- 4.1. **Volunteerism** refers to an act involving a wide range of activities, including traditional forms of mutual aid and developmental interventions that provides an enabling and empowering environment both on the part of the beneficiary receiving and the volunteer rendering the act, undertaken for reasons arising from sociodevelopmental, business or corporate orientation, commitment or conviction for the attainment of the public good and where monetary and other incentives or rewards are not the primary motivating factors.
- 4.2. **Volunteer** refers to an individual or group who for reasons arising from their sociodevelopmental, business and corporate orientation, commitment or conviction, contribute time, service and resources whether on full-time or part-time basis to a just and essential social development cause, mission or endeavor

in the belief that their activity is mutually meaningful and beneficial to public interest as well as to themselves.

- 4.3. **Volunteer Service Organization** refers to a local or foreign group that recruits, trains, deploys and supports volunteer workers to programs and projects implemented by them or by other organizations or any group that provides services and resources, including but not limited to, information, capability building, advocacy and networking for the attainment of the common good.
- 4.4. **Voluntary Sector** refers to those sectors of Philippine society that organizes themselves into volunteers to take advocacy and action primarily for local and national development as well as international cooperation and understanding.
- 4.5. **Registration** refers to the process by which volunteers and/or volunteer organizations are recognized by PNVSCA for purposes of coordination, networking, information sharing and documentation.
- 4.6. **National Volunteer Service Program** refers to the collaborative undertaking of the various sectors in the Philippines to achieve national development and international cooperation and understanding through volunteerism.

Rule II – MODALITIES OF VOLUNTEERISM

Section 5. Role and Modalities of Volunteerism in the Private Sector.

- 5.1. **Volunteerism in the Academe** includes, but is not limited to, provision of technical assistance and sharing of technology within the academic circle, target communities and other clientele and the upgrading of the quality of education and curriculum methodologies while providing career enhancement and exposure to the volunteers.
- 5.2. **Volunteerism in the Corporate Sector** as an expression of corporate social responsibility and citizenship, refers to activities recognized by the company, where employees give their time, skills and resources in the service of the company's internal and/or external communities. These volunteering activities include, but are not limited to, employee giving of material resources to specific causes; employee-led fund-raising; one-time outreach activities; environmental campaign; medical and health-related advocacies; knowledge and change management; scholarship programs; and sharing of expertise, particularly of business and developmental skills through mentoring, tutoring, training, business consulting/advising and rendering of pro bono services on a case-to-case basis.
- 5.3. **Volunteerism by Not-for-Profit Organizations** includes, but is not limited to, provision of complementary service delivery and human resource development in underserved communities as well as advocacy and articulation of the cause of the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

Section 6. Role and Modalities of Volunteerism by Foreign Volunteer Organizations. - Volunteerism by foreign volunteer organizations includes, but is not limited to, provision of technical assistance not locally accessible in priority development areas within the framework of technical cooperation and socio-cultural exchange.

Foreign volunteer organizations shall implement their programs in the Philippines in accordance with the guidelines and procedures issued by PNVSCA for the purpose.

Rule III - ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

Section 7. Role of the Government. - The government shall coordinate, facilitate and encourage the participation of the voluntary sector in the promotion, utilization, and recognition of volunteerism in national development and international cooperation. This shall be achieved through the provision of enabling and conducive environment for volunteer work.

Rule IV - ROLE OF PNVSCA

Section 8. The Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA). - The PNVSCA created by Executive Order No. 134, series of 1964, as amended by Executive Order No. 635 series of 1980, shall undertake the implementation and execution of Republic Act No. 9418 and this IRR.

Section 9. Mandates of PNVSCA. The PNVSCA shall perform the following functions:

- 9.1. Review and formulate policies and guidelines concerning the national volunteer service program consistent with national development priorities;
- 9.2. Coordinate, monitor and evaluate the national volunteer service program in order that volunteer assistance may fit into the total national development goals;
- 9.3. Act as clearinghouse for matters pertaining to international volunteer services.
- 9.4. Develop and implement prototypes and models of volunteering for adoption by institutions and communities;
- 9.5. Provide technical services and support for capability-building of volunteers and volunteer organizations;
- 9.6. Undertake advocacy for the promotion and recognition of volunteerism as a tool for development;
- 9.7. Establish and maintain a national network of volunteer organizations and serve as liaison between and among local and foreign governmental private voluntary organizations including the United Nations Volunteers (UNV); and
- 9.8. Administer all PNVSCA funds from all sources including foreign aid in accordance with accounting and auditing requirements.

Section 10. Upon advice of the Multi-Sectoral Advisory Body, PNVSCA shall submit to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) an organizational plan based on the requirements of the new mandate within ninety (90) days upon publication of the IRR in the Official Gazette,.

Rule V – MULTI-SECTORAL ADVISORY BODY (MSAB)

Section 11. The Multi-Sectoral Advisory Body (MSAB). – The MSAB shall have the following members:

National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)
Department of Education (DepEd)

Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)
Department of Justice (DOJ)
Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)
Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
Commission on Higher Education (CHED)
Presidential Management Staff (PMS)/Office of the President
Representative/s from the corporate sector
Representative/s from the private academe sector
Representative/s from the not-for-profit sector

- 11.1. All member government agencies shall be represented by at least an Assistant Secretary while the private sector agencies shall be represented by their highest executive officers. The government agencies shall be permanent members while the representatives from the private sector shall serve for a two-year term.
- 11.2. The permanent members of the MSAB shall be convened within thirty (30) working days upon the effectivity of this IRR. The PNVSCA Executive Director shall serve as the presiding officer of the MSAB until the selection of the Chair.
- 11.3. The permanent members of the MSAB shall select representatives from the private sector based on the following qualifications:
 - a) A bona fide Filipino organization;
 - b) Registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and preferably accredited by a government agency;
 - c) With nationwide geographic coverage and network; and
 - d) Other qualifications as may be determined by the permanent members of the MSAB.

The Presiding Officer shall formally invite the selected organization. In case the organization declines the invitation, the next with the highest number of votes received shall be invited.

- 11.4. The Chair of the MSAB shall be elected from among the members of the Body. The Chair shall serve for two (2) years.
- 11.5. The PNVSCA Executive Director, being an ex-officio member, shall serve as the permanent Vice-Chair. PNVSCA shall serve as Secretariat of the MSAB.
- 11.6. The MSAB shall promulgate guidelines and procedures for the effective and efficient implementation of its functions.
- 11.7. The MSAB may call on representatives of other government agencies and/or private sector to serve as resource person/s on volunteerism as the need arises.

Section 12. Functions of the Multi-Sectoral Advisory Body (MSAB). - The MSAB shall have the following functions:

- 12.1. Provide advice in the formulation of policies and guidelines for the national volunteer service program;
- 12.2. Provide consultative and technical advisory services on volunteer matters;

- 12.3. Serve as a forum to enhance and strengthen linkages between and among volunteer groups and communities.

Rule VI - SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Section 13. Establishment of a National Volunteer Infrastructure and Forum. -

The PNVSCA shall develop and establish a system of national registration and networking to improve coordination of volunteers and volunteer service organizations and to widen horizon for sharing and complementing volunteer information, experiences and resources.

- 13.1. National Registration of Volunteer Service Organizations

All local and foreign volunteer service organizations, as defined in Section 4.3 of this IRR shall register with PNVSCA in accordance with the guidelines and procedures issued by PNVSCA for the purpose.

- 13.2. National government agencies (NGAs), local government units (LGUs) and private sector shall provide PNVSCA with information of volunteer programs and activities implemented in their agencies/ organizations.

In the case of individual foreign volunteers, the following arrangement shall be adhered to:

- a) NGAs shall coordinate with PNVSCA on the assignment of foreign volunteers in their respective agencies. For this purpose, PNVSCA shall formulate additional guidelines and procedures for the registration, reporting and documentation of foreign volunteer assignments, or may request a presidential executive issuance;
- b) At the local government unit, PNVSCA shall enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Local Government Units (LGUs), and the Leagues of Provinces, Cities and Municipalities and the Liga ng Barangay for the registration, monitoring and documentation of foreign volunteer assignments in LGUs for this purpose; and
- c) In the case of the private sector, PNVSCA shall enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the concerned local partner organizations for the registration, monitoring and documentation of foreign volunteer assignment.

In the interim, and until such time the abovementioned arrangements have been put in place, all foreign volunteer assignments shall be reviewed and approved by PNVSCA.

- 13.3. PNVSCA shall publish on an annual basis a directory of local and foreign volunteer service organizations in the Philippines registered herewith.

- 13.4. PNVSCA shall convene forums for discussions on issues and concerns on volunteering and sharing of information and resources to strengthen networking among the volunteer community.

Section 14. Integration of Volunteerism in the Education Curriculum.

- 14.1. Volunteerism as a concept and practice shall be integrated at all levels of education across grades and across subjects.

- 14.2. The Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) shall identify entry points for the integration of volunteerism at all levels of education.
- 14.3. DepEd, CHED and TESDA, in collaboration with PNVSCA, shall develop instructional materials on volunteerism.
- 14.4. DepEd, CHED and TESDA shall issue guidelines for the adoption and utilization of the instructional materials on volunteerism for all levels of formal and informal education in public and private schools, colleges and universities, including vocational and technical learning centers and institutions.
- 14.5. PNVSCA, in consultation and collaboration with DepEd, CHED and TESDA shall conduct periodic review and update of instructional materials on volunteerism.

Section 15. Establishment of Volunteer Program in National Government Agencies and Local Government Units (LGUs).

- 15.1. The Volunteer Program for Government Service or the Bayanihang Bayan Program shall serve as platform for private sector volunteering in government agencies and local government units, in accordance with Memorandum Order 45 dated 7 December 2001.
- 15.2. PNVSCA, in collaboration with the Civil Service Commission (CSC), shall identify and develop modalities and schemes for government agencies and/or employee volunteering and issue corresponding guidelines for their implementation. Furthermore, PNVSCA in cooperation with the CSC, shall document volunteering efforts of government agencies and/or employees to identify and document best practices in public sector volunteering.

Section 16. Recognition and Incentives to Volunteers. - Government agencies and non-government organizations implementing volunteer programs are encouraged to develop and provide volunteers recognition and incentive package which may include, but not limited to allowance, insurance, training and the grant of privileges and status to Filipino overseas volunteers at par with Filipino overseas workers.

- 16.1. All volunteers shall be accorded recognition of volunteer status through the registration process as provided under this IRR or as maybe subsequently established by PNVSCA.
- 16.2. Volunteer service organizations deploying foreign volunteers in the Philippines and Filipino volunteers overseas shall submit to PNVSCA their volunteer support and incentive program, including post volunteering support scheme, for its review and approval prior to the implementation of their volunteer effort in the Philippines.
- 16.3. PNVSCA shall establish a monitoring mechanism for this purpose.

Section 17. VISA Privileges of Foreign Volunteers - Foreign volunteers approved for assignment by PNVSCA as well as their legal dependents may be entitled to 47(a)(2) visa with multiple entry privileges and corresponding exemption from visa and immigration fees and other related processing/application fees or charges.

17.1. Foreign volunteers may be issued 47 (a) (2) visa with multiple entry privileges and corresponding exemption from visa and immigration fees and other related expenses valid for one (1) year upon date of issuance, subject to renewal, if all the following conditions are met:

- a) The foreign volunteer is a member of a foreign volunteer organization registered with PNVSCA or as provided for in sub-section 13.2;
- b) The local partner organization is identified and approved by PNVSCA; and
- c) The foreign volunteer and the Foreign Volunteer Service Organization (FVSO) have complied with the deployment requirements of PNVSCA.

17.2. The issuance of 47 (a) (2) visa to foreign volunteers shall adhere to the following procedures:

- a) The foreign volunteer service organization submits to PNVSCA the biodata and passport details of the volunteer candidate;
- b) PNVSCA secures the volunteer candidate's security clearance and acceptance by local partner organization;
- c) PNVSCA requests the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) for the issuance of 47 (a)(2) visa to the volunteer;
- d) DFA sends request for issuance of visa to concerned Philippine Embassy or Consulate; and
- e) The Philippine Embassy or Consulate issues 47 (a)(2) visa to the foreign volunteer.

17.3. Foreign volunteers recruited outside the Philippines shall get his/her 47 (a)(2) visa from the concerned Philippine Embassy or Consulate upon endorsement of PNVSCA to DFA.

17.4. Foreign nationals already in the Philippines who have been approved for volunteer assignment by PNVSCA may avail of the above visa category and privileges upon endorsement by PNVSCA to the Department of Justice (DOJ).

**Rule VII - INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM FOR RESEARCH,
DOCUMENTATION, RECOGNITION
AND MODELING OF BEST PRACTICES**

Section 18. Institutional Mechanism for Research, Documentation, Recognition and Modeling of Best Practices. To carry out the purposes of this Act, an institutional mechanism shall be established 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.

- 18.1. The PNVSCA shall spearhead the creation of a Volunteerism Consortium that will engage the participation of the voluntary sector in research, documentation, and modeling of best volunteer practices where feasible. The Volunteerism Consortium shall be organized at various levels to capture volunteer experiences and best practices at the right place and at the right time.
- 18.2. The Volunteer Knowledge and Resource Center (VKRC) shall be established by PNVSCA, in cooperation with the voluntary sector, as a repository of information and resources, including those generated by the Volunteerism Consortium for use by the volunteers, volunteer managers, policy makers and the general public.

Specifically, the VKRC shall have the following functions:

- a) Popularize volunteerism as a strategy in the implementation of development programs and projects of government agencies, local government units and the private sector;
 - b) Establish and manage a referral system that will promote effective and efficient matching of volunteering opportunities, access to technical assistance, capability building and other resources on volunteerism;
 - c) Publish new initiatives and best practices in volunteering; and
 - d) Institutionalize partnerships with local government units, academe, non-government organizations and the media in implementing knowledge and resource facility schemes in different areas in the country.
- 18.3. The implementation of the National Volunteer Month (NVM) as a platform for recognition of best practices on volunteerism, including its implementing structure shall be reviewed by the MSAB and corresponding guidelines shall be issued for the purpose.

Rule VIII - FINAL PROVISIONS


Section 19. Amendment.- The PNVSCA reserves the right to make amendments, modifications, revisions or supplements to this IRR consistent with existing laws, rules and regulations, in consultation with the MSAB.

Section 20. Repealing Clause. - All rules and regulations issued by PNVSCA or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this IRR and RA No. 9418, including Section 12 of Executive Order No. 635 are hereby deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 21. Separability Clause. – If any provision in this IRR, or application of such provision to any circumstance, is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

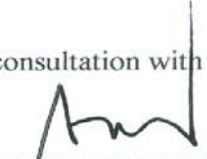
Section 22. Effectivity. - These rules and regulations shall take effect after fifteen (15) calendar days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.


APPROVED this 5th day of February 2009.

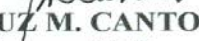

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