

National Economic and Development Authority

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
 NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT
 AUTHORITY
 PHILIPPINE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER
 SERVICE COORDINATING AGENCY
 NEDA COMPLEX, EDSA, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY

OFFICE CIRCULAR No. VII
 Series of 2006

GUIDELINES IN THE DEPLOYMENT OF FILIPINO VOLUNTEERS OVERSEAS

WHEREAS, the Philippine government has encouraged the deployment of foreign volunteers for national development and international understanding;

WHEREAS, in response to this show of international cooperation, the Philippine government through the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) likewise supports the deployment of Filipino volunteers overseas:

WHEREAS, there is a need for PNVSCA and its partner organizations to adopt common policies and guidelines for the effective and efficient deployment of Filipino volunteers overseas:

WHEREAS, the Executive Director of the PNVSCA is mandated to promulgate rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the volunteer program:

NOW, THEREFORE, to attain the above objectives, this set of guidelines is hereby adopted.

SECTION 1. Basic Policies.—The deployment of Filipino volunteers overseas shall be governed by the following:

- a) The Filipino overseas volunteer assistance shall aim towards (i) provision of technical assistance to the development programs and/or projects of

disadvantaged countries and (ii) promotion of international solidarity and cultural understanding between the Philippines and the host country.

- b) The Filipino overseas volunteers shall (i) possess certain levels of expertise that are essential to the implementation of the program or project and which are not readily available in the country of assignment: (ii) be imbued with genuine humanitarian motivations to share their skills and assist developing communities and (iii) possess the capacity for absorbing socio-cultural learning which can be translated into opportunities to help the Philippines as well as widen their personal and professional latitude.
 - c) The Filipino overseas volunteers shall return to the Philippines after their volunteer assignment and initiate efforts to share their technical and socio-cultural learning by participating in development programs and projects of their communities as well as help in the promotion and advancement of volunteerism in the country.
 - d) No Filipino volunteer shall be deployed overseas in technical fields and areas in which there is an equal demand in the Philippines in which case, such deployment of a Filipino volunteer may therefore proved disadvantageous to the country.
 - e) The Filipino volunteers' safety and health shall be of paramount importance in their deployment overseas.
- SEC. 2. Operational Guidelines.**—The local or foreign partner volunteer organization shall conform to the following:
- a) No deployment of Filipino volunteers overseas shall be allowed unless they are

approved, properly cleared, and registered with PNVSCA.

- b) Sponsoring volunteer sending organizations shall be duly registered with the PNVSCA and covered by a Bilateral Agreement in case of a foreign government volunteer organization, or a Memorandum of Agreement in case of a private local or foreign volunteer organization.
- c) Deployment of Filipino overseas volunteers shall conform with the provisions of this Office Circular as well as Executive Order No. 635 and other pertinent issuances of the PNVSCA.

SEC. 3. Monitoring and Evaluation.—To ensure that the deployment of Filipino volunteer overseas conform with the existing policies, the following shall be followed:

- a) The monitoring of the volunteers progress and accomplishments shall be a shared responsibility between the local or foreign partner volunteer organization and PNVSCA.

- b) The local or foreign partner volunteer organization shall furnish PNVSCA copies of the reports submitted by the volunteers. In the absence of such, PNVSCA report form shall be used by the volunteer and submitted for the purpose.

- c) The local or foreign partner volunteer organization and PNVSCA shall undertake regular consultations for the monitoring and evaluation of the deployment of Filipino volunteers overseas.

SEC. 4. Effectivity.—This set of guidelines shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the *Official Gazette*.

All office orders and circulars inconsistent herewith are hereby modified or amended accordingly.

Signed in Quezon City, this 23rd day of February, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and six.

(Sgd.) JOSELITO C. DE VERA
Executive Director