



Republic of the Philippines
National Economic and Development Authority

Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency

OFFICE CIRCULAR No. XV
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GUIDELINES ON PNVSCA ENDORSEMENT OF FILIPINOS VOLUNTEERING OVERSEAS (FVO)

WHEREAS, the Philippine government encourages the deployment of international volunteers for national and international cooperation and understanding;

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

WHEREAS, there is a need for PNVSCA and its partner volunteer service organizations (VSO) to adopt common policies and guidelines for the effective and efficient deployment of Filipino volunteers overseas;

WHEREAS, RA 9418 mandates PNVSCA to review and formulate policies and guidelines concerning the national volunteer service program consistent with national development priorities and act as clearinghouse for matters pertaining to international volunteer services;

Now, THEREFORE, to attain the above objective, this set of guidelines is hereby adopted.

SECTION I. Basic Policies. The deployment of Filipinos volunteering overseas shall be governed by the following:

- a. The deployment of Filipinos volunteering overseas shall aim towards:
 - (i) provision of support in the development process of the receiving countries or communities;
 - (ii) promotion of human capital build-up; and
 - (iii) strengthening of international solidarity and understanding between the Philippines and the host country.

- b. The Filipinos volunteering overseas shall possess any or all of the following:
 - (i) certain levels of skill and/or experience that can contribute to the implementation of the programs, projects and activities in the country of assignment;
 - (ii) genuine humanitarian motivations to share their skills taking into consideration rights-based approaches and other societal issues and concerns ensuring no harm to the community; and
 - (iii) 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 partner international volunteer service organization (IVSO) shall exercise sensitivity in the recruitment and deployment of Filipinos volunteering overseas and shall consider skills that are in short supply or in critical demand in the Philippines.
- d. The Filipino volunteers' safety and health shall be of paramount importance in their deployment overseas.
- e. The duration of the volunteer assignment shall be specified in the contract between the sponsoring volunteer service organization (VSO) and the volunteer.
- f. The Filipinos volunteering overseas are expected to return to the Philippines after their volunteer assignment and are encouraged to initiate efforts to share their technical and/or socio-cultural learnings by participating in development programs and projects in their communities as well as help in the promotion and advocacy of volunteerism in the country.

SECTION 2. Operational Guidelines - The volunteer service organization (VSO) shall conform to the following:

- a. Deployment of Filipino volunteers overseas shall undergo the clearing and registration process of PNVSCA.
- b. Sponsoring VSO shall be duly registered with the PNVSCA and covered by Bilateral Agreement in case of an international government-sponsored volunteering program, or a Memorandum of Agreement in case of a non-government volunteering program.
- c. Deployment of Filipino volunteers overseas shall conform with the provisions of this Office Circular as well as Republic Act No. 9418 or the Volunteer Act of 2007 and other pertinent issuances of the PNVSCA.

SECTION 3. Monitoring and Evaluation - To ensure that the deployment of Filipinos volunteering overseas conform with the existing policies, the following shall be followed:

- a. The monitoring of the volunteer's progress and accomplishments shall be a shared responsibility between the partner VSO and PNVSCA.
- b. The partner VSO and/or the volunteer shall report to PNVSCA on the status of the placement, significant accomplishments, and overall volunteering experience based on agreed schedule.
- c. The partner VSO and PNVSCA shall undertake regular consultations for the monitoring and evaluation of the deployment of Filipinos volunteering overseas.

SECTION 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.

DONALD JAMES D. GAWE
Executive Director

In consultation with the MSAB:

CARLOS BERNARDO O. ABAD SANTOS
Assistant Secretary
National Economic and Development Authority - Policy and Planning Group
Chair, PNVSCA-MSAB