



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**H. No. 6687**

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BY REPRESENTATIVES ROMUALDEZ (F.M.), ROMUALDEZ (Y.M.), ACIDRE, DALIPE, GO (M.), ROMULO, GONZALES (A.), PALMA, AUMENTADO, FRESNEDI, GATCHALIAN, TEVES (A.), LACSON, YAP (EDVIC), YAP (ERIC), DUTERTE, SORIANO, SALCEDA, ACOP, EUDELA, TUPAS, MACAPAGAL- ARROYO, SAKALURAN, VIOLAGO, GOMEZ, ROBES, GOLEZ, NOEL, LACSON-NOEL, SINGSON-MEEHAN, ABANTE, VILLAFUERTE (L.R.), VILLAFUERTE (M.L.), HORIBATA, ENCISO, TAMBUNTING, RILLO, CAJAYON-UY, YAP (C.), ALBANO, RODRIGUEZ (R.), CAGAS, TAN-TAMBU, CRUZ (A.), MASTURA, ALMARIO, VALMAYOR, SAGARBARRIA, CAMPOS, MARQUEZ, COLLANTES, CALDERON, RIVERA, GATO, CHUNGALAO, VELASCO, GASATAYA, FUENTEBELLA, LOYOLA, BULUT-BEGTANG, GARCIA (D.), ARROGANCIA, CO (E.), UNGAB, SUAREZ, QUIMBO, ALVAREZ (M.), ALVAREZ (J.), ARENAS, BAUTISTA-LIM, BERNOS, BONGALON, CABREDO, CO (A.N.), CUA, CUARESMA, DEL MAR, DY (F.), ESPINA, GONZAGA, HARESCO, LARA, LIMKAICHONG, MATUGAS, NAVA, SINGSON (R.V.), TIANGCO, TY, UMALI, YU (D.G.), ZAMORA (M.C.), ZUBIRI, ADVINCULA, BASCUG, BOSITA, CARDEMA, CHATTO, CO-PILAR, CRUZ (R.), DIMAPORO (S.A.), DIONISIO, GARDIOLA, HERNANDEZ, LAGON (D.), LAGON (S.), LAZATIN, MAGSINO, MANGAOANG, MANQUIZ, MATIBAG, MERCADO, NOGRALES (M.I.), OUANO-DIZON, PANALIGAN, PANCHO, PLEYTO, REYES, REVILLA (R.J.), RODRIGUEZ (E.), SALI, TALLADO, TAN (J.), TANCHAY, TULFO (J.), VERGARA, VERZOSA, TARRIELA, ACHARON, CARI AND CASTRO (J.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 252

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**AN ACT**  
**INSTITUTING A NATIONAL CITIZENS SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM IN ALL**  
**PUBLIC AND PRIVATE TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, REPEALING**  
**FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9163, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE**  
**“NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM ACT”, AND APPROPRIATING**  
**FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**ARTICLE I**  
**TITLE**

1       **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the "National Citizens Service  
2 Training Program Act".  
3

**ARTICLE II**  
**DECLARATION OF POLICY**

7       **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It shall be the policy of the State:  
8

- 9       a) To institutionalize the vital role of the youth in nation-building, promote, propagate and  
10       protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being; to inculcate in  
11       them patriotism, nationalism and respect for human rights; and to encourage their  
12       involvement in public and civic affairs;  
13
- 14       b) To constitute the youth into a major component of the Citizen Armed Force envisioned in  
15       the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, which shall undergo training and may  
16       be called upon to defend the State and to render personal military or civil service under  
17       conditions provided by law;  
18
- 19       c) To train, equip and organize the youth, within the current frameworks of national and  
20       territorial defense, law enforcement and peace and order and national disaster risk reduction  
21       and management, to prepare them for rapid mobilization at the soonest possible time in order  
22       to address national and local contingencies which may require personnel beyond the  
23       capabilities of existing national government agencies or local government units; and  
24
- 25       d) To capacitate the youth with the knowledge and practical skills to survive, respond, and  
26       recover individually and as part of a bigger community in times of national and local  
27       emergencies, contingencies and disasters, both natural and man-made.  
28

**ARTICLE III**  
**DEFINITION OF TERMS**

32       **SEC. 3. *Definition of terms.*** – As used in this Act:

- 1 a) ***Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Citizen Armed Force*** refers to the component of  
2 the AFP comprised of Citizen Soldiers or AFP Reservists trained and recruited in  
3 accordance with Republic Act No. 7077, otherwise known as the Citizen Armed Force or  
4 Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act, that serves as the base for the expansion of  
5 the AFP in the event of war, invasion or rebellion; to assist in relief and rescue during  
6 disaster or calamities; to assist in socioeconomic development; and to assist in the operation  
7 and maintenance of essential government or private utilities in the furtherance of its overall  
8 mission. It is alternately referred to as the *AFP Reserve Force*;  
9
- 10 b) ***AFP reservist*** refers to a graduate of the National Citizens Service Training (NCST) as  
11 established under this Act and as defined under Republic Act No. 7077. An AFP Reservist  
12 is alternately referred to as Citizen Soldier;  
13
- 14 c) ***Authorized organization*** refers to a legitimate juridical entity created by law, or registered  
15 with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or the Cooperative Development  
16 Authority (CDA) which has the competence to deliver courses of the NCST, a track record  
17 of undertaking quality programs, projects and activities for the youth which inculcate in the  
18 beneficiaries the values of patriotism, love of country, civic-mindedness, civic duty, service  
19 to others, and authorized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) or the Technical  
20 Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to deliver courses under the NCST  
21 Program;  
22
- 23 d) ***Cadet officer*** refers to a cadet who completed five (5) months of specialized training to be  
24 an officer with the intention of undergoing and completing the Reserve Officers Training  
25 Corps (ROTC) Program;  
26
- 27 e) ***Citizen-cadet*** refers to a student undergoing NCST and ROTC Training;  
28
- 29 f) ***Community-based NSRC Unit*** refers to the official aggrupation, organization, and  
30 operational unit of National Service Reserve Corps (NSRC) based in the *barangays*;  
31
- 32 g) ***Higher education*** refers to the stage of formal education, or its equivalent, requiring  
33 completion of secondary education and covering programs of study leading to bachelor and  
34 advanced degrees, including associate degrees;  
35
- 36 h) ***Higher education institution (HEI)*** refers to an institution of higher learning which  
37 primarily offers degree-granting programs duly recognized by the CHED and leading to the  
38 conferment of a diploma;  
39
- 40 i) ***National Citizens Service Training Monitoring and Oversight Committee*** refers to a multi-  
41 agency committee with private sector representatives mandated to ensure that the provisions  
42 and intent of this Act are properly implemented and adhered to. It shall ensure that there  
43 shall be no abuse of any kind in both the conduct of the trainings and the deployment of  
44 National Service Reservists and Citizen Soldiers;  
45
- 46 j) ***National Citizens Service Training Program*** refers to a two-year mandatory citizen service  
47 program administered and implemented by the CHED and TESDA in accordance with this  
48 Act;

- 1 **k) *National Service Reserve Corps*** refers to the official aggrupation and organization of  
2 National Service Reservists maintained and placed under the control and supervision of the  
3 National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) through the Office  
4 of Civil Defense (OCD) pursuant to Section 13 of Republic Act No. 10121, or the Philippine  
5 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010. It shall be civilian in nature and  
6 shall be a source for volunteers and conscripts in times of national or local necessity,  
7 calamities, emergencies, disasters, or armed conflict to perform non-combat duties and  
8 render services as the President or the appropriate local *sanggunian* may deem necessary;  
9
- 10 **l) *National Service Reservist*** refers to a graduate of the NCST Program registered under the  
11 NSRC as defined under this Act;  
12
- 13 **m) *Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program*** refers to a citizen service and military training  
14 program designed to produce officers for both the AFP Regular and Reserve Force;  
15
- 16 **n) *School-based NSRC Unit*** refers to the official aggrupation, organization and operational  
17 unit of National Service Reservists based in an HEI;  
18
- 19 **o) *School-based ready reserve unit*** refers to an operational unit of the AFP Citizen Armed  
20 Force based in an HEI;  
21
- 22 **p) *Sector or skill-based NSRC unit*** refers to the official aggrupation, organization and  
23 operational unit of the NSRC organized according to their sector, or competencies;  
24
- 25 **q) *Technical-vocational education and training (TVET) program or course*** refers to the  
26 education processes designed for the post-secondary and lower tertiary levels and are  
27 officially recognized as non-degree programs aimed at preparing technicians, para-  
28 professionals and other categories of middle-level workers by providing them with a broad  
29 range of general education, theoretical, scientific and technological training, and related job  
30 skills training;  
31
- 32 **r) *Technical-vocational institution (TVI)*** refers to a TESDA-registered or accredited learning  
33 institution offering postsecondary TVET;  
34
- 35 **s) *Tertiary education*** refers to the stage of education following the secondary cycle which  
36 subsumes post-secondary non-degree diploma, TVET, and higher education programs,  
37 including graduate education;  
38
- 39 **t) *Tertiary education institution (TEI)*** refers to a learning institution that provides post-K-12  
40 education or training and covers both HEIs and TVIs; and  
41
- 42 **u) *Undergraduate degree program*** refers to any postsecondary program, also known as  
43 baccalaureate, leading to a degree as may be authorized and recognized by the CHED.  
44  
45

## 46 **ARTICLE IV**

### 47 **THE NATIONAL CITIZENS SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM**

#### 48

49 **SEC. 4. *Establishment of the National Citizens Service Training Program (NCST)***  
50 ***Program.*** – There is hereby established a NCST Program, which shall be implemented by the

CHED in all HEIs and by the TESDA in all TVIs, both in consultation with the Department of National Defense (DND).

**SEC. 5. Coverage of the NCST Program.** – The NCST shall be mandatory for all students enrolled in undergraduate degree programs in all public and private HEIs and at least two-year TVET programs in all TVIs in the Philippines.

The NCST shall be administered to cover undergraduate and postsecondary TVET students for at least four (4) semesters or two hundred forty (240) hours over two (2) school years, unless otherwise allowed by the CHED or TESDA in accordance with the rules recommended by the NCST Technical Panel.

**SEC. 6. NCST Program Technical Panel.** – The NCST Program design, curriculum, modes and method of delivery shall be formulated, periodically reviewed and updated by a Technical Panel to be composed of representatives from the CHED, TESDA, DND, NDRRMC through the OCD, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Philippine National Police (PNP), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), National Youth Commission (NYC), Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA), Philippine Red Cross, one representative each from the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC), Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (COCOPEA), and the Association of Local Colleges and Universities (ALCU), representative from the union of teachers and representative from the students, and two (2) private sector representatives who shall be recognized experts or practitioners in the fields of citizen service training, disaster preparedness, reservist training, or related fields. The student representative and one (1) of the private sector representatives shall be appointed by the CHED Chairperson and one (1) private sector representative shall be appointed by the TESDA Director General. The NCST Program Technical Panel shall be under the CHED. The annual funds of the Technical Panel shall be included in the annual appropriations of the CHED.

The NCST Technical Panel shall formulate and recommend to the CHED the policies, standards, and guidelines to make the four (4) year ROTC program an appropriate baccalaureate degree program.

**SEC. 7. The Curriculum of the NCST Program.** – The NCST Program design and curriculum shall provide the students with practical and applicable knowledge and skills that are necessary, essential, and ideal for survival, and for attaining resilience, and to ensure the immediate availability of these skills in times of local and national emergencies and disasters, both natural and man-made. It shall instill in students the values of civic mindedness, volunteerism, and genuine service to others. It shall develop tertiary education students to be community crisis managers and leaders in times of emergencies and disasters.

The curriculum of the NCST Program shall ensure that students who finish the NCST Program shall have undergone the appropriate citizen competency training which shall include civic duty inculcation, literacy training services, survival and safety techniques including first-aid administration, and community or mass emergency and disaster response and management.

Except for justifiable causes and only upon the issuance of a Certificate of Exception by the CHED or TESDA, the NCST Program must be completed, as far as practicable, within the first two (2) years of all undergraduate degree programs and a two (2)-year TVET program.

1 The NCST shall be a requisite for graduation of covered tertiary education students.

2  
3 **SEC. 8. *Special NCST Program for Students under Special Circumstances.*** – There  
4 shall be no exemptions from the NCST Program. However, the CHED or TESDA, based on  
5 rules recommended by the NCST Technical Panel, shall prescribe alternative NCST Programs  
6 to address students with special needs and persons with disabilities.  
7

8 Filipino students enrolled in TVET Programs conducted for less than two (2) years  
9 shall be provided special seminars, as the TESDA and the appropriate government agency  
10 may prescribe.  
11

12 **SEC. 9. *Special Program for Foreign Nationals.*** – Foreign nationals enrolled in  
13 undergraduate degree programs or TVET courses where the NCST is required shall also  
14 undergo a Special NCST Program prescribed by the CHED or TESDA that would deepen their  
15 understanding and appreciation of the Philippines, its people, society, culture and government,  
16 and harness their potential as bridges to improve the relationship of their respective countries  
17 with the Philippines:  
18

19 **SEC. 10. *Venue of Training.*** – The NCST Program shall be administered by HEIs or  
20 TVIs within their campuses or facilities. Should it be determined that it is impracticable to do  
21 so, HEIs and TVIs should immediately make the same known to the CHED Regional Office or  
22 TESDA Regional Office, and recommend the designation of safe and appropriate venues for  
23 the NCST. As far as practicable, the venue shall be proximate to the campuses or facilities of  
24 the public and private HEI or TVI. Citizens Military Training Centers established in accordance  
25 with Republic Act No. 7077 may be utilized as training venues for purposes of this Act.  
26

27 **SEC. 11. *Prohibition on the Charging of Fees for Venues.*** – All local and national  
28 government agencies and instrumentalities that are managing sites and venues designated by  
29 CHED or TESDA for the conduct of NCST activities shall not charge any fees, except for  
30 reasonable fines and penalties for violations of the rules and regulations of the areas.  
31

32 **SEC. 12. *Delivery of Courses by Authorized Organizations or Partner Government***  
33 ***Agencies and Entities.*** – The CHED and TESDA, subject to rules as may be recommended by  
34 the NCST Technical Panel, may allow lawfully established non-partisan organizations and  
35 government agencies to partner with HEIs and TVIs in delivering the non-military NCST  
36 courses to students.  
37

38 Any private organization which seeks to be recognized by the CHED or TESDA shall  
39 apply with the CHED or TESDA for such recognition and present evidence to establish its (1)  
40 track record for noteworthy values-forming programs, projects and activities with the youth  
41 and (2) capacity and competence to deliver the knowledge or skill required for the course to be  
42 delivered. Only legitimate juridical entities created by law or registered with the SEC or the  
43 CDA may apply for registration.  
44

45 Applying organizations must also submit appropriate security clearances from the PNP  
46 and National Bureau of Investigation.  
47

48 Private HEIs are allowed to implement such courses in-house without the need for  
49 partnerships with organizations. They may also partner with other HEIs and establish consortia  
50 for the delivery of training programs.



**SEC. 18. *Acceptance into the ROTC Program.*** – Students who volunteer for the ROTC program in HEIs shall be governed by Section 40 of Republic Act No. 7077. The provisions of Sections 42 and 43 of Republic Act No. 7077 in terms of training, uniforms and supplies, and the scholarship incentive shall remain effective and applicable for those accepted in the ROTC Program.

**SEC. 19. *Organization, operation, and maintenance of ROTC Units.*** – The organization, operation, and maintenance for the establishment of ROTC Units shall be in accordance with Sections 41 and 42 of Republic Act No. 7077 and shall remain effective and operative unless inconsistent with this Act. The Secretary of National Defense shall, in consultation with the CHED, prescribe the organization and operational manual of ROTC units in public and private HEIs, subject to the evaluation and approval of the Department of Budget and Management.

The DND shall create or designate an office with a focal person dedicated to the supervision and administration of the optional ROTC program.

**SEC. 20. *Incentives to students undergoing the ROTC Program.*** – ROTC cadets are entitled to the following benefits:

- (1) Subject to other requirements prescribed by rules and regulations of the DND and other concerned government agencies, graduates of the ROTC shall, upon completion of the ROTC program, be eligible for commissioning as officers in the Reserve Force of the AFP;
- (2) Free hospitalization, medicines, and medical care in any government hospital in case of accident or injury during their training; and
- (3) Automatic grant of first level civil service eligibility for ROTC graduates.

**SEC. 21. *Incentives to HEIs implementing the ROTC Program.*** – The Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UNIFAST) is hereby mandated to come up with a system of incentives and financial assistance for both public and private HEIs implementing the ROTC Program.

**ARTICLE VI**  
**ORGANIZATION, MANAGEMENT, AND MOBILIZATION OF THE NATIONAL**  
**SERVICE RESERVE CORPS**

**SEC. 22. *Creation of the National Service Reserve Corps.*** – There is hereby created a National Service Reserve Corps (NSRC), hereinafter referred to as National Service Reservists (NSRs), to be placed under the control and supervision of the NDRRMC through the OCD pursuant to Republic Act No. 10121, otherwise known as the “Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction Management Act of 2010”. It shall be civilian in nature and shall be a source for volunteers and conscripts in times of national or local necessity, calamities, emergencies, disasters, or armed conflict to perform non-combat and non-military duties and services as the President or the appropriate local *sanggunian* may deem necessary.

**SEC. 23. Program and Mobilization.** – The NDRRMC shall, through the OCD and in consultation with the PNVSCA, local government units (LGUs), and other agencies with public



1 service and volunteerism mandates, undertake programs and activities to provide and promote  
2 avenues and platforms for NSRs to volunteer their services even under normal or non-  
3 emergency conditions and circumstances.

4  
5 LGUs shall establish programs that would continuously enhance and imbibe the spirit  
6 of volunteerism among NSRs and strengthen NSRC Units within their respective territorial  
7 jurisdictions through local mobilizations, sustained participation in local events and activities,  
8 annual local awards and recognition systems for outstanding local citizen service programs and  
9 local stakeholders and other analogous programs.

10  
11 **SEC. 24. *Mandatory Registration and Enlistment in the NSRC.*** – All graduates of  
12 the NCST shall be enlisted as NSRs in the NSRC. The NDRRMC shall, through the OCD,  
13 provide for the rules and regulations governing community, school, sector or skill-based  
14 registration of all NCST graduates.

15  
16 **SEC. 25. *School-based and Community-based National Reserve Corps Units.*** – The  
17 NDRRMC shall, through the OCD, have the authority to organize the NSRs in school and  
18 community-based units. College students, including medical degree students in HEIs shall  
19 register with the School-based NSRC Unit of their respective HEIs. The NSRs enrolled in  
20 graduate programs may opt to register with the School-based NSRC Unit of their HEIs or  
21 register with the Community-based NSRC Unit of the barangays where they reside or where  
22 their places of work are. All other NSRs shall register with the Community-based NSRC Units  
23 of the barangays where they reside or where their places of work are, subject to rules as the  
24 NDRRMC may prescribe.

25  
26 The NDRRMC may, through the OCD, require HEIs offering baccalaureate degree  
27 programs and barangay governments to provide appropriate office space, access to facilities  
28 and personnel to assist the NDRRMC and the OCD in managing and administering School-  
29 based and Community-based NSRC Units.

30  
31 The NDRRMC may, through the OCD and in consultation with the DILG and the  
32 CHED, promulgate the rules and regulations governing the organization, establishment and  
33 management of community and school-based NSRC Units. Such rules and regulations shall  
34 provide for nationwide and localized mobilization of all NSRs.

35  
36 **SEC. 26. *Sector and Skill-Based National Reserve Corps Units.*** – The NDRRMC  
37 shall, through the OCD, have the authority to organize and mobilize NSRs based on their sector,  
38 skills, or competencies. As far as practicable, NSRs shall be mobilized and deployed based on  
39 their possessed competencies and skills.

40  
41 **SEC. 27. *Continuous Training of NSRs.*** – The NDRRMC shall, through the OCD,  
42 develop systems and promulgate the necessary rules to ensure that NSRs are regularly provided  
43 readiness enhancement trainings to maintain their state of readiness. Attendance in NSRC  
44 Readiness Enhancement Trainings shall be deemed as a form of NSRC deployment. A  
45 recognition and badge system for NSRs for the acquisition and enhancement of citizen service-  
46 relevant skills and competencies, as may be recommended by the NCST Technical Panel, shall  
47 be adopted and implemented by the OCD.

48  
49 **SEC. 28. *Annual NSRC Mobilization.*** – The OCD shall, in consultation with the  
50 DILG, DSWD, DND and Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Offices, ensure that

1 all Community-based and School-based NSRC Units conduct at least one (1) mobilization  
2 exercise every year to ensure the readiness of NSRC Units and NSRs.

3  
4 **SEC. 29. *Prohibition against the mobilization of NCST Citizen-Cadets.*** – Only NSRs  
5 shall be mandatorily deployed or conscripted in times of national or local necessity, calamities,  
6 emergencies, disasters, or armed conflict to perform non-combat and non-military duties and  
7 services as the President or the appropriate local *sanggunian* may so declare. No student  
8 undergoing NCST shall be required to render service as an NSR.

9  
10 **SEC. 30. *Benefits and privileges of NSRs.*** – Deployed NSRs shall be entitled to the  
11 following benefits:

12  
13 a) Free hospitalization, medicines, and medical care in any government hospital in case  
14 of accident or injury during deployment;

15  
16 b) For those that have a cumulative deployment period of one hundred eighty (180)  
17 days, a grant of eligibility for local disaster risk reduction and management item  
18 positions, subject to rules to be issued jointly by the DILG and Civil Service  
19 Commission; and

20  
21 c) Free food, accommodations, and such other amenities necessary or essential to the  
22 performance of their mandated tasks as deployed NSRs.

23  
24 **SEC. 31. *Effect of NSRC or AFP Citizen Armed Force deployment on employees and***  
25 ***students.*** – Deployment of employees in accordance with the provisions of this Act shall not  
26 be a ground for dismissal or diminution of any benefit enjoyed by such employees prior to their  
27 deployment.

28  
29 Deployment of students in accordance with the provisions of this Act shall not prejudice  
30 the academic standing, status, scholarship, privilege, or grant enjoyed by the students prior to  
31 and during deployment.

32  
33 **SEC. 32. *Awards and Recognition System for National Service Reservists.*** – The  
34 NCST Monitoring and Oversight Committee shall establish a national-level system of awards  
35 and recognition for outstanding NSRs and Citizen-Cadets and Exemplary Volunteer and  
36 Service Programs under this Act.

37  
38 All LGUs shall adopt and implement annual local awards and recognition system for  
39 outstanding citizen service programs, reservists, cadet-citizens, cadets and other stakeholders  
40 within their respective areas of jurisdiction.

41  
42  
43 **ARTICLE VII**  
44 **ORGANIZATION AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE AFP CITIZEN ARMED FORCE**

45  
46 **SEC. 33. *Organization and Deployment of AFP Reservists.*** – The DND shall provide  
47 for the rules and regulations governing the organization and deployment of AFP Reservists  
48 enlisted pursuant to this Act.

1       **SEC. 34. *School-based Ready Reserve Units (SBRRUs).*** – School-Based Ready  
2 Reserve Units (SBRRUs) may be organized by the DND, through the AFP, in public and  
3 private HEI campuses offering baccalaureate or undergraduate degree programs. The DND  
4 shall, through the AFP, promulgate the rules and regulations for the establishment,  
5 management, and operation of SBRRUs. HEIs shall provide office space, access to facilities  
6 and personnel to assist the DND and AFP in managing SBRRUs.  
7

8       Private HEIs shall have the authority to select from the list of eligible DND and AFP  
9 Officers, those to be subject for deployment in their institutions. Moreover, the HEIs' personnel  
10 and discipline policies for administrators and staff shall as far as practicable apply to uniformed  
11 personnel deployed to the HEIs. Furthermore, that HEIs shall have the power after due process  
12 to request for the immediate removal of any officer assigned to it who is found to have  
13 committed any form of abuses or have engaged in corruption activities and similar offenses in  
14 the implementation of the program.  
15

16  
17                                   **ARTICLE VIII**  
18                   **MONITORING, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND PREVENTING ABUSES**  
19

20       **SEC. 35. *NCST Monitoring and Oversight Committee.*** – There is hereby established  
21 a NCST Monitoring and Oversight Committee which is mandated to ensure that the provisions  
22 and intent of this Act are properly implemented and adhered to, and that there shall be no abuse  
23 of any kind in both the conduct of NSTC trainings and deployment of NSRs and AFP  
24 Reservists.  
25

26       **SEC. 36. *Composition of the NCST Monitoring and Oversight Committee.*** – The  
27 NCST Monitoring and Oversight Committee shall be composed of the following or their duly  
28 designated representatives:  
29

- 30                   a) CHED Chairperson, as Chairperson;  
31                   b) DND Secretary, as Vice Chairperson;  
32                   c) TESDA Director General;  
33                   d) DILG Secretary;  
34                   e) DSWD Secretary;  
35                   f) National Security Adviser;  
36                   g) NYC Chairperson;  
37                   h) National organization of state universities and colleges;  
38                   i) National organization of local universities and colleges;  
39                   j) National organization of private higher education institutions; and  
40                   k) Two (2) representatives of relevant national organizations to be appointed  
41                   by the CHED Chairperson and the TESDA Director General, respectively.  
42

43       **SEC. 37. *Powers and Functions of the NCST Monitoring and Oversight Committee.***  
44 – The NCST Monitoring and Oversight Committee shall have the following powers and  
45 functions:  
46

- 47                   a) Review, monitor, and provide strategic guidance on the implementation of this Act;  
48  
49                   b) Receive and cause the immediate and expedient investigation of all complaints or  
50                   reports of forms of abuses, corruption, hazing, torture, data privacy rights violation,

1 and all forms of violation of human rights in any of the programs under the NCST  
2 and mobilization system;

- 3
- 4 c) Conduct announced and unannounced inspections of citizen service classes and  
5 activities, NCST and ROTC sessions and facilities, NSRC Units, SBRRUs and  
6 other Reserve Units under the AFP Citizen Armed Force;
- 7
- 8 d) Immediately inform and compel concerned agencies, organizations or personnel  
9 engaged or involved in the implementation of this Act to undertake corrective  
10 actions or measures to address any abuse, inefficiency or lapses in the  
11 implementation of this Act;
- 12
- 13 e) Receive annual reports from the DND, OCD, and AFP on the proper  
14 implementation of the NCST, ROTC, NSRC, and AFP Citizen Armed Force;
- 15
- 16 f) Establish a national-level recognition system for outstanding NSRC and AFP  
17 Reservists, Citizen-cadets and Cadets and Exemplary Volunteer and Service  
18 Programs; and
- 19
- 20 g) Deputize or delegate to agencies, organizations or individuals any of its mandated  
21 powers and functions under this Act.
- 22

23 **SEC. 38. NCST Monitoring and Oversight in HEIs.** – CHED shall provide  
24 guidelines for the establishment offices within the HEIs to receive and hear complaints of  
25 abuses; assist student-trainees on their needs; and promote the welfare of student-trainees under  
26 the Program.

27

28  
29 **ARTICLE IX**  
30 **PENAL PROVISIONS**

31

32 **SEC. 39. Maximum Penalty.** – Any act of abuse, corruption, hazing, torture, data  
33 privacy rights violation, or violation of human rights committed in direct or indirect relation to  
34 the implementation of this Act, which are punished criminally or administratively by existing  
35 laws, rules or regulations, shall be prosecuted in accordance with such laws, rules or  
36 regulations: *Provided*, That the penalty to be imposed shall be the maximum penalty. The  
37 accessory penalty of permanent or temporary absolute disqualification from government  
38 service may also be imposed on government officers and employees found to have committed  
39 the acts prohibited under this Section.

40

41 **SEC. 40. Prosecution not a bar to civil action.** – Criminal or administrative  
42 prosecution shall not be a bar to any civil action for damages or any appropriate relief a victim  
43 of any act of abuse, corruption, hazing, torture, data privacy rights violation, or violation of  
44 human rights committed in direct or indirect relation to the implementation of this Act may  
45 file.

46

47 **ARTICLE X**  
48 **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

**SEC. 41. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year’s appropriations of the offices and agencies concerned. Thereafter, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SEC. 42. *School Fees.*** – Covered HEIs and TVIs may collect a reasonable NCST training fee of not more than fifty percent (50%) of the tuition fee per academic unit or subject. Such funds shall be used only for the implementation of the NCST. The CHED, TESDA and DND shall determine the reasonable distribution of the fees among the HEI, TVI and DND to cover the cost of training and related expenses.

Public HEIs and TVIs covered by Republic Act No. 10931, otherwise known as the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act, shall not collect any fee for the NCST or ROTC. The training costs shall be included in the annual appropriations of such HEIs or TVIs. In cases of students not eligible to avail of the benefits under Republic Act No. 10931, public colleges, universities, and similar learning institutions may collect a training fee of not more than fifty percent (50%) of the tuition fee per academic unit.

The HEIs and TVIs not covered by Republic Act No. 10931 may collect a training fee of not more than fifty percent (50%) of the tuition fee per academic unit. Such funds shall be used only for the implementation of the NCST and ROTC programs and the maintenance of the School-based NSRC Units and School-based Ready Reserve Units, if any.

**SEC 43. *Annual Reports.*** – The OCD shall regularly publish an annual report containing information on the deployment and employment of NSRs, the accomplishments of the NSRC, an assessment of readiness for mobilization of NSRs, and the incidence and details of each mobilization for each year. Such report shall be submitted to the President, the Senate President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of National Defense, the Secretary of Education, the CHED Chairperson, and the TESDA Director General.

**SEC. 44. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the CHED, TESDA and DND shall, in consultation with the DILG, DSWD, NYC, PASUC, COCOPEA, and ALCU, formulate and jointly promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

## ARTICLE XI

### TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

**SEC. 45. *Transition Period of Implementation.*** – To ensure efficient transition and to enable all public and private schools to adopt the necessary structural changes within their units in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the NCST and ROTC under this Act shall be administered only after the promulgation of the implementing rules and regulations: *Provided,* That the implementation of the programs shall commence within a non-extendable period of twenty-four (24) months from the effectivity of this Act.

**SEC. 46. *Current Enrollment under Republic Act No. 9163.*** – In all cases and until such time as the rules and regulations of this Act are published and have taken effect, students who are currently enrolled under the curriculum implemented by virtue of Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the “National Service Training Program Act of 2001”, shall be

1 allowed to finish the curriculum and be deemed to have satisfied the requirement for graduation  
2 after completion thereof.

3  
4 **SEC. 47. *Priority employment of NSRs as NSTP Personnel under Republic Act No.***  
5 **9163.** – Upon the effectivity of this Act, lecturers, instructors, and other personnel  
6 implementing the NSTP program shall be prioritized for hiring into the new program  
7 established under this Act to assist in the management of the NCST in HEIs and TVIs. They  
8 may also be granted authority, subject to rules to be issued by the CHED and TESDA, to be  
9 NCST Program lecturers, instructors and implementers.

10  
11 **ARTICLE XII**  
12 **FINAL PROVISIONS**  
13

14 **SEC. 48. *Repealing Clause.*** – Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the  
15 “National Service Training Program Act of 2001”, is hereby repealed. The relevant provisions  
16 of Republic Act No. 7077, otherwise known as the “Citizen Armed Force or Armed Forces of  
17 the Philippines Reservist Act”, which are inconsistent with the relevant provisions of this Act  
18 are hereby amended. All other laws, orders, rules, regulations and other issuances, or parts  
19 thereof, which are inconsistent with the relevant provisions of this Act are likewise amended  
20 or modified accordingly.

21  
22 **SEC. 49. *Separability Clause.*** – Any provision of this Act that is declared  
23 unconstitutional or invalid shall not affect the validity of the other provisions hereof.

24  
25 **SEC. 50. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
26 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,