

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

*Second Regular Session*

SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SENATE

9 MAY 18 P6:01

S.B. No. **3256**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator **RICHARD J. GORDON**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Girl Scouts of the Philippines ("GSP") is one of the oldest and most esteemed organizations in the country. Troops were organized by American Army and Navy families in various parts of the Philippines as early as 1917. The Movement was officially founded in the late 1930s by wartime heroine Josefa Llanes Escoda and in 1940, its charter was created by virtue of Commonwealth Act No. 542.

During the Japanese occupation, Ms. Escoda, a number of GSP Central Committee members and other women leaders and volunteers rendered much-needed relief to Death March prisoners in San Fernando and Capas. Their humanitarian services included conveying messages of families to war prisoners, preparing a data base of names and addresses of Filipino prisoners of war who were detained at Camp O'Donnell in Capas, Tarlac, collection of food, medicine, clothing and other necessities, and feeding and provide stranded students.

With almost 1.8 million members in both public and private schools as of February 2009, the GSP continues to be relevant, now more than ever. Its Mission is both timely and timeless: "to help girls and young women realize the ideals of womanhood and prepare them for their roles and responsibilities in the home and in nation-building." This is in consonance with Article II, Section 13 of the 1987 Constitution, which provides:

The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

This bill seeks to preserve the independent nature of the GSP as a private, non-sectarian, non-political entity by exempting it from taxes and tariffs, including income and real property taxes. The amendments will likewise allow GSP to continue to thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and promote its timeless ideals of volunteerism, honor, loyalty, helpfulness, sisterhood, courtesy, respect for all living things, discipline, self-reliance, thrift and cleanliness in thought, word and deed.

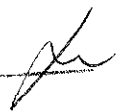
In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**RICHARD J. GORDON**  
Senator

9 MAY 18 P6:01

SENATE

S.B. No. 3256

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator **RICHARD J. GORDON**

**AN ACT INSTITUTING THE GIRL SCOUTS OF THE  
PHILIPPINES CHARTER**

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

1       **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known and cited as the “*Girl*  
2       *Scouts of the Philippines Charter of 2009.*”

3       **SECTION 2. Incorporation.** – The “Girl Scouts of the Philippines,”  
4       hereinafter called the “Corporation,” with principal office in Metropolitan Manila,  
5       Philippines, is hereby recognized and known as a private juridical entity  
6       as originally and duly organized and incorporated by Conception R. Gonzales,  
7       Trinidad F. Legarda, Emilia Q. Lim, Conception M. Gil, Marina Y. Vargas,  
8       Pilar Hidalgo Lim, Josefa Llanes Escoda, Helena Z. Benitez, Maria  
9       Quezon, Lulu Reyes, Lily de las Alas, Leni Alano, Erlinda Kalaw,  
10      Betty Magalona, Lourdes Ledesma, Minerva G. Laudico, all of Manila,  
11      Philippines, their associates and successors.

12       **SECTION 3. Corporate Powers.** – The said Corporation shall have  
13      perpetual succession, with power to sue and be sued; to acquire, hold, and  
14      convey such real and personal estate, rights and chooses in action as shall be  
15      necessary for corporate purposes, and to receive funds, real and personal

1 property, by gift, device, bequest of other means; to adopt a seal; to have offices  
2 and conduct its business and affairs in the Metropolitan Manila area and in the  
3 provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays of the Philippines; to make and  
4 adopt by-laws, and generally do all acts and exercise all powers of a corporation  
5 under existing laws, as may be necessary to carry into effect the  
6 provisions of this Act and promote the purposes of said Corporation.

7       **SECTION 4. *Vision and Mission.*** – The Corporation envisions the Filipino  
8 girl and young woman as God-loving, patriotic, progressive, dynamic, and pro-  
9 active. The mission of this Corporation is to help girls and young women realize  
10 the ideals of womanhood and prepare themselves for their responsibilities in the  
11 home, the nation, and the world community. To carry out the mission,  
12 the Corporation shall be the directing coordinating head of the Girl  
13 Scouts Movement in the Philippines, and shall fix and maintain standards  
14 which will inspire every generation with the highest ideals of citizenship, character,  
15 conduct, attainment, and international understanding.

16       **SECTION 5. *Nature and Purpose.*** – The Girl Scouts of the Philippines is  
17 a private and independent, non-stock, non-profit, non-sectarian, non-political,  
18 corporation that espouses volunteerism but it shall willingly cooperate with other  
19 entities, public and private, whose ideals and procedures are in accord with those  
20 conferred or authorized by this Act.

21       **SECTION 6. *Central Board.*** – (a) The governing body of the Corporation  
22 shall be vested in a Central Board composed of at least thirty-seven  
23 (37) but not more than forty-seven (47) members, as prescribed in the By  
24 laws, as follows:

- 25 (1) eight (8) Charter/ Life members who shall be chose  
1 and among themselves;
- 2 (2) the Regional Chairpersons of the Girl Scouts  
3 Regions of the Philippines who shall be elected  
4 by their respective Regions;
- 5 (3) the National President of the Boy Scouts of the  
6 Philippines;
- 7 (4) the immediate Past National President of the Girl  
8 Scouts of the Philippines;
- 9 (5) one Senior Girl Scout / Cadette or young adult from  
10 each Girl Scout Region to represent the  
11 membership, who shall be elected by the Girl  
12 Scouts of each region;
- 13 (6) the remaining members shall be members-at-  
14 large, who shall be elected by the National  
15 Council from a list submitted by the  
16 Nominating Committee, as defined in the By-laws,  
17 from nominees from Provincial/City Councils  
18 Regional Committees and National Committees.

19 The Central Board shall have the power to make and to amend the  
20 Constitution and by-laws of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines, subject to  
21 ratification by the National Council, create standing and special committees and  
22 provide policies and procedures as may be necessary to carry out the business of  
23 the Corporation.

24 It shall meet regularly at least twice a year. The number necessary  
25 to constitute a quorum, which number may be less than a majority of the whole  
26 number of the Board shall be fixed by the By-laws.

27 The members of the Central Board shall serve for a

28 term of three (3) years or until their successors shall have been elected and  
1 qualified. In case of inability of a member to assume office or when any  
2 vacancy occurs by reason of death, resignation, or incapacity, the position  
3 shall be filled by the candidate who received the next highest number  
4 of votes in the preceding election.

5         The Central Board shall elect from among themselves the  
6 National Officers of the Corporation, to wit: the National President,  
7 the First National Vice President, the Second National Vice-President, the  
8 National Secretary, the National Treasurer, the Assistant National  
9 Secretary, the Assistant National Treasurer, and such other officers as the  
10 Central Board may deem necessary.

11         (b) A woman President of the Philippines or the First  
12 Lady of the Philippines shall be the Chief Girl Scout of the Girl Scouts of the  
13 Philippines.

14         **SECTION 7. *National Executive Committee*** – There shall be a  
15 National Executive Committee composed of all the officers and chairpersons of  
16 Standing Committees, as defined in the By-laws, which shall be  
17 responsible for implementing the policies and decisions of the National Council  
18 and Central Board.

19         **SECTION 8. *National Council***. – There shall be a National Council which  
20 shall serve as a forum for guidelines, directions and evaluation of the Girl Scout  
21 Movement. It shall be composed of the members of the Central Board and the  
22 Presidents of the Girl Scout Councils or their duly designated representatives,  
23 and such number of elected delegates from each council as may be prescribed in  
24 the By-laws.

1           The National Council shall convene once every three (3) years in  
2   a convention assembled for the purpose. Special conventions may be called. The  
3   number of delegates to constitute a quorum in both conventions , as well as the  
4   time, place, and manner of holding the same shall be prescribed in the By-Laws

5           The National Council shall elect the Members-at-Large of the  
6   Central Board; ratify amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Girl  
7   Scouts of the Philippine by a two-thirds (2/3) votes of its members present and  
8   voting; serve as a forum for guidelines, policies, and directions; and consider  
9   such matters as may come before the convention:

10          **SECTION 9. *Girl Scouts Symbols/Trademarks.*** – The Corporation shall  
11   adopt distinctive badges, uniforms, insignia, and other equipment which shall  
12   be made available to and used only by registered Girl Scouts or officials who  
13   have satisfactorily complied with the international requirements prescribed  
14   by the World Bureau of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl  
15   Scouts (“WAGGGS”) and which the Girl Scouts of the Philippines shall  
16   use in carrying out its programs in accordance with the purpose of this  
17   Act. The Corporation shall cause the registration of said badges, uniforms,  
18   insignias, and other equipment in accordance with the provisions of  
19   Republic Act No. 8293, otherwise known as the Intellectual Property  
20   Code of the Philippines, as amended. The Intellectual Property Office  
21   is hereby directed to cause said registration free of charge.

22          **SECTION 10. *Fiscal Incentives.*** - The Corporation shall be entitled to the  
23   following tax incentives, duty, privileges and exemptions:

24          (a) Exemption from income tax pursuant to Section

1 30 (e), (g) and (h) of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997 as amended;  
2 (b) Tax and/or duty exemption of donations  
3 from foreign countries as provided under relevant laws such as, but not  
4 limited to, Section 105 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the  
5 Philippines as amended, Section 109(q) of the National Internal  
6 Revenue Code, as amended.

7 Likewise, all donations, legacies, and gifts to the Girl  
8 Scouts of the Philippines to support its purposes and objective as  
9 embodied in this Act shall, subject to the limitations and conditions  
10 under the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended, be exempt  
11 from donor's tax and shall be deductible from the gross income of the  
12 donor for income tax purposes, and such donations, legacies, and gifts shall  
13 be expended by the Central Board in pursuance of this Act.

14 The Corporation shall likewise be exempt from payment of all  
15 other taxes, duties, imposts, and other charges.

16 (c) Exemption from real property taxes.

17 **SECTION 11.** *Penal Cause.* – Upon the effectivity of this Act, it shall  
18 be unlawful to any person within the jurisdiction of the Philippines to falsely  
19 and fraudulently call herself as or represent herself to be a member of, or  
20 an agent for, Girl Scouts of the Philippines; and any person who violates  
21 any of the provisions of this Act shall be punished by *prison correccional* in  
22 its minimum period or a fine not exceeding Twenty Thousand  
23 Pesos (P20,000.00) or both, at the discretion of the court.

24           It shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture,  
1   sell,   distribute,   use,   apply,   feature,   portray   or   cause   to   be  
2   manufactured,   sold,   distributed,   applied,   featured   or   portrayed  
3   fraudulently   or   without   the   official   knowledge   and   written   approval   of  
4   the   Central   Board   of   the   Girl   Scouts   of   the   Philippines,   badges   uniforms,  
5   insignias,   or   scouting   paraphernalia   or   the   photos   or   visuals   of   a   Girl  
6   Scout   or   Girl   Scouts   in   uniforms,   or   the   logo,   seal   or   corporate   name   of  
7   the   Girl   Scouts   of   the   Philippines,   in   any   print   and   radio   or   television  
8   commercial,   billboard,   collateral   material,   or   any   form   of  
9   advertisement;   or   to   use   the   name   of   the   Girl   Scouts   of   the   Philippines  
10   for   any   illegal   purpose   or   personal   gain.

11           Any violation of the provisions of Section 9 and this  
12   Section shall be punished by *prision correccional* in its medium period to  
13   *prision mayor* in its minimum period or a fine not less than  
14   Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) nor more than Five Hundred  
15   Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court;  
16   *provided*, that in case of corporations, partnerships, associations, societies  
17   or companies, the President, the Chief Executive Officer, Managing  
18   Partner, the Chairman of the Board, the General Manager, the  
19   Administrator, or the person in charge of the management or the  
20   administration of the business shall be criminally responsible for any such  
21   violation, these penalties shall be without prejudice to the proper civil action  
22   for recovery of civil damages which may be instituted together with or  
23   independently of the criminal prosecution.



1           **SECTION 12. *Transitory Provision.*** – Until such time as the  
2 reorganization and restructuring of the Central Board in accordance with the  
3 Section 6 herein is effected, the president administrative set-up shall be  
4 maintained to conduct the affairs of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines and to  
5 take the necessary steps to effect the reorganization within six (6) months  
6 from the effectivity of this Act .

7           **SECTION 13. *Dissolution.*** – In the event that the Girl Scouts of  
8 the Philippines is dissolved in any manner provided for by law, the properties and  
9 assets thereof shall be conveyed and transferred to a Girl Scouts  
10 of the Philippines Foundation organized for the purpose consistent with  
11 this Act and to be formed by the members of the Central Board incumbent  
12 at the time of such dissolution.

13           **SECTION 14. *Repealing Clause.*** – All other laws, decrees,  
14 presidential Issuance, proclamations, and administrative regulations  
15 inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby  
16 amended, modified or repealed accordingly, specifically, among others,  
17 Executive Order No. 495 dated 06 December 1992.

18           **SECTION 15. *Separability Clause.*** – In the event that any provision  
19 of this Act is declared void or unconstitutional such declaration shall not  
20 affect the validity of the unaffected provisions of this Act.

21           **SECTION 16. *Effectivity Clause*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen  
22 (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of  
23 general circulation

*Approved,*