

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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Senate
Office of the Secretary

'19 NOV -4 P2:13

SENATE
S. No. 1129

RECEIVED BY: _____

[Signature]

Introduced by Senator Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR MANDATORY CIVIL CONSCRIPTION FOR DISASTER AND
HUMANITARIAN SERVICE


EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the month of October 2019, Mindanao was struck by a series of strong earthquakes that have displaced thousands of families and affected millions of Filipinos. The most affected areas near the epicentres of the tremors, including the Municipalities of Tulunan and Makilala of the Province of Cotabato, have suffered severely in terms of health and safety of its constituents and damage to their properties and infrastructures which highlighted the need for structural engineers and psychological trauma specialists. This is not a rare occurrence for the country as we are prone to natural calamities as we are visited by a number of tropical storms annually and as we are geographically located in the active Pacific Ring of Fire. Hence, there is always a need to create new operational measures to address the same.

Article II section 4 of the 1987 Constitution provides that *"The prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people. The Government may call upon the people to defend the State and, in the fulfillment thereof, all citizens may be required, under conditions provided by law, to render personal military or civil service."*

To affirm this constitutional mandate and affirm patriotism as a cornerstone of community service, this bill seeks to provide the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the power to require professionals, such as structural engineers and licensed medical personnel, to render personal civil service in times of disasters and calamities in order to aid in humanitarian efforts and post-disaster rehabilitation through a system of recruitment for a limited period. With this bill, it is hoped that displaced and affected families of disasters and calamities are immediately provided with the necessary assistance to alleviate their suffering.

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



FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the "Civil Conscription Act
2 of 2019."

3 Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy – It shall be the policy of the state to:

4 a. Adopt a post-disaster rehabilitation approach that is holistic,
5 comprehensive, integrated, and proactive in lessening the socioeconomic
6 and environmental impacts of disasters, natural or man-made, and
7 promote the involvement and participation of all sectors and all
8 stakeholders concerned, at all levels, especially the local community

9 b. Actively engage the people in post-disaster rehabilitation and humanitarian
10 efforts.

11 c. Promote the culture of "Bayanihan Spirit" during periods of calamities.

12 Sec. 3. *Mandatory Service for Disaster and Humanitarian Service* –
13 Professionals, including but not limited to structural engineers and licensed medical
14 personnel, may be called upon by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), to
15 render mandatory civil service and humanitarian purposes, through the AFP
16 Technical and Administrative Service, in times of calamities and disasters.

1 Sec 4. *Implementing unit* – The Secretary of National Defense through the
2 AFP Technical and Administrative Service shall be the primary implementing unit of
3 this Act.

4 Sec. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — The Department of National
5 Defense, in consultation with the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the
6 Professional Regulation Commission, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to
7 implement this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

8 Sec. 6. *Separability Clause.* —If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or
9 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected
10 shall remain valid and subsisting.

11 Sec. 7. *Repealing Clause.* — Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
12 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation
13 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed,
14 modified, or amended accordingly.

15 Sec. 8. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
16 its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,