

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

9 MAY -5 10 02

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. No. 3207

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Introduced by Senator JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

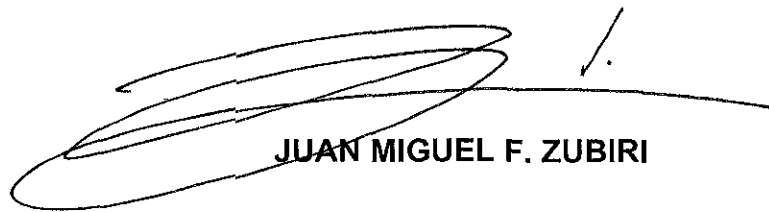
Article II, Section 13 of the 1987 Constitution provides:

“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 environment in public and civic affairs.”

The Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP), through its mission, which is -- *“To help girls and young women realize the ideals of womanhood and prepare themselves for their responsibilities in the home, the nation and the world community”* clearly embodies the said Constitutional policy. Chartered on May 26, 1940 under Commonwealth Act No. 542, the GSP is a worldwide movement that provides girls and young women a non-formal progressive educational program based on spiritual values and the ideal of service.

Unfortunately, on 1991, in line with the Government's Corporate Rationalization Program, Executive Order No. 495 was issued, converting the GSP together with the Boy Scout of the Philippines and the Philippine Shippers' Council into private corporations and mandating them to register themselves with the Securities and Exchange Commission. However, privatization of the GSP into an ordinary corporation leads to the erosion of the special status and support it has gained as a uniquely chartered organization. The GSPs continued existence is threatened as it is relatively easier to dissolve a private corporation than an organization duly mandated by law.


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

  
JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

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Introduced by Senator JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

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 Scouts of the  
2 Philippines Charter of 2009."

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

12  
13           **SEC. 3. Corporate powers.** - The said Corporation shall have perpetual  
14 succession, with power to sue and be sued; to acquire, hold, and convey such real and  
15 personal estate, rights and choses in action as shall be necessary for corporate  
16 purposes, and to receive funds, real and personal property by gift, devise, bequest or  
17 other means; to adopt a seal; to have offices and conduct its business and affairs in the  
18 Metropolitan Manila area and in the provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays of  
19 the Philippines; to make and adopt By-laws, and generally do all acts and exercise all  
20 powers of a corporation under existing pertinent laws as may be necessary to carry into  
21 effect the provisions of this Act and promote the purpose of said Corporation.

22  
23           **SEC. 4. Vision and Mission.** - The Corporation envisions the Filipino girl and  
24 young woman as God-loving, patriotic, progressive, dynamic, and pro-active. The

1 mission of this Corporation is to help girls and young women realize the ideals of  
2 womanhood and prepare themselves for their responsibilities in the home, the nation,  
3 and the world community. To carry out the mission, the Corporation shall be the  
4 directing and coordinating head of the *Girl Scout Movement in the Philippines*, and shall  
5 fix and maintain standards which will inspire every generation with the highest ideals of  
6 citizenship, character, conduct, attainment, and international understanding.

7  
8 **SEC. 5. Nature and Purpose.** - The Girl Scouts of the Philippines is non-stock,  
9 non-profit, non-sectarian, non-political, independent, and voluntary but it shall willingly  
10 cooperate with other entities, public and private, whose ideals and procedures are in  
11 accord with those conferred or authorized by this Act.

12  
13 **SEC. 6. Central Board.** - (a) The governing body of the Corporation shall be  
14 vested in a Central Board composed of at least thirty-seven (37) members, but not more  
15 than forty-seven (47) members, as prescribed in the By-laws, as follows:

- 16 (1) Eight (8) Charter/Life members;
- 17 (2) The Regional Chairpersons of the Girl Scout Regions of the Philippines who  
18 shall be elected by their respective Regions;
- 19 (3) The National President of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines;
- 20 (4) The Immediate past National President of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines;
- 21 (5) One (1) senior Girl Scout/Cadet or young adult from each Girl Scout Region  
22 to represent the girl membership, who shall be elected by the Girl Scouts of each  
23 region;
- 24 (6) The remaining members shall be the members-at-large, who shall be elected  
25 by the National Council from a list submitted by the Nominating Committee from  
26 nominees from Provincial/City Councils, Regional Committees and National  
27 Committees.

28 The Central Board shall have the power to make and to amend the  
29 Constitution and By-laws of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines subject to  
30 ratification by the National Council, create standing and special committees and  
31 provide policies and procedures as may be necessary to carry out the business  
32 of the Corporation.

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

36 The members of the Central Board shall serve for a term of three (3) years  
37 or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified. In case of inability  
38 of a member to assume office or when any vacancy occurs by reason of death,

1 resignation, or incapacity, the position shall be filled by the candidate who  
2 received the next highest number of votes in the preceding election.

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

8  
9 (b) A woman President of the Philippines or the First Lady of the Philippines shall  
10 be the Chief Girl Scout of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines.

11  
12 **SEC. 7. National Executive Committee.** - There shall be a National Executive  
13 Committee composed of all the officers and chairpersons of Standing Committees  
14 which shall be responsible for implementing the policies and decisions of the National  
15 Council and the Central Board.

16  
17 **SEC. 8. National Council.** - There shall be a National Council which shall serve  
18 as a forum for guidelines, directions and evaluation of the Girl Scout Movement. It shall  
19 be composed of the members of the Central Board and the Presidents of the Girl Scout  
20 Councils or their duly designated representatives, and such number of elected  
21 delegates from each Council as may be prescribed in the By-laws.

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

26 The National Council shall elect the Members-at-Large of the Central Board;  
27 ratify amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines  
28 by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of its members present and voting; serve as a forum for  
29 guidelines, policies, and directions; and consider such matters as may come before the  
30 convention.

31  
32 **SEC. 9. Girl Scout Symbols/Trademarks.** - The Corporation shall adopt  
33 distinctive badges, uniforms, insignias and other equipment which shall be made  
34 available to and used only by registered Girl Scouts or officials who have satisfactorily  
35 complied with the international requirements prescribed by the World Bureau of the  
36 World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and which the Girl Scouts  
37 of the Philippines shall use in carrying out its program in accordance with the purpose of  
38 this Act. The Corporation shall cause the registration of said badges, uniforms, insignias

1 and other equipment in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 8293,  
2 otherwise known as the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines, as amended. The  
3 Intellectual Property Office is hereby directed to cause said registration free of charge.  
4

5 **SEC. 10. Fiscal Incentives.** - The Corporation shall be entitled to the following  
6 tax incentives, duty privileges, and exemptions:

7 (a) Exemption from income tax pursuant to Section 30 (e), (g) and (h) of the  
8 National Internal Revenue Code, as amended; and

9 (b) Tax and/or duty exemption of donations from foreign countries as provided  
10 under relevant laws such as, but not limited to, Section 105 of the Tariff and  
11 Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended, and Section 109 (k) of the  
12 National Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

13 Likewise, all donations, legacies, and gifts to the Girl Scouts of the  
14 Philippines to support its purposes and objectives as embodied in this Act shall,  
15 subject to the limitations and conditions under the National Internal Revenue  
16 Code of 1997, as amended, be exempt from the donor's tax and shall be  
17 deductible from the gross income of the donor for income tax purposes, and such  
18 donations, legacies, and gifts shall be expended by the Central Board in  
19 pursuance of this Act.

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

22 (c) Exemption from real property taxes.  
23

24 **SEC. 11. Penal Clause.** – Upon the effectivity of this Act, it shall be unlawful for  
25 any person within the jurisdiction of the Philippines to falsely and fraudulently call  
26 herself as or represent herself to be a member of, or an agent for, the Girl Scouts of the  
27 Philippines; and any person who violates any of the provisions of this Act shall be  
28 punished by *prision correccional* in its minimum period or a fine not exceeding Twenty  
29 Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) or both, at the discretion of the court.

30 It shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture, sell, distribute, use, apply,  
31 feature, portray or cause to be manufactured, sold, distributed, applied, featured or  
32 portrayed fraudulently or without the official knowledge and written approval of the  
33 Central Board of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines badges, uniforms, insignia, or  
34 scouting paraphernalia or the photos or visuals of a Girl Scout or Girl Scouts in uniform,  
35 or the logo, seal or corporate name of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines in any print and  
36 radio or television commercial, billboard, collateral material, or any form of  
37 advertisement; or to use the name of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines in any illegal  
38 purpose or personal gain.

1 Any violation of the provisions of Section 9 and this section shall be punished by  
2 *prision correccional* in its medium period to *prision mayor* in its minimum period or a fine  
3 of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) nor more than Five Hundred  
4 Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court; *Provided*, that in  
5 case of corporations, partnerships, associations, societies or companies, the President,  
6 the Chief Executive Officer, the Managing Partner, the Chairman of the Board, the  
7 General Manager, the Administrator, or the person in charge of the management or  
8 administration of the business shall be *criminally responsible for any such violation*.  
9 These penalties shall be without prejudice to the proper civil action for recovery of civil  
10 damages, which may be instituted together with or independently of the criminal  
11 prosecution.

12

13 **SEC. 12. Transitory Provision.** - Until such time as the reorganization and  
14 restructuring of the Central Board in accordance with Section 6 herein is effected, the  
15 present administrative set-up shall be maintained to conduct the affairs of the Girl  
16 Scouts of the Philippines and to take the necessary steps to effect the reorganization  
17 within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.

18

19 **SEC. 13. Dissolution.** - In the event that the Girl Scouts of the Philippines is  
20 dissolved in any manner provided for by law, the properties and assets thereof shall be  
21 conveyed and transferred to a Girl Scouts of the Philippines Foundation organized for  
22 the purpose consistent with this Act and to be formed by the members of the Central  
23 Board incumbent at the time of such dissolution.

24

25 **SEC. 14. Repealing Clause.** - All other laws, decrees, presidential issuances,  
26 proclamations, and *administrative regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the*  
27 *provisions of this Act* are hereby amended, modified or repealed accordingly,  
28 specifically, among others, Executive Order No. 495 dated 06 December 1992.

29

30 **SEC. 15. Separability Clause.** - In the event that any provision of this Act is  
31 declared void or unconstitutional such declaration shall not affect the validity of the  
32 unaffected provisions of this Act.

33

34 **SEC. 16. Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
35 complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

36

37 Approved,