

**Implementing Rules and Regulations**  
**of the**  
**NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM (RA 9163)**

Pursuant to Section 12 of Republic Act No. 9163 otherwise known as the National Service Training Program (NSTP) Act of 2001, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and Department of National Defense (DND), in consultation with concerned government agencies, the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC) Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations of the Philippines (COCOPEA), Non-Government Organization (NGOs) and recognized student organizations, hereby jointly issue, adopt and promulgate the following implementing rules and regulations to implement the provisions of the Act.

**Rule I**

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

Section 1. Guiding Principle. While it is the prime duty of the government to serve and protect its citizens, in turn, it shall be the responsibility of all citizens to defend the security and promote the general welfare of the State, and in fulfillment thereof, the government may require each citizen to render personal military or civil service.

Section 2. Role of the Youth

In recognition of the vital role of the youth in nation-building, the State shall promote civic consciousness among them and shall develop their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being. It shall inculcate the ideals of patriotism, nationalism, and advance their involvement in public and civic affairs.

As the most valuable resource of the nation, they shall be motivated, trained, organized and involved in military, literary, civic welfare programs and other similar endeavors on the service of the nation.

**Rule II**

**DEFINITION OF TERMS**

Section 3. As used in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), the following terms shall mean:

- a. "National Service Training Program" (NSTP) – refers to the program aimed at enhancing civic consciousness and defense preparedness in the youth, by developing the ethics of service and patriotism while undergoing training in any of the three (3) Program components, specifically designed to enhance the youth's active contribution to the gen-



eral welfare;

- b. "Reserve Officers' Training Corps" (ROTC) – refers to the Program component, institutionalized under Sections 38 and 39 of Republic Act No. 7077, designed to provide military training to tertiary level students in order to motivate, train, organize and mobilize them for national defense preparedness.
- c. "Literacy Training Service" (LTS) – refers to the Program component designed to train the students to literacy and numeracy skills to school children, out-of-school youths and other segments of society in need of their services;
- d. "Civic Welfare Training Service" (CWTS) – refers to the Program component or activities contributory to the general welfare and the betterment of life for the members of the community or the enhancement of its facilities, especially those devoted to improving health, education, environment, entrepreneurship, safety, recreation and moral of the citizenry and other social welfare services;
- e. "Program Component" – refers to the service components of the NSTP as defined herein;
- f. "Clustering" – refers to the grouping of students enrolled to different schools and taking up the same NSTP component into one (1) group under the management and supervision designated school;
- g. "Cross Enrollment" – refers to a system of enrolment where a student is officially enrolled in an academic program of an origin school but is allowed to enrol in the NSTP component of another accepting school;
- h. "Non-government Organization" (NGO) – refers to any private organization duly accredited by CHED or recognized by TESDA; and
- i. "Student Cadet" – refers to a student enrolled in the ROTC component.

### Rule III

## PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

### Section 4. Coverage:

- a. All incoming freshmen students, male and female, starting School Year (SY) 2002-2003, enrolled in any baccalaureate and in at least two (2) year technical-vocational or associate courses, are required to complete one (1) NSTP component of their choice, as a graduation requirement.

*The above provision however does not cover the following:*

- a.1 Students who finished or graduated from a baccalaureate*



*degree or two year technical-vocational or associate course and pursuing or enrolled in another or additional baccalaureate degree or two-year technical-vocational or associate course in SY 2003-2004;*

*a.2 Students who completed any of the three (3) NSTP components but considered freshmen to the course where they transferred or shifted; and*

*a.3 Foreign students or aliens.*

- a. All higher educational institutions including State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and technical-vocational education institutions must offer upon enrolment, all the three (3) NSTP components. However, SUCs are required to maintain and provide the ROTC component. In cases that the enrolment of ROTC Cadets is less than 350 then, the provisions of clustering in Section 7 of NSTP IRR (RA 9163) should be followed.
- b. Program of study (syllabus) and enrolment forms shall bear the "NSTP" without stating therein the three components. There shall be an orientation for all NSTP enrollees to be jointly conducted by the ROTC, CWTS, and LTS coordinators/implementers. Students enrolled in the first semester of the freshman year shall be made to undergo a common module phase for 25 hours training period. Subjects covered are: *citizenship training; drug education; disaster awareness, preparedness and management; environmental protection; and other national security concerns*. Upon completion of the common module phase the student must select the specific NSTP program component that he/she will pursue.
- c. The Philippine Military Academy (PMA), Philippine Merchant Academy (PMMA), Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) is exempted from the NSTP in view of the special character of these institutions. Other SUCs of similar nature will be exempted subject to approval of the Department of National Defense.
- d. Private Higher Educational Institution (HEIs) and technical-vocational education institutions with at least 350 student cadets, must establish/maintain a Department of Military Science and Tactics (DMST), subject to existing rules and regulations. For DMST previously approved and activated shall retain the status regardless of the number of cadets. However, for DMST has been created after approval of this IRR, there must be a minimum of 350 cadets. In cases where the number of cadets will be lesser than 350, clustering of ROTCU will be undertaken with the ROTCU of the SUCs within the nearest environ with the lead role.

#### Section 5. Program Components

- a. The NSTP shall have the following components which the students



can choose from as defined in Rule II, Section 3 hereof: The ROTC, LTS, and CWTS.

- b. All program components; the ROTC in particular, shall give emphasis on citizenship training and shall instill patriotism, moral virtues, respect for the rights of civilians and adherence to the Constitution.
- c. The CHED and TESDA, in consultation with DND, PASUC, and CO-COPEA and other concerned government agencies, may design and implement such other non-military training component as may be necessary in consonance with the provisions of RA 9163.
- d. Within thirty (30) days from the approval of this IRR, the CHED, TESDA, and the DND shall jointly issue the minimum standards for the three (3) NSTP components, which shall form part of these guidelines.

#### Section 6. Duration and Equivalent Course Unit

- a. Each of the aforementioned NSTP components shall be undertaken for an academic period of two (2) semesters. It shall be credited for three (3) units per semester for fifty-four (54) to ninety (90) training hours per semester.
- b. A One (1) Summer Program (OSP) in lieu of the two (2) semester program may be designed, formulate and adopted by the DND, CHED and TESDA, subject to the capability of the school and the AFP to handle the same.
- c. Earned NSTP units shall not be included in the computation of Grade Point Average (GPA) grades of college graduating students.

#### Section 7. Clustering and Cross-Enrolment.

- a. Clustering of students from different education institutions during semestral or summer periods may be done for any of the NSTP component, taking into account logistics, branch of service and geographical locations. The host school shall be responsible in managing the Program.
- b. The school must allow any NSTP student to cross-enroll in any CHED/TESDA recognized institution. In cases that the enrolment of ROTC Cadets is less than 350, then, the provisions of clustering in Section 7 of NSTP IRR (RA 9163) should be followed.
- c. Students intending to cross-enroll shall be subject to the existing rules and regulations of the school of origin and the accepting school.

#### Section 8. Monitoring and Evaluation

- a. Management
  - a.1 The school authorities shall exercise academic and administrative supervision over the design, formulation, adoption and im-