

BRIEFING MANUSCRIPT FOR RA 9163

AMENITIES **(SHOW SLIDE NO. 1 – NAVRESCOM SEAL.)** THE SCOPE **(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 1 AND SHOW SLIDE NO.2 – SCOPE OF BRIEFING)** OF MY BRIEFING COVERS THE FOLLOWING:

AND THIRD, THE KEY PROVISIONS OF RA 9163 TO INCLUDE PRELIMINARY GUIDANCE FROM CHED/ DND IN THE PREPARATION OF THE IRR OF RA 9163. PLEASE BE INFORMED THAT CHED ALREADY CALLED THE FIRST MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP TO DRAFT THE IRR OF THE NSTP ACT OF 2001 LAST FEBRUARY 8, 2002 AT FEU. THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES WERE REPRESENTED DURING THIS MEETING: CHED, DND, AFP, PASUC, COCOPEA, REPRESENTATIVE OF SENATOR CAYETANO, CHAIRMAN, SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND REPRESENTATIVE OF CONGRESSWOMAN ABAYON, CHAIRPERSON, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION. THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED ON FEBRUARY 19, 2002. THE CONFEREES COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO FINISH THE IRR OF RA 9163. BEFORE THE START OF SCHOOL YEAR 2002 – 2003. AND LASTLY, ISSUES AND CONCERNS THAT HAS TO BE ADDRESSED BY ALL CONCERNED DURING THE DRAFTING OF THE IRR **(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 2)**

FOR A BETTER APPRECIATION, ALLOW ME TO DISCUSS WITH YOU THE LEGAL BASIS OF THE ROTC PROGRAM **(SHOW SLIDE NO. 3)**. COMMONWEALTH ACT NO 1 PRESCRIBED AS A NATIONAL DEFENSE POLICY, THE PRESERVATION OF THE STATE AS AN OBLIGATION OF EVERY CITIZEN. TO SUPERVISE THE CONDUCT OF PRE-MILITARY TRAINING, SECTION 35 OF NDA NO. 1 MANDATES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING UNITS. YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT THE FIRST ROTC UNIT WAS ESTABLISHED AT U.P. IN 1935 **(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 3 AND SHOW SLIDE NO. 4 EO NO. 57)**. THEREAFTER THE FOLLOWING ROTC UNITS WERE ESTABLISHED.

AFTER WORLD WAR SECOND AND UP TO SCHOOL YEAR 2001-2002, THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF ROTC UNITS, BE IT ARMY, NAVY OR AIR FORCE IS THRU THE ISSUANCE OF ORDERS OF THE AFP GENERAL

HEADQUARTERS IN CAMP AGUINALDO. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ROTC UNIT IS DEPENDENT ON A NUMBER OF CRITERIA SUCH AS CADET/ MIDSHIPMEN ENROLLMENT WHICH IS 350 OR HIGHER AND AVAILABILITY OF FACILITIES SUCH AS ARMORY, PARADE GROUNDS, CLASSROOMS, ETC., WHICH MUST BE PROVIDED BY THE SCHOOL.

THE **(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 4 AND SHOW SLIDE NO. 5)** PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION OF 1987. THESE ARE THE TWO (2) PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION PERTAINING TO THE CONDUCT OF THE ROTC PROGRAM. **(READ SLOWLY SEC. 4 OF ARTICLE II AND SEC. 4 OF ARTICLE XVI).**

**(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 5 AND SHOW SLIDE NO. 6)** PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1706 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL SERVICE LAW PROVIDES FOR THE COMPULSORY NATIONAL SERVICE FOR FILIPINO CITIZENS THAT TOOK EFFECT ON SEPTEMBER 8, 1980. THE KEY PROVISIONS ARE IN THIS CHART.

HOWEVER, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF PD 1706 WAS SUSPENDED. AND WHAT WAS FOLLOWED IS THE OLD ROTC CONCEPT WHERE BASIC ROTC AS A REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION IN A BACCALAUREATE COURSE SHALL CONSIST OF FOUR (4) SEMESTERS – NS 11 AND NS 12 FOR THE FIRST YEAR AND NS 21 AND NS 22 FOR THE SECOND YEAR.

IN 1991 **(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 6 AND SHOW SLIDE NO. 7)**, RA 7077 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINES RESERVIST ACT WAS ENACTED INTO LAW ON JUNE 27, 1991. THE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF RA 7077 ARE AS SHOWN (SEC. 2 AND SEC. 3). **(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 7 AND SHOW SLIDE NO. 8 – SEC. 38 AND SEC. 39). (REMOVE SLIDE NO. 8 AND SHOW SLIDE NO. 9 – SEC. 40)** AND SECTION 40, ESTABLISHMENT OF ROTC UNITS IN SCHOOLS.

ALLOW ME TO DIGRESS A LITTLE **(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 9 AND SHOW SLIDE 10- ROTC PROGRAM)** AND DESCRIBE TO YOU THE BASIC AND ADVANCE ROTC PROGRAMS.

UP TO THE PRESENT TIME, IT IS ONLY THE PHIL. NAVY WHO OFFERS THE SUMMER SHIPBOARD TRAINING PROGRAM OR NS-43. THE PHILIPPINE ARMY, PHILIPPINE AIRFORCE CONDUCTS THEIR VERSION OF NS-43 OR SST NOT ON SUMMER BUT AS PART OF THE REGULAR PROBATIONARY TRAINING PROGRAM WITH THE STUDENTS ALREADY GRADUATES OF RESPECTIVE COLLEGIATE COURSES. THE COURSE LENGTH IS NINE (9) WEEKS.

IN 1995 **(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 10 AND SHOW SLIDE NO. 11 – EXPANDED ROTC)** AND THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE CONSORTIUM OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN METRO MANILA THEN HEADED BY DR. EDILBERTO DE JESUS – PRESIDENT OF FEU, THE CONCEPT OF THE EXPANDED ROTC WAS ADOPTED BY DND/ DECS (CHED HAS YET TO BE CREATED IN 1998) MAKING THE ROTC PROGRAM AS A PURELY VOLUNTARY ENDEAVOR. THE SAME “VOLUNTARY CONCEPT FOR ROTC” WAS ADOPTED ALSO IN 1995 IN THE PROMULGATION OF THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR RA 7077. UNDER THE RA 7077 ALL BACCALAUREATE STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ENROLL IN MILITARY TRAINING SERVICE COMPONENT OF THE EXPANDED ROTC. AFTER COMPLETING THE TWO (2) SEMESTERS OF MTS, THE STUDENT WILL NOW HAVE A CHOICE TO CONTINUE AND ATTEND ANOTHER TWO (2) SEMESTERS OF MTS OR TWO (2) SEMESTERS EACH OF LES AND CWS TO QUALIFY FOR GRADUATION LATER IN THEIR RESPECTIVE BACCALAUREATE COURSES.

THIS LADIES AND GENTLEMEN **(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 11)** THIS IN A NUTSHELL IS THE HISTORY OF THE ROTC PROGRAM PRIOR TO THE PASSAGE OF RA 9163.

WE ALL KNOW THE TUMULTUOUS ACTIVITIES DURING THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SEMESTER OF SCHOOL YEAR 2001 – 2002, WHERE THERE WERE NUMEROUS DEMONSTRATIONS FOR ABOLITION OF THE ROTC PROGRAM FOLLOWING THE TRAGIC DEATH OF ROTC CADET MARK CHUA OF UST.

AGAIN WITH YOUR KIND INDULGENCE, PERMIT ME TO WALK YOU THROUGH THE VARIOUS ISSUES AND CONCERNS PERTAINING TO THE ROTC

PROGRAM **(SHOW SLIDE NO. 12)** FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE PUBLIC – THE CONS:

A. BREEDING PLACE OF CORRUPTION. DOCUMENTED AND UNDOCUMENTED COMPLAINTS OF CORRUPTION AGAINST ROTC PERSONNEL COMES IN MANY FORMS **(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 12 AND SHOW SLIDE NO. 13 – CORRUPT PRACTICES)**

- 1) ACCEPTING MONEY IN RETURN FOR ISSUANCE OF EXEMPTIONS.
- 2) ACCEPTING MONEY IN RETURN FOR OBTAINING PASSING GRADES.
- 3) ACCEPTING MONEY IN RETURN FOR NON-ATTENDANCE TO THE PROGRAM.
- 4) USING POSITION TO PEDDLE MERCHANDISE AT EXORBITANT PRICES.

IN FAIRNESS TO THE THREE (3) MAJOR SERVICE RESERVE COMMANDS, THESE CORRUPT PRACTICES ARE NOT TOLERATED. THERE ARE STRINGENT POLICIES AND SPECIFIC MEASURES IN PLACE TO CURB CORRUPT PRACTICES AMONG ROTC PERSONNEL. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE HANDS OF THE AUTHORITIES ARE TIED IF THE COMPLAINT IS UNDOCUMENTED. THE NAVAL RESERVE COMMAND HAS INITIATED A VERY STRICT POLICY AGAINST PERPETRATORS OF CORRUPTION IN NROTC UNITS. PERSONNEL WHO ARE THE SUBJECT OF REPORTS OF CORRUPTION WHETHER DOCUMENTED OR UNDOCUMENTED ARE IMMEDIATELY RELIEVED FROM THEIR PRESENT ASSIGNMENT AND REASSIGNED TO NAVRESCOM HEADQUARTERS IN MANILA. THEREAFTER, A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION USING IN-HOUSE AND OTHER RESOURCES ARE CONDUCTED. THIS PARTICULAR POLICY HAVE RESULTED TO THE RETIREMENT OF ONE (1) CDR/ LTCOL AND TWO (2) LCDR/ MAJ AND THE PERMANENT RELIEF FROM NROTC ASSIGNMENT OF A NUMBER OF SENIOR ENLISTED PERSONNEL. I BELIEVE SOME OF YOU PRESENT THIS AFTERNOON IS AWARE OF A PARTICULAR CASE INVOLVING PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO AN NROTC UNIT HERE IN DAGUPAN. THE SAID OFFICER WAS FORCED TO RETIRE EARLY.

B. FINANCIAL BURDEN TO THE PARENTS **(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 13 AND SHOW SLIDE NO. 14)** - THE REGULAR BASIC ROTC AND THE EXPANDED ROTC PROGRAM ARE EQUIVALENT TO SIX (6) NON-ACADEMIC UNITS AT 1.5 UNITS PER SEMESTER FOR TWO (2) YEARS OR FOUR (4) SEMESTERS. PERCHED POLICY ON ROTC FEES, THE COST FOR ONE (1) SEMESTER SHOULD NOT EXCEED THE COST OF 1.5 UNIT OF A REGULAR ACADEMIC UNIT. FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS, ROTC FEES RANGE FROM A LOW OF P75.00 TO A HIGH OF P600.00. THE HIGHER FIGURE IS NORMALLY CHARGED BY EXCLUSIVE SCHOOLS. FOR STATE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITIES, THE ROTC FEES RANGES FROM A LOW OF P30.00 TO A HIGH OF P100.00. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO FEE FOR THOSE PURSUING THE ADVANCE ROTC PROGRAM.

IF THE PROGRAM IS PERCEIVED AS ONE THAT DO NOT CONTRIBUTE ANYTHING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STUDENT TO PREPARE TO BEAR ARMS AND/OR ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT IN TIMES OF WAR OR NATIONAL EMERGENCY, THEN IT IS INDEED A FINANCIAL BURDEN TO THE PARENTS. THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN IS TO SOME, ATTENDANCE TO THE ROTC PROGRAM IS NOT ONLY COMPLIANCE TO A CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE, BUT ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STUDENT IN TERMS OF LEADERSHIP, DISCIPLINE AND TEAMWORK, THEN THE ROTC PROGRAM MORE THAN JUSTIFIES THE PAYMENTS OF ROTC FEES.

C. WASTE OF TIME - AGAIN, THIS IS AN ISSUE WITH TWO (2) SIDES. TO THOSE WHO VIEW THE PROGRAM AS A WORTHLESS ENDEAVOR, THEN INDEED IT IS A WASTE OF TIME. BUT FOR THOSE WHO LOOKED AT THE PROGRAM AS A VEHICLE TO INTERNALIZE THE TENETS OF DISCIPLINE, LEADERSHIP AND TEAMWORK WHICH ARE DESIRABLE TRAITS OF NOT ONLY A SOLDIER BUT ALSO AS A GOOD CITIZEN, ATTENDANCE TO THE ROTC PROGRAM IS DEFINITELY NOT A WASTE OF TIME.

D. IMPEDES ON THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE OF THE STUDENT UNLESS THE PROVISION OF THE 1987 CONSTITUTION WITH REGARDS TO RENDERING PERSONAL MILITARY ON CIVIL SERVICE IS AMENDED, THUS NULLIFYING THE PROVISIONS OF EXISTING LAWS LIKE RA 7077, THIS ISSUE ON FREEDOM OF CHOICE SHOULD ONLY PLAY A SECONDARY ROLE. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF

THE EXPANDED ROTC PROGRAM IN 1995 HAVE ALREADY TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION THE "FREEDOM OF CHOICE ISSUE" WHILE THE REGULAR ROTC PROGRAMS CALLS FOR TWO (2) YEARS OF MILITARY TRAINING, THE EXPANDED ROTC PROGRAM IS ONLY MANDATORY ON THE FIRST YEAR WITH THE STUDENT GIVEN THE OPTION TO CHOOSE EITHER MILITARY TRAINING SERVICE, LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE OR CIVIL WELFARE SERVICE TO TAKE UP DURING THE SECOND YEAR. UNFORTUNATELY, MANY STUDENTS STILL ENROLL IN THE ROTC PROGRAM FOR THEIR 2<sup>ND</sup> AND FINAL YEAR OF THE EXPANDED ROTC BECAUSE OF MANY REASONS SUCH AS LACK OF ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, LACK OF A UNIFORM CURRICULUM AND NON-AVAILABILITY OF INSTRUCTORS TO IMPLEMENT LES OR CWS.

E. NOT RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE TIME - ADMITTEDLY, THE ROTC PROGRAM WAS CONCEIVED AT THE TIME WHEN THE THREAT OF A WORLD WAR IS IMMINENT. THE COLLAPSE OF COMMUNISM IN RUSSIA AND EUROPE AS WELL AS CHANGES IN THE GOVERNMENTS OF OUR ASIAN NEIGHBORS HAVE REDUCED THE THREAT OF A WORLD WAR IN OUR REGION.

THE PROS: **(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 14 AND SHOW SLIDE 15 - PROS)**  
– STILL FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE PUBLIC.

A. A GOOD TRAINING LABORATORY FOR DISCIPLINE LEADERSHIP AND TEAMWORK OF THE ANNUAL AVERAGE OF 70,000 BASIC ROTC GRADUATES, EIGHTY FIVE (85%) ARE ENROLLED IN MARITIME TRANSPORTATION AND MARINE ENGINEERING. GRADUATES OF THESE COURSES WORKED IN AN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS UNIQUE TO THEIR PROFESSION ABOARDSHIP. IT IS A PLACE WHERE THE TENETS OF DISCIPLINE, LEADERSHIP AND TEAMWORK ARE PARAMOUNT. EACH MEMBER OF THE SHIPS CREW HAS A PERMANENT BILLET OR JOB IN THE SHIPBOARD ORGANIZATION. IF ONE FALTERS OR FAILS TO DO HIS JOB, THE ENTIRE SHIP OPERATION SUFFERS. IT IS A PLACE WHERE OBEDIENCE TO THE ORDER OF A SUPERIOR IS ABSOLUTE AND DISOBEDIENCE MAY LEAD TO DISASTROUS RESULTS. THERE IS NO AVAILABLE REPLACEMENT TRAINING PROGRAM FOR THE ROTC CURRENTLY AVAILABLE.

B. GOOD REFERENCE FOR EMPLOYMENT - THE FACT THAT THE ROTC PROGRAM HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IDENTIFIED WITH MILITARY TRAINING GIVES

GRADUATES A COMPETITIVE EDGE OVER THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND SUCH PROGRAM (THOU WITH PHYSICAL/MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS) IN CERTAIN JOBS. WHILE OTHERS VIEW, THIS AS IN SIGNIFICANT, OTHER CLAIMED THAT A SMALL EDGE IS DEFINITELY BETTER THAN HAVING NO EDGE AT ALL.

FROM THE **(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 15 AND SHOW SLIDE NO. 16 - POINT OF VIEW OF THE AFP).**

1. GOOD SOURCE OF RESERVIST OFFICERS AND ENLISTED PERSONNEL - HAVING ATTENDED THE ROTC PROGRAM PROVIDES THE STUDENTS THE BASIC MILITARY KNOWLEDGE, SKILL AND ATTITUDE THEIR SMOOTH INTEGRATION IN THE RESERVE FORCE. IN FACT, THE BULK OF THE OFFICER CORPS OF THE AFP ARE COMPOSED OF PRODUCTS OF THE ROTC PROGRAM WHO OPTED TO PURSUE A MILITARY CAREER AND ARE NOW PUT OF THE ACTIVE COMPONENT OF THE AFP.

2. COMPLEMENTS THE EFFORTS OF REGULAR FORCE IN NON-MILITARY ACTIVITIES SUCH AS MEDCIVAC, SEARCH, RESCUE AND RELIEF OPERATIONS. DURING THE 2001 ELECTIONS, ROTC MIDSHIPMEN WERE DEPUTIZED BY COMELEC FOR ELECTION MONITORING DUTIES. THE ROTC CADETS ARE ALSO ONE OF THE BIGGEST CONTRIBUTION TO THE BLOOD DONATION CAMPAIGN OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RED CROSS, THE VETERANS MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER AND THE AFP MEDICAL CENTER.

WITH PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO **(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 16 AND SHOW SLIDE NO. 17 – RA 9163)** CERTIFYING TO BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS LATE LAST YEAR THE URGENT NEED TO HAVE A NEW ROTC LAW, SENATE BILL NO. 1824 PRINCIPALLY AUTHORED BY SENATOR RENE CAYETANO AND HOUSE BILL NO. 7593 PRINCIPALLY AUTHORED BY CONGRESSWOMAN HARLIN ABAYON, WERE APPROVED BY RESPECTIVE LEGISLATIVE BODIES LAST OCTOBER 2001.

A BICAMERAL MEETING OR WHAT IS ALSO KNOWN AS THE "THIRD CONGRESS" WAS HELD IN DECEMBER 19, 2001 TO THRESH OUT CONFLICTING PROVISIONS OF SB 1824 AND HB 3593. THE RESULTING DOCUMENT WAS SIGNED BY PRESIDENT GMA LAST JANUARY 23, 2002 – REPUBLIC ACT 9163.

THE KEY PROVISIONS OF RA 9163 AS WELL AS PRELIMINARY GUIDANCE OF CHED IN THE DRAFTING OF THE IRR FOR RA 9163 IS PRESENTED IN THE FOLLOWING SLIDES **(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 17 AND SHOW SLIDE NO. 18 - SEC. 2)**

**(ON SIGNAL BY THE BRIEFER, REMOVE AND SHOW SLIDES AS INDICATED)**

**(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 18 AND SHOW SLIDE NO. 19 - SEC. 4 – COMPONENTS OF THE NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM AND SEC. 5 - COVERAGE)**

**(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 19 AND SHOW SLIDE NO. 20 - SEC. 6 – DURATION AND COURSE EQUIVALENT UNIT)**

**(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 20 AND SHOW SLIDE NO. 21 - SEC. 7 – NSTP AND COLLEGIATE VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS)**

**(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 21 AND SHOW SLIDE NO. 22 - SEC. 8 – FEES AND INCENTIVES)**

**(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 22 AND SHOW SLIDE NO. 23 - SEC. 9 – SCHOLARSHIPS AND SEC. 10 – MANAGEMENT OF NSTP)**

**(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 23 AND SHOW SLIDE NO. 24 - SEC. 11 – UTILIZATION OF GRADUATES)**

**(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 24 AND SHOW SLIDE NO. 25 - SEC. 12 – PREPARATION OF IRR)**

**(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 25 AND SHOW SLIDE NO. 26 - SEC. 14 – SUSPENSION OF ROTC UNIT)**

**(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 26 AND SHOW SLIDE NO. 27 - SEC. 17 - EFFECTIVITY)**

**(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 27 AND SHOW SLIDE NO. 28 - SEC. 13 – TRANSITORY PROVISIONS)**

**CASE NO. 2 (REMOVE SLIDE NO. 28 AND SHOW SLIDE NO. 29)**

**(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 29 AND SHOW SLIDE NO. 30)**

AS EARLIER ANNOUNCED **(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 30)**, THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP FOR THE CRAFTING OF THE IRR FOR RA 9163 MET LAST FEBRUARY 08, 2002. THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED ON FEBRUARY 19, 2002. THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP IS COMMITTED TO COMPLETE THE IRR IN TIME FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NSTP LAW IN SCHOOL YEAR 2002 - 2003.

I WILL NOW SPEAK THE VIEWS OF THE NAVAL RESERVE COMMAND AND SHARE WITH YOU OUR PERCEPTION ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES AND CONCERNS AFFECTING BOTH DND/AFP AND THE SCHOOLS AND MUST BE ADDRESSED TO THE MUTUAL SATISFACTION OF ALL CONCERNED FOR THE EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF RA 9163.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS **(SHOW SLIDE NO. 31)**

**(REMOVE SLIDE NO. 31 AND SHOW SLIDE NO. 32)**

THIS ENDS MY PRESENTATION, AGAIN, GOOD AFTERNOON TO YOU ALL.  
I AM NOW READY TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.