


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
Second Regular Session



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SENATE

P.S. RES NO. 551 RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO

A RESOLUTION

INQUIRING, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS SET BY THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION (PSC) AND PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (POC) IN RECOGNIZING AND PROVIDING SUPPORT TO NATIONAL SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS (NSAs) IN LIGHT OF THE SITUATION FACED BY THE PHILIPPINE DRAGON BOAT TEAM, WHICH HAS BEEN DENIED GOVERNMENT SUPPORT DESPITE PROVING THEMSELVES AS AMONG THE WORLD'S BEST DRAGON BOAT TEAMS

WHEREAS, the Philippine Dragon Boat Team is considered one of the best in the world after continuously winning world championships and breaking records in the 2,000 year-old sport of dragon boat;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Dragon Boat Team won the 200-m event in the 2007 World Championships in Sydney, Australia, defended their title in the 2009 World Championships in Prague, Czech Republic, and recently dominated the 10th annual World Dragon Boat Racing Championships held at Seddon Channel in Florida;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Dragon Boat team is supervised by the Philippine Dragon Boat Federation (PDBF);

WHEREAS, the PDBF "has been successful in establishing, developing, and promoting the dragon boat sport throughout the country. PDBF was able to produce and maintain World Class dragon boat National Athletes, recruit more than a thousand paddlers in its club membership, has International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) licensed coaches and officials, and has been organizing local regattas and officiating sponsored local and international races in the Philippines";

WHEREAS, the PDBF eventually became a private organization after the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) removed all of its rights as a legitimate National Sport Association (NSA).

WHEREAS, the POC is a private, non-governmental organization composed of, and serves as the mother organization of, all national sports associations in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, without recognition from the POC, the PDBF's athletes and coaches were not able to receive monthly allowances from the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), a government-run organization and the government's funding arm in sports aimed at promoting sports in the country;

WHEREAS, the PDBF was even compelled to be under the umbrella of the Philippine Canoe Kayak Federation, a younger NSA that is specifically dedicated for canoe and kayak;

WHEREAS, the PDBF has been struggling to get support and recognition by the government since last year when they were removed from the delegation to the 16th Asian Games held in Guangzhou, China;

WHEREAS, the POC stated that during the October 11, 2010 time trials, the time registered by the PDBF Team was highly improbable and delisted the team for the 2010 Asian Games;

WHEREAS, in a report released by the POC, they said that the PDBF committed grave misrepresentation on the qualifying time and that they used steroids;

WHEREAS, there was no official letter with the pronouncement that the PDBF had been delisted from the 2010 Asian Games and they only got wind of such information from various news articles;

WHEREAS, despite surpassing the qualifying time for the Asian Games in the time trials given by the POC, the team was unable to compete due to lack of time and funding needed to participate in the said competition;

WHEREAS, last August 3-8, 2011, the PDBF defied the odds and managed to give honor to the country by raking in four gold medals and two silver medals in the 10th International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) World Championships in Tampa Bay, Florida;

WHEREAS, the victorious campaign of the Filipino rowers at the event is made bittersweet by the fact that the team went to compete in the 10th World Championships without receiving any official support from the PSC and POC;

WHEREAS, they depended on support from corporate sponsors for their plane fare and uniforms, and contributions from IDBF officials and the Filipino community in the US for their food and lodging; and

WHEREAS, the resilient spirit and world-class skills of our Philippine Dragon Boat Team, as well as other sports associations experiencing the same struggle, deserve government support and recognition.

WHEREAS, other national teams and national athletes have complained of similar problems- lack of recognition, and lack of funding- particularly by the very agencies tasked to support them;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines inquire, in aid of legislation, into the standards and requirements set by the PSC and POC in recognizing and providing support to NSAs and athletes in light of the situation faced by the Philippine Dragon Boat Team, which has been denied government support despite proving themselves as among the world's dragon boat teams.

Adopted,


PIA S. CAYETANO
Senator