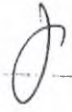


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NINETEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

RECEIVED BY 

SENATE

S. No. 423

Introduced by Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" T. Go

**AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL GAMES AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article 14, Section 19 of the Philippine Constitution mandates the State to promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry. In view of this mandate, the State shall also develop programs and trainings that will encourage its citizens to participate in sports and other physical fitness programs.

The evolving dynamics and advancements in the field of sports are indispensable as to the growing needs of our Filipino athletes to be at par with the world's best. In this regard, beyond the country's goal for gold and glory, the perennial lack of funding in the training of our athletes and the lack of a pool of adequately trained athletes are evident and impede the growth of supposed potential athletes.

In light of these, the proposed measure seeks to provide a structure for a truly integrated and comprehensive national sports program, linking grassroots sports promotion to elite sports development and encourage all local government officials.

Through the proposed Philippine National Games, this bill will address other Olympic and Asian Games sports, which have proven to give our country more medals in international competitions, that are not regularly included in Palarong Pambansa or any other sports programs in the country. It is also intended to ensure a more inclusive system of promoting promising Filipino athletes who possess potential in every field of sports to be given an equal opportunity of becoming future contenders in international sporting competitions and cement our status as a 'Sports Powerhouse in Asia'.

In addition, this bill aspires to institutionalize a truly comprehensive national grassroots sports program, which will harness the vast potential of the citizenry in discovering and developing champion athletes who could excel in international sports competition, thus giving our country pride and international goodwill and addressing the long-standing problems of Philippine sports in general.

This will also pave the way for improving our sports development programs and other initiatives that will promote the welfare of our Filipino athletes to further elevate our status in the sporting world.

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


SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" T. GO

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NINETEENTH CONGRESS)
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First Regular Session)

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SENATE
S. No. 423

Introduced by Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" T. Go

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL GAMES AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Philippine National Games*
2 *Act of 2022.*"

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policies.* – Article IV, Section 19 (1) of the 1987 Constitution
4 provides that the State shall promote physical education and encourage sports programs,
5 league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international sports
6 competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of
7 a healthy and alert citizenry.

8 Pursuant thereto, it is incumbent upon the State to institutionalize a genuine
9 comprehensive national grassroots sports program which serves as the country's premier
10 national sports competition and venue for the nationwide talent search for identifying and
11 developing outstanding athletes who have the potential to excel in various sports, and
12 place the country at the forefront of international sports competitions.

13 Sec. 3. *Objectives.* – The objectives of the Philippine National Games (PNG) are as
14 follows:

- 1 (a) To provide a framework and structure for a truly integrated and
2 comprehensive national sports program linking grassroots sports promotion
3 to elite sports development;
- 4 (b) To serve as the government's premier national sports competition
5 to be held once every two years;
- 6 (c) To encourage all local government officials to promote the
7 development of sports in the countryside covering all provinces, cities,
8 municipalities, and barangays,
- 9 (d) To serve as a venue for the National Sports Associations in
10 promoting their respective sports at the grassroots level providing the
11 necessary linkages with local government units; and
- 12 (e) To widen the base for talent identification, selection, and
13 recruitment of athletes that shall constitute the national pool to be trained
14 for international sports competitions.

15 Sec. 4. *Preparatory Sports Program.* - The *Palarong Pambansa* provided for under
16 Republic Act Number 10588, and other local sports competitions organized by the local
17 government units or the private sector, shall serve as "feeder" and preparatory sports
18 program for the PNG.

19 Sec. 5. *Secretary General.* - The Chairman of the Philippine Sports Commission
20 shall serve as the Secretary General of the PNG.

21 The Secretary General shall recommend to the Board the composition of the PNG
22 Secretariat and all the activities undertaken by the latter, including the utilization of funds
23 for the preparations, organization and conduct of the PNG. The Secretariat, which shall
24 come from the existing personnel of the PSC, the DILG, and the POC shall directly manage
25 the conduct of the PNG.

1 Sec. 6. *Roles of Concerned Agencies.* - The following government agencies,
2 instrumentalities and entities shall be tasked to perform the following roles and
3 responsibilities:

4 (1) Philippine Sports Commission.

- 5 a) To carry out overall management, coordination and implementation of the PNG;
6 b) To provide manpower, technical resources and sports facilities; and
7 c) To perform other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the Board.

8 (2) Department of the Interior and Local Government.

- 9 a) To mandate all LGUs to coordinate, cooperate and support the plans, programs
10 and activities of the PNG;
11 b) To direct the Philippine National Police to prepare and implement a comprehensive
12 security plan for the LGU venues where the PNG shall be held;
13 c) To perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the Board.

14 (3) Department of Education.

- 15 a) To align the *Palarong Pambansa* calendar of activities, programs and policies
16 to the conduct of the PNG;
17 b) To allow the use of school buildings and classrooms as billeting centers;
18 c) To allow DepEd teachers, who are licensed or accredited technical officials of
19 the national sports associations, to officiate in the games; and
20 d) To perform other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the
21 Board.

22 (4) Commission on Higher Education.

- 23 a) To promote the program and activities of the PNG to all higher educational
24 institutions;

- 1 b) To recommend to the state universities and colleges the use of their school
- 2 buildings and classrooms as billeting centers;
- 3 c) To issue memorandum orders on the alignment of tertiary sports events and
- 4 calendar of activities to the PNG; and;
- 5 d) To perform other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the Board.

6 (5) Local Government Units.

- 7 a) To organize within their jurisdiction a multi-sectoral group to serve as their Local
- 8 Sports Council (LSC) which shall have the authority to accredit and to allow
- 9 athletes to participate in the Games;
- 10 b) To recruit, train, select and develop athletes who will compete in the PNG, and
- 11 organize local competitions within their respective jurisdictions; and
- 12 c) To perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the Board.

13
14 (6) Philippine Olympic Committee.

- 15
- 16 a) To supervise all participating National Sports Associations involved in the PNG; and
- 17 b) To perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the Board.

18 (7) National Sports Associations.

- 19 a) To set the qualifications for athletes participating in different events based on
- 20 their international federations' rules and regulations;
- 21 b) To provide technical assistance in the conduct of their respective sports
- 22 competitions in the PNG, including the appointment of qualified officiating officials;
- 23 c) To conduct regional or cluster qualifying competitions, as may be required by any
- 24 sports association, in coordination with the PSC and the host LSC;

1 d) To allow the participation of all athletes, including national athletes, entered by
2 the LSCs regardless of their membership status with their respective NSAs:
3 *Provided, That:*

4 i. The athlete conforms and agrees to abide by the competition rules and
5 regulations of the NSA; and

6 ii. The athlete is not under any sanction by the concerned National Sports
7 Association or International Federation.

8 *Sec. 7. The Local Sports Councils (LSC).* - The LSCs organized by their respective
9 LGUs shall be headed by the provincial governor or the city mayor. For purposes of this
10 Act, the LSC shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

11 (a) To encourage, promote and organize local sports competitions within
12 their respective jurisdictions;

13 (b) To recruit, train, and select athletes for participation in the PNG;

14 (c) To develop and maintain a pool of local athletes and provide them with
15 the necessary assistance;

16 (d) To enter athletes in the PNG and its corresponding regional and cluster
17 qualifying competitions;

18 (e) To be responsible for the entire delegation entered in the PNG, and ensure the
19 compliance of their athletes with the eligibility rules of the PNG;

20 (f) To enter an athlete in any sports event subject to PNG rules, provided said athlete
21 is not under any sanction by the concerned National Sports Association or
22 International Federation;

23 (g) To give athletes the authority to represent their respective LSC in the PNG and
24 corresponding regional and cluster qualifying competitions; and

25 (h) To carry only the name of the LSC that it represents;

1 *Sec. 8. Participation Rules.* – To participate in the PNG, all athletes shall be
2 governed and must comply the following rules:

3 (a) Eligibility

- 4 1) All Filipinos by birth, including those residing outside of the Philippines
5 but are of Filipino ancestry, shall be eligible to participate in the PNG;
6 2) The qualifying age for different events shall be determined by the NSAs
7 based on their international federations' rules and regulations; and
8 3) Compliance with other eligibility rules and regulations that may be
9 prescribed by the PNG, LSC and concerned NSA.

10 (b) Representation

- 11 1) Athletes shall, at all times, represent only the LSC that entered its name
12 in the PNG or in any regional or cluster qualifying competitions;
13 2) No athlete shall likewise be allowed to carry, represent or promote any
14 public or private organization, enterprise or sponsor in the PNG.

15 *Sec. 9. Appropriations.* – In order to provide the necessary funds required for the
16 proper implementation of this program, the following funding shall be made available:

- 17 a) For the preparations, organization, and operations of the biennial PNG,
18 including the organization of the different regional and cluster qualifying
19 competitions, the amount necessary to fund the expenses covering the
20 operations of the sports competitions, including the expenses for competition
21 officials and personnel, meal allowances, logistics for the accommodation of all
22 participating athletes and team officials, purchase of necessary competition
23 equipment, rental of venues for competition, opening ceremonies, incentives
24 and rewards for athletes and LSCs shall be sourced out from the General
25 Appropriations Fund of the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC).

1 (b) For the preparation, training and participation of the athletes in the PNG, the
2 LGUs shall be authorized to appropriate at least one percent (1%) of their
3 annual "Internal Revenue Allotment" (IRA) and if the need arises charge the
4 amounts necessary to their "Special Activity Fund" or their "Special Education
5 Fund" as may be allowed by existing laws. For this purpose, all LGUs shall also
6 be allocated annually an additional IRA equivalent to one percent (1%) thereof.

7 Sec. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The PSC, in coordination with the
8 DILG, DepEd, CHED, POC, and NSAs, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to
9 implement the provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days after its effectivity.

10 Sec. 11. *Separability Clause.* - If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid or
11 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

12 Sec. 12. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, issuances, decrees, rules
13 and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed
14 amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

15 Sec. 13. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
16 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,