

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



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SENATE

S. No. 1523

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

**AN ACT
PRESERVING THE INDIGENOUS GAMES OF THE PHILIPPINES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) declared that play is one of the most important tools on how children gain essential knowledge and skills. This was published in its report in 2018 which further said that "play opportunities and environments that promote play, exploration and hands-on learning are at the core of effective pre-primary programmes¹." Furthermore, UNICEF affirms that playtime helps in building a strong psychological base for children. It develops their social and emotional skills.

In the Philippines, Filipinos have lived, enjoyed and mastered our home grown indigenous games. Indigenous games have shaped generations of Filipinos. Undoubtedly, these games have instilled values of camaraderie, teamwork and sportsmanship. Childhood is never the same without these indigenous games.

Indigenous games, such as *patintero*, *luksong tinik*, *taguan*, *sungka*, *sipa*, are considered markers of our cultural heritage. Amid children's attachment to gadgets and digital entertainments, the call to preserve indigenous games, thus, inevitably arises.

This proposed measure seeks to do just that. It tasks the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd), to initiate measures to preserve the traditional games in the country, among others.

To ensure the preservation of indigenous games in the Philippines, and our culture and heritage in general, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

¹ October 2018. **Learning Through Play**. UNICEF Publications. Accessed: <https://www.unicef.org/sites/default/files/2018-12/UNICEF-Lego-Foundation-Learning-through-Play.pdf>



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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Philippine Indigenous*
2 *Games Preservation Act.*”

3 *Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.* – Article II, Section 22 of the 1987 Constitution
4 provides that the State shall recognize and promote the rights of indigenous cultural
5 communities within the framework of national unity and development. Furthermore,
6 Article 31.1 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
7 enjoins all State signatories to take effective measures to recognize and to protect the
8 exercise of the indigenous peoples’ rights, which include the maintenance, control,
9 and development of their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional
10 expression, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games, among
11 others.

12 Pursuant to the aforesaid mandates, it is incumbent upon the State to lay down
13 specific policy directives to promote the interest of our indigenous peoples and
14 strengthen our cultural heritage and historical roots. The State shall take the
15 necessary steps to preserve the indigenous peoples’ games which serve as the best
16 avenue for their self-expression, and for promoting peace, harmony, goodwill and
17 camaraderie among them.

18 *Sec. 3. Indigenous Games.* – The term “indigenous games” refer to the
19 traditional sports and games or activities inherent to the different indigenous cultural
20 communities that reflect the rich cultural heritage, traditions or customs handed down

1 from generation to generation, such as tribal archery, blowpipe, sibat, dug-out canoe
2 race, rock balancing, *sumpit*, *sungka*, *kadang-kadang* and other games distinct to the
3 indigenous communities.

4 Sec. 4. *Annual Regional and National Indigenous Games.* – The Philippine
5 Sports Commission (PSC), in coordination with the Philippine Olympic Committee
6 (POC) and the local government units (LGUs), shall conduct annual regional and
7 national indigenous sports competitions.

8 The host LGU, in consultation with the concerned indigenous cultural
9 communities, shall have the prerogative to choose which sports shall be included in
10 the regional and national indigenous sports competitions.

11 Sec. 5. *Other Means of Preserving the Indigenous Games.* – The National
12 Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the National Commission on Indigenous
13 Peoples (NCIP), the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF), in coordination
14 with the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education
15 (CHED), and the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), shall initiate measures to
16 preserve indigenous games in the country, such as the inclusion of games as part of
17 the curricula in the basic and higher education systems of schools, the production of
18 documentary or other useful means, the conduct of regular demonstration of such
19 useful means, and the conduct of regular demonstration of such games in the *Palarong*
20 *Pambansa* and in other national sports events, and in appropriate school activities.

21 The NCCA shall likewise conduct research on the various sports traditionally
22 played by different indigenous groups to ensure their preservation and development.

23 Sec. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – The PSC and the POC as
24 the lead agencies, in coordination with the NCCA, NCIP, DepEd, CHED, PIA, and LGUs,
25 shall promulgate the rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act
26 within sixty (60) days after its effectivity.

27 Sec. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
28 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall
29 remain in full force and effect.

30 Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees or issuances,
31 executive orders, letter of instructions, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary

1 to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or
2 amended accordingly.

3 *Sec. 6. Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
4 complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general
5 circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,