

Fifteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2662

Introduced by Honorable Lucy Marie Torres-Gomez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to expand the grant of non-monetary benefits and incentives to national athletes, coaches and trainers, amending for the purpose Republic Act No. 9064, otherwise known as the "*National Athletes, Coaches and Trainers Benefits and Incentives Act of 2001*." This measure proposes that all national athletes are provided adequate living quarters while they are training for international competitions. Likewise, it proposes to give members of the national training pool who have competed in international competitions the opportunity to finish their studies and earn a degree by providing them with scholarships. These athletes, coaches and trainers should, however, be recognized and accredited by the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippine Sports Commission.

Members of the various national training pools go thru arduous preparations and vigorous training for months, or even years, to represent our country in international competitions. The skill, hard work, dedication and perseverance of our athletes have continuously brought pride and honor to our country despite the pressure and the odds stacked against them.

Winning for flag and country is every national athlete's goal but equally important is one's personal development and education. The challenge lies in having a balanced approach in attaining life and sporting goals. Cognizant of the sacrifices made by our national athletes and the honor they bring to our country, the State should provide them the necessary support to allow them to attain both goals.

Presently, RA 9064 provides scholarships to athletes who have won in international competitions or to any one qualified member of their family within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity in the form of tuition fees in state colleges and universities in order to complete a college or university degree. "*International*

competitions" as defined in RA 9064 refer to international sports competitions which are sanctioned by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) or held every four (4) years including qualifying championships in team sports wherein only one or two countries may qualify for the Olympics or world championships.

It is acknowledged that many national athletes are faced with the challenge of reconciling their educational, training and competition schedules. For many national athletes, it is part of their lives to sacrifice the precious time for school and instead devote it for training. We are aware of the fact that some athletes who made us proud during their prime were unable to earn a degree or even finish secondary education. Then, they realize too late that they need education to have a livelihood or a new profession after their career in sports is through.

It is recognized that in order for athletes to be fully successful and able to integrate themselves back into society at the end of their sporting career, a balanced approach to sports and education is crucial. This bill seeks to grant scholarships not only to athletes who have won but also to those who have at least represented the country in international competitions. The rigorous training and competition, which an athlete needs to undertake and overcome before qualifying for a slot in the national team to compete in international competitions, should be enough reason for said athletes to deserve scholarships from the State.

It is also the intention of this bill to provide members of the national training pools of the various National Sports Associations adequate living quarters and regional training centers for their training and preparations for competitions.

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



LUCY MARIE TORRES-GOMEZ

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AN ACT
EXPANDING THE GRANT OF NON-MONETARY BENEFITS AND
INCENTIVES TO NATIONAL ATHLETES, COACHES AND TRAINERS
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9064,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “*NATIONAL ATHLETES, COACHES AND
TRAINERS BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES ACT OF 2001*”

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

SECTION 1. A new paragraph shall be added to Section 4 of Republic Act
No. 9064 to be designated as paragraph (g) to read as follows:

“**Section 4.** *Benefits and Privileges for National Athletes,
Coaches and Trainers.* – Any national athlete, coach and trainer who
is currently registered as such before the PSC shall be entitled to the
following:

(a) xxx

xxx

xxx

xxx

(e) priority in existing livelihood programs being undertaken by various government agencies subject to the guidelines and qualifications by the implementing body; [and]

(f) priority in national housing programs, affordable “pabahay” loans and other housing opportunities subject to the guidelines and qualifications set by the National Housing Authority (NHA) or the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF)[.]; **AND**

(G) THE USE OF LIVING QUARTERS AND REGIONAL TRAINING CENTERS WHICH SHALL BE SET-UP AND MAINTAINED BY THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION (PSC) FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF NATIONAL ATHLETES WHILE PREPARING AND TRAINING FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS.”

SEC. 2. Section 5 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 5. Scholarships. – A national athlete who **COMPETES OR** wins in an international competition or any one qualified member of [his/her] **THE WINNING ATHLETE’S** immediate family within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity shall be entitled to scholarship benefits in the form of tuition fees in state colleges and universities in order to complete a college or university degree. The **NATIONAL ATHLETE WHO COMPETES IN AN**

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION [winning national athlete] shall likewise be given priority in the availment of state college and university scholarship grants.

Likewise, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Education Skills and Development Authority (TESDA) shall give priority to winning and qualified national athletes who seek scholarship grants and study under their programs subject to the qualifications for all applicants.

Private colleges and universities shall likewise be encouraged to adopt a similar program in their institutions for [winning] national athletes **WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS.**”

SEC. 3. Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the PSC, in coordination with the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC), CHED, TESDA, and other concerned government agencies shall promulgate such rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,