

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Introduced by Honorable Rufus B. Rodriguez and
Honorable Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.**

House Bill No. 4298

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Last December, 2010, the Philippine football team, more popularly known as the Azkals beat Vietnam in order to enter the semi-finals of the AFF Suzuki Cup. In the semifinals, the Azkals were supposed to play in the Philippines to face Indonesia in a home-and-away series where the winner will play for the championship. However, the Federation of football of ASEAN (AFF) deemed that the Azkals' home field in Panaad, Bacolod is not up to the federation's requirements. As such, the Azkals were forced to play in Indonesia against Indonesia in front around 80,000 Indonesians in what was supposed to be a "home" game for the Azkals. The Azkals lost to Indonesia and failed to advance to the championship round. While there is no guarantee that the Azkals would have won had they played in the Philippines, home-field advantage would have definitely helped as thousands of Filipinos would be behind our players cheering them on instead of thousands of Indonesians jeering them.

This just underscores the fact that the country needs a bigger and better football stadium in order to give our Azkals a home where they can practice and host international tournaments. There are currently five football stadiums all over the Philippines. The biggest of which is the adopted home of the Azkals which is the Panaad Stadium in Bacolod which only has a capacity of 20,000. In contrast, our neighbors in Asia have bigger and better stadiums. Indonesia has the Bung Karno Stadium with a 100,000 capacity, Vietnam has the My Dinh stadium with a capacity of 40,000, Brunei has the Sultan Hassal Bolkiah Stadium with a capacity of 30,000, Cambodia has the 50,000 capacity National Olympic Stadium, Singapore has the 55,000 capacity Stadium of Singapore and Myanmar has the Bogyoke Aung San Stadium with a capacity of 40,000.

And as seen in the recent Azkals versus Mongolia match held in Panaad Stadium, the 20,000 capacity is not enough. As the sport gains popularity, so does the number of Filipinos who want to see our team perform live in action. The Philippine Football Federation (PFF) printed out 18,000 tickets, including 4,000 grandstand tickets that were sold out days before the match, and 4,000 VIP tickets. And as early as 6 a.m. on game day, people already started to arrive for a match that scheduled 13 hours and by 10 a.m., the crowd had already swelled to 5,000. Sadly, though, majority of them did not get tickets and were turned away.

It is high time that we bring back the glory days of football in the Philippines like the 70's and 80's when the Philippine football team was among the strongest in Asia and while the country is admittedly still basketball-crazy, we need to face the facts that we have better opportunities in football considering that Filipino football players have the skills and talent at par and even better than players from neighboring countries

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ



MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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AN ACT

**APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF THREE HUNDRED MILLION PESOS FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION A WORLD CLASS FOOTBALL STADIUM IN THE PHILIPPINES
WITH A SEATING CAPACITY OF 75,000**

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

SECTION 1. The sum of Three Hundred Million Pesos (P300,000,000) is hereby
appropriated exclusively for the construction of a world class football stadium in the
Philippines with a seating capacity of 75,000 .

SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause* – All laws, decrees, orders, instructions, proclamations,
rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are
hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SEC. 3. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,