

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 5575

Introduced by **Hon. Mark Aeron H. Sambar**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 17 provides:

Section 17. The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.

Apart from the intermittent efforts of some national teams and associations, there is no single program to address the problems that slow down sports development. There is a need to better our sports programs on a long-term basis. These appear to come from the public perception of sports. In the interest of sports development in the country, there is a need to improve the existing national sports program, not only by unifying the efforts of the different national teams and associations, but also by a high-profile campaign encouraging as many Filipinos as possible to engage in sports.

With the manner sports programs are facilitated in the country, those who are well off are the ones who have access to better instruction, training, and facilities. In a developing country like the Philippines, most live below the poverty level so more pressing problems prevent them from pursuing any interest they have in sports. There is only the annual basketball *liga* in different *barangays* which is the highlight of the sports activities for most rural communities.

Knowing that there is no appeal in and little benefit to becoming an athlete, many among those who are interested in sports are also content to be mere spectators on TV rather than active participants. These spectators watch only the more fast-paced games like boxing, volleyball and basketball. Sponsors would naturally only support the events with the most number of followers.

"A unified sports program is one in which all the sectors of the society are given the opportunity to participate in any sports program they choose, at whatever level appropriate for them," says Dr. Hercules Callanta, dean of the UP College of Human Kinetics. "The program should allow and encourage the participation of the citizenry. This includes spectators who wish merely to engage in sports without necessarily excelling in them or turning professional; older people who go into sports as recreation and diversion; the very young who can pick up social and athletic skills through early exposure to discipline and vigorous play; and the financially underprivileged, who should be encouraged to pursue wellness and health through physical activity."¹

With the recent success of Filipinos internationally in newer fields like martial arts, dragonboat racing and football, among others, now is not the time to be complacent. We have to reassess the way we source our athletes and should therefore create a fertile ground for the birth of our future Olympic gold medalists.

This bill seeks to establish a countryside sports development program not just to tap the potential for athletic success of the marginalized sectors of society in the far flung areas, but also to create a culture of love for sport and the physical wellness that goes with it.


HON. MARK AERON H. SAMBAR
Representative, Iwawersa ng Bayaning Atletas Party List

¹ <http://www.up.edu.ph/upforum.php?issue=25&i=190>

1 The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental
2 rights of every human being.

3 To this end, there is a need to improve the national sports program to start at the
4 grassroots level particularly those from the countryside.

5 SECTION 3. *Sports Guidance Office.* – There shall be a Sports Guidance Office
6 (SGO) to be established in every province. It shall be headed by an Executive Director who
7 shall be appointed by the Secretary of Education. The SGO shall work closely with the
8 governor in the development of the sports program of the province.

9 The SGO shall have the following functions:

10 (a) Develop School Sports Competition Programs within the province;

11 (b) Coordinate the construction of sports facilities and development of sports
12 equipment in the province. There shall be at least one provincial sports center in
13 every province;

14 (c) Conduct training programs for PE teachers, coaches, instructors, referees/
15 officiating officials and trainers;

16 (d) Inform graduating high school students of possible sports scholarships in different
17 universities both here and abroad;

18 (e) Develop a fitness program for the residents of their province;

19 (f) The SGO shall request the local television, radio and print media to disseminate
20 information about their activities and to encourage the local residents to engage in
21 sports;

22 (g) Work with different national sports associations to promote different kinds of
23 sports in their province;

1 (h) Submit an annual report to Congress on the progress of the sports programs they
2 have instituted in the LGU.

3 SECTION 4. *Observance of National Fitness Day.* – There shall be a “National
4 Fitness Day” to be observed every 30th of September. The SGO shall prepare activities on a
5 provincial level that promote sports and health.

6 SECTION 5. *Role of the Department of Education.* - The Department of Education
7 shall emphasize the need for sports development and shall allocate at least two hours in every
8 week for the Physical Education subject except during examination week. It shall draft a
9 standard curriculum for sports in grade school and high school which will include the
10 following:

- 11 (a) History of sports and different kinds of sports including Filipino sports icons;
12 (b) Health and proper nutrition;
13 (c) It shall be designed to allow students to experience at least a minimum exposure
14 to the following categories of activities:

- 15 (1) aquatics,
16 (2) conditioning activities.
17 (3) gymnastics,
18 (4) individual/dual sports,
19 (5) team sports,
20 (6) rhythms, and
21 (7) dance.

22 Students shall be encouraged to continue to explore those activities in which they
23 have a primary interest by effectively managing their community resources. A planned

1 sequence of learning experiences must be designed to support a progression of student
2 development.

3 SECTION 6. *Funding*. – An initial appropriation of P80,000,000.00 is hereby
4 appropriated for this program.

5 SECTION 7. *Separability Clause*. – If any provision, or part hereof is held invalid or
6 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
7 valid and subsisting.

8 SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause*. – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
9 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
10 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

11 SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
12 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,