

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH (17<sup>TH</sup>) CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **7416**



Introduced by Representative Manuel Monsour T. Del Rosario III

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Foreign-born and trained elite athletes have been contributing to the Olympic medal count of many countries since as early as 1988 in a growing trend that blurs the national boundaries of competition. These countries have been naturalizing foreign talents in order to achieve a competitive advantage. The grant of citizenship to athletes is a recognition of the value that nations place on medals.

In 2016, Congress granted former NBA player Andray Blatche Philippine citizenship, expediting his eligibility for the qualifying rounds of the FIBA World Championships. Blatche's donning of the national colors was a key factor that enabled the Philippines to secure a berth in the World Championships and restore the Philippines' status in world basketball.

Our country has little to zero participation in the Olympic sport of wrestling. We have no wrestlers that can compete in the international level. While our country has a rich talent pool for the sport, we have a severe lack of wrestling programs, technology and training that could spur the development of the sport in the country. Wrestling has not gained traction in the mainstream consciousness of Filipinos. As such, wrestling is an area where foreign elite athletes can help because of the skills they have developed through decades and centuries of culture that valued the sport. One or two elite athletes can change the possibility of the Philippines doing well in a non-traditional sport such as wrestling.

Egor Dmitriev, 27, is a talented and bemedalled freestyle wrestler from the Russian Federation (Sakha Republic). He has placed in several events sanctioned by the United World Wrestling (UWW), the governing body that oversees the sport of wrestling in the Olympics and world championships. Some of Dmitirev's notable accomplishments are as follows:

| YEAR | RANK | TOURNAMENT                    | SITE              |
|------|------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 2016 | 1st  | Zakharov Memorial Tournament  | Yakutsk, Russia   |
| 2015 | 1st  | Kemerovo Open                 | Kemerovo, Russia  |
| 2015 | 1st  | Dogan Invitational            | Izmir, Turkey     |
| 2015 | 2nd  | Shakhtersky Tournament        | Minsk, Belarus    |
| 2014 | 3rd  | Dmitriy Korkin International  | Yakutsk, Russia   |
| 2014 | 3rd  | Russian University Nationals  | Smolensk, Russia  |
| 2012 | 3rd  | Russian Regional Championship | Braynsk, Russia   |
| 2010 | 2nd  | Dmitriy Korkin International  | Yakutsk, Russia   |
| 2009 | 2nd  | Skopie International          | Skopie, Macedonia |

Dmitriev has expressed his desire to compete for the Philippine wrestling team should he be granted citizenship. He has recently fulfilled UWW's two-year non-compete policy for switching nationalities. Given his accomplishments and coaching ability, granting Dmitriev Philippine citizenship will be advantageous to our country both in the short-term and long-term. As a competitor, our country can count on him to bring home medals from notable events such as the World Championships and the Asian Games. As a coach, the sport of wrestling in the Philippines will benefit from the transfer of technology ensuing from Dmitriev's deep knowledge and skills and wealth of experience in wrestling. At this time, he has already established good rapport with our national coaches and athletes, and is currently in the Philippines by invitation, training with and coaching our national wrestling team.

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



MANUEL MONSOUR T. DEL ROSARIO III

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**AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO EGOR DMITRIEV**

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

**SECTION 1. *Grant of Philippine Citizenship.*** – Mr. Egor Dmitriev is hereby granted Philippine citizenship with all the rights, privileges and prerogatives, as well as the duties and obligations appurtenant thereto under the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of the Philippines.

**SEC. 2. *Oath of Allegiance.*** – After the taking by Egor Dmitriev of his Oath of Allegiance before an officer duly authorized for this purpose, and the registration of the same with the Bureau of Immigration, Mr. Egor Dmitriev shall enter upon the full enjoyment of his Philippine citizenship.

**SEC. 3. *Certification of Naturalization.*** – Upon registration of the Oath of Allegiance, the Bureau of Immigration shall forthwith issue Mr. Egor Dmitriev's Certification of Naturalization.

**SEC. 4. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect immediately upon publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,