

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4594



Introduced by Representative Lucy Torres-Gomez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Constitution mandates the State to promote physical education and sports, to foster self-discipline, teamwork and excellence for the development of healthy and alert citizenry. In furtherance of this mandate there should be programs that will encourage the entire citizenry to participate in physical fitness and sports and excel on these programs because there are so many talents around who just need to be tapped and trained.

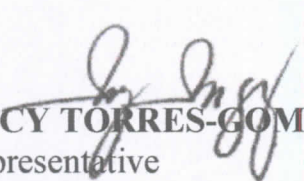
It is also observed that over the years, despite abundance in supposed good/potential athletes, the outcome of our athlete's participation in international competitions like the ASEAN GAMES and the OLYMPIC GAMES have been dismal. The Philippines is always hungry for medals. We recognize the efforts and capabilities of our athletes but the sad reality is there is a perennial lack of funding in the training of our athletes and the lack of pool of adequately trained athletes.

This proposed bill seeks to find solution to this dilemma of Philippine sports by providing a structure for a truly integrated and comprehensive national sports program, linking grassroots sports promotion to elite sports development and encourage all local government officials to promote the development of sports in the countryside covering all barangays, towns, municipalities, cities and provinces.. This is also to encourage and assist various National Sports Association to promote their respective sports at the grassroots level providing the necessary linkages with local government units.

Today what we have are school based Palarong Pambansa for public schools but it only allows participation of in-school athletes (students) in primary and secondary level. College and university students, out-of-school youths, graduates and professionals who can be source for physically mature and competitive athletes are not included. While we have the UAAP and NCAA for private colleges and universities., more often than not, sports is not a priority for the athletes from these collegiate leagues.

The Palarong Pambansa, the UAAP and the NCAA , only include sports that are regularly played in public schools. Other Olympic and Asian Games sports which have proven to give our country more medals in international competitions are not included in the program. Among these sports are billiards, bowling, fencing, weightlifting, shooting, rowing, and many more. The proposed Philippine National Games hopes to be a venue for scouting for potential athletes in various sports.

This Act hopes to institutionalize a truly comprehensive national grassroots sports program, that will harness the vast potentials of the citizenry in discovering and developing champion athletes who could excel in international competition, thus giving our country pride and international goodwill and addressing the long standing problems of Philippine sports in general. To achieve this, the direct involvement of LGUs is imperative .



LUCY TORRES-GOMEZ
Representative
Fourth District of Leyte

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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL
GRASSROOTS SPORTS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
CENTERED IN THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL GAMES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the
“Philippine National Games Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policies.* –

The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect the physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

The State also 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.

Further, the State shall promote physical education and encourages sports programs, league competitions and amateur sports, including

training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry, and

Finally, all education institutions shall undertake regular sports activities throughout the country in cooperation with athletic clubs and other sectors.

SEC. 3. *Objectives.* –The objectives of the Philippine National Games are as follows:

- (a) To provide the structure for a truly integrated and comprehensive national sports program linking grassroots sports promotion to elite sports development.
- (b) To serve as the government's premier national sports competition to be held once every two years.
- (c) To encourage all local government officials to promote the development of sports in the countryside covering all barangays, towns, municipalities, cities and provinces.
- (d) To encourage and assist various National Sports Association in promoting their respective sports at the grassroots level providing the necessary linkages with local government units.
- (e) To encourage the entire citizenry to participate in physical fitness and sports activities in furtherance of the Philippine Constitution's mandate for the State to promote physical education and sports, to foster self-discipline, teamwork and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry.
- (f) To serve as the pinnacle of a unified sports promotion and development program, bringing together in harmony and solidarity all sectors in sports, public and private. The Palarong Pambansa, and other local sports competitions organised by the LGUs and/or the private sector, shall serve as "feeder" and preparatory program for the PNG.

SEC. 4. *Rationale.* - This Act is necessary to institutionalize a truly comprehensive national grassroots sports program, that will harness the vast potentials of the citizenry in discovering and developing champion

athletes who could excel in international competition, thus giving our country pride and international goodwill. This Act is imperative as the desired situation is not addressed by the Palarong Pambansa ("PP") or any other sports programs now in place.

- (a) The PP is run by the Department of Education, thus limiting its coverage to in-school youth, trained and entered by schools with no direct participation of the local government units and the local elected officials
- (b) The PP only allows participation of in-school athletes (students) in primary and secondary level. College and university students, out-of-school youths, graduates and professionals who can be source for physically matured and competitive athletes are not included.
- (c) The PP program only includes sports that are regularly played in public schools. Other Olympic and Asian Games sports which have proven to give our country more medals in international competitions are not included in the program. Among these sports are billiards, bowling, fencing, weightlifting, shooting, rowing, and many more.
- (d) The PP program requires a selection of athletes to represent a geographical region. The regional selection is headed by the DepEd Regional Director, since the PP is a DepEd program. The Governors, or Mayors and the provinces or cities they represent are not directly involved. These local elected officials therefore have no stake in the success or failure of their regional team/delegation.
- (e) The PP sports officiating officials as well as the competition rules are devised and approved by the DepEd, with little or no participation of the National Sports Associations, which are the governing bodies of their respective sports in the country. These NSAs are accredited by their International Sports Federations which in turn govern the sport and their competitions worldwide.

SEC. 5. *Definition of Terms.* –As used in this Act, the following terms shall be understood to mean as follows:

- (a) Grassroots Sports Development program refers to a system which encourages and compels local government units (provinces, cities, municipalities, barangays) and their officials to engage in sports activities that would identify, recruit and train home-grown athletes
- (b) Elite Sports Development program refers to the functions and activities of National Sports Associations which are usually supported by the national government through the Philippine Sports Commission, in developing national athletes for and to represent the country in various international competitions

SEC. 6. *Coordinating Agencies and Instrumentalities.* – In the implementation of this Act, the following government agencies, instrumentalities and entities are hereby mandated to coordinate various aspects thereof, to wit:

- (a) Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) - The PSC shall be the overall coordinator of the national grassroots sports development program and the governing body of the Philippine National Games program
- (b) Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) - The DILG shall be the supervising government body in charged of all the local government units (LGUs) participating in the Philippine National Games
- (c) Local Government Units (LGUs) - The LGUs are the participating provinces and cities (highly urbanized, special, independent and chartered) given authority to participate in the Philippine National Games. For this purpose, the LGUs shall organize within their jurisdiction a multi-sectoral group to serve as their Local Sports Council (LSC) with the right to have athletes participate in the Games.

- (d) Department of National Defense (DND) - The DND shall be the supervising government body in charge of all the branches of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. They shall be recognized as an LSC authorized to have athletes (composed of military personnel) participate in the Philippine National Games.
- (e) Philippine Olympic Committee (POC)- The POC shall be the supervising non-governmental body in charged of all the participating National Sports Association involved in the Philippine National Games.
- (f) National Sports Associations (NSAs) - The National Sports Associations are the governing bodies in charge of organizing the competitions of their respective sports in the Philippine National Games.

SEC. 7. Organization and Structure. -

- (a) Role of the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC)-**
The PSC shall be the overall governing body of the Philippine National Games with the following authorities and responsibilities:
 - a. To form an Executive Committee which shall decide on any issue regarding the PNG;
 - b. To establish the PNG National Secretariat which shall serve as the nerve center for the day-to-day operations of the PNG; and
 - c. To formulate the necessary policies and regulations that would govern the relationships among the organizations involved.
- (b) Role of the Local Sports Councils (LSC) -** The LSCs are recognized by the PSC as having the authority and responsibility of developing athletes to be entered in the PNG, representing their respective LGUs or the AFP.
 - a. They must have must their own distinct constituencies engaged in sports development, including recruitment and training and selecting athletes for participation in the PNG,

and organizing local competitions in their respective jurisdictions;

- b. They shall have the sole authority for representation in the PNG and its corresponding regional and cluster qualifying competitions;
- c. The LSCs must have as Chairman the head (such as provincial governor or city mayor) of the LGU. In the same token, the AFP Chief of Staff serves as the head of the LSC (composed of military personnel);
- d. The LSC must be responsible for the entire delegation it enters in the PNG, and ensures that its athletes comply with the eligibility rules of the Games;
- e. The name of the LSC must reflect the territory/LGU that it represents; and
- f. The LSC may enter any athlete in any event as may be allowed by the PNG rules provided said athlete is not under suspension or expelled by the concerned NSA for cause, consistent with the international rules of their sport.

(c) Role of the National Sports Associations (NSA) - The NSAs are the governing bodies for their respective sports in the Philippines as accredited by their International Federation and recognized by the Philippine Olympic Committee

- a. The NSAs shall be responsible for the technical operations of their respective competitions in the PNG including the appointment of qualified officiating officials;
- b. The NSA in coordination with the PSC and the host LSC, shall conduct the various regional or cluster qualifying competitions;
- c. The NSAs must allow the participation of all athletes entered by the LSCs regardless of their membership status with the NSA, provided:
 - i. the athlete registers with the NSA local chapter or representative

- ii. the athlete conforms and agrees to abide by the competition rules and regulations of the NSA
- iii. the athlete carries the name and colors of the LSC he represents
- iv. the athlete carries the name and colors of the LSC
- v. The athlete is not presently under suspension or expelled by the NSA for cause, consistent with the international rules of their sport.

SEC. 8. *Participation Rules.* -

(a) Eligibility

- a. All Filipino, whether by birth or naturalized, and those permanently residing outside of the Philippines but are of Filipino ancestry and holders of Filipino passports shall be eligible, and
- b. To participate in the PNG, a competitor must comply with the eligibility rules of the PNG and the NSAs concerned, and must be entered by his LSC.

(b) Representation

- a. All competitors must represent the LSC that entered his/her name in the PNG. He/she shall represent this LSC at all times during the Games and shall not carry or promote other LSCs, organization, whether public or private;
- b. Should it be required that a regional or cluster qualifying competition be held to determine the qualified athlete/team that may be given the available slot/s for participation in the PNG, said athlete/team shall continue to carry and represent the same LSC that he originally represented; and
- c. No regional or cluster selection or representation shall be allowed in the PNG

SEC. 9. *Appropriation.* – In order to provide the necessary funds required for the proper implementation of this program, the following funding shall be made available:

- (a) For the preparations, organization and operations of the biennial Philippine National Games, including the organization of the different regional and cluster qualifying competitions, the amount of Fifty Million pesos (Php50,000,000.00) annually shall be appropriated by the National Treasury, and will form part of the General Appropriation Fund of the Philippine Sports Commission. This Fund shall include the cost of staging the PNG particularly the expenses covering the operations of the sports competitions including the expenses for competition officials and personnel, meal allowances and logistics for the accommodation and transportation of all participating athletes and team officials, purchase of necessary competition equipment, rental of venues for competition, opening ceremonies, and incentives and rewards for athletes and LSCs; and
- (b) For the preparation and training of the athletes, the LGUs shall be authorized to appropriate one percent (1%) of their annual “Internal Revenue Allotment” and if the need arises charge the amounts necessary to their “Special Activity Fund”and/or their “Special Education Fund”as may be allowed by existing laws.For this purpose, all LGUs shall also be allocated annually an additional IRA equivalent to one percent (1%) thereof.

SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, *the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Philippine Sports Commission shall jointly* issue the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation thereof.

SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or provision shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 13. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication either in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,