

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1954



Introduced by

HON. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ
and
HON. JUDE A. ACIDRE

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL GAMES AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

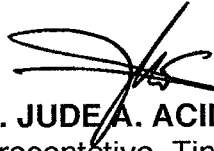
Under the 1987 Constitution, the State is mandated to "promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry."

This bill seeks to promote sports development by institutionalizing Philippine National Games, a comprehensive national grassroots sports program that shall serve as the country's premier national sports competition wherein various sports are included and fostered and local government units are encouraged to promote sports and organize sports competitions from the barangay level up to provincial level. The program shall also serve as the venue for nationwide talent search for identifying and developing outstanding athletes who have the potential to excel in various sports and place the country at the forefront of international sports competitions.

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



Rep. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ
Representative, Tingog Sinirangan



Rep. JUDE A. ACIDRE
Representative, Tingog Sinirangan

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

Section 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the "Philippine National Games Act."

Section 2. *Declaration of Policies.* Section 19 (1), Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall "promote physical education and encourage 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."

Pursuant thereto, it is incumbent upon the State to institutionalize a genuine comprehensive national grassroots sports program which serves as the country's premier national sports competition and venue for the nationwide talent search for identifying and developing outstanding athletes who have the potential to excel in various sports, and place the country at the forefront of international sports competitions.

Section 3. Objectives. The objectives of the Philippine National Games (PNG) are as follows:

- a. To provide a framework and 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 provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays;
- d. To serve as a venue for the National Sports Associations in promoting their respective sports at the grassroots level providing the necessary linkages with local government units (LGUs); and,
- e. To widen the base for talent identification, selection, and recruitment of athletes that shall constitute the national pool to be trained for international sports competitions.

Section 4. Preparatory Sports Program. The Palarong Pambansa provided for under Republic Act No. 10588, otherwise known as the "Palarong Pambansa Act of 2013," and other local sports competitions organized by the LGUs or the private sector, shall serve as "feeder" and preparatory sports program for the PNG.

Section 5. Establishment of the Philippine National Games Board. A Philippine National Games Board, hereinafter referred to as the "Board," is hereby created as the lead policy-making and coordinating body for the preparation and conduct of the PNG.

The members of the Board shall be entitled to reimbursement of actual traveling and other expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties as members thereof, subject to pertinent laws, rules, and regulations.

Section 6. Membership of the Board. The Board shall have seven (7) members composed of the following:

- a. Executive Secretary – Chairperson;
- b. Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) – Vice Chairperson;
- c. Chairman of the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) – Secretary General;
- d. Secretary of the Department of Education – Member;
- e. Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education – Member; and,
- f. President of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) – Member.

Section 7. *Functions and Duties of the Board.* The Board shall perform the following functions and duties:

- a. To formulate policies and guidelines that shall govern the conduct of the PNG, and the relationships among the organizations involved;
- b. To form an Executive Committee which shall be headed by a Secretary General in-charge for the day-to-day operations of the PNG;
- c. To recognize the Local Sports Councils to be given authority to enter athletes and teams in the PNG;
- d. To determine the venue and schedule of the PNG;
- e. To determine the sports to be included which shall be aligned with the sports participated by the Philippines in the Southeast Asian Games, Asian Games, Olympics, and other mandatory international sports events;
- f. To establish an advisory council composed of public or private individuals, organizations, or entities necessary for the success of the PNG;
- g. To create the National Screening and Accreditation Committee;
- h. To determine the regional or cluster qualifying competitions, including the qualifying standards, consistent with the rules of the respective NSAs;
- i. To develop and recommend programs and policies that will promote the PNG and ensure the LGUs to support the PNG as the country's premier sports event;
- j. To establish a mediation body, including its rules and procedures, to resolve disputes related to the conduct of the PNG;
- k. To provide incentives and rewards to host LGU and winning LSCs;
- l. To enter into contracts or obligations essential for the accomplishment of its

- purposes and objectives;
- m. To assess the conduct of the PNG and submit an annual report to Congress; and,
 - n. To exercise such other functions as may be necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

Section 8. *PSC Chairman as the Secretary General and its Functions.* The Chairman of the PSC shall serve as the Secretary General of the PNG. The Secretary General shall recommend to the Board the composition of the PNG Secretariat and all the activities undertaken by the latter, including the utilization of funds for the preparations, organization, and conduct of the PNG. The Secretariat, which shall come from the existing personnel of the PSC, the DILG, and the POC shall directly manage the conduct of the PNG.

Section 9. *Roles of Concerned Agencies.* The following government agencies, instrumentalities and entities shall be tasked to perform the following roles and responsibilities:

1. Philippine Sports Commission.
 - a. To carry out overall management, coordination, and implementation of the PNG;
 - b. To provide manpower, technical resources, and sports facilities; and,
 - c. To perform other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the Board.
2. Department of the Interior and Local Government.
 - a. To mandate all LGUs to coordinate, cooperate, and support the plans, programs, and activities of the PNG;
 - b. To direct the Philippine National Police to prepare and implement a comprehensive security plan for the LGU venues where the PNG shall be held; and,
 - c. To perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the Board.
3. Department of Education.

- a. To align the Palarong Pambansa calendar of activities, programs, and policies to the conduct of the PNG;
- b. To allow the use of school buildings and classrooms as billeting centers;
- c. To allow DepEd teachers, who are licensed or accredited technical officials of the national sports associations, to officiate in the games; and,
- d. To perform other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the Board.

4. Commission on Higher Education.

- a. To promote the program and activities of the PNG to all higher educational institutions;
- b. To recommend to the state universities and colleges the use of their school buildings and classrooms as billeting centers;
- c. To issue memorandum orders on the alignment of tertiary sports events and calendar of activities to the PNG; and;
- d. To perform other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the Board.

5. Local Government Units.

- a. To organize within their jurisdiction a multi-sectoral group to serve as their Local Sports Council (LSC) which shall have the authority to accredit and allow athletes to participate in the PNG;
- b. To recruit, train, select and develop athletes who will compete in the PNG, and organize local competitions within their respective jurisdictions; and,
- c. To perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the Board.

6. Philippine Olympic Committee.

- a. To supervise all participating National Sports Associations involved in the PNG; and,
- b. To perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the Board.

7. National Sports Associations.

- a. To set the qualifications for athletes participating in different events based on their international federations' rules and regulations;
- b. To provide technical assistance in the conduct of their respective sports competitions in the PNG, including the appointment of qualified officiating officials;
- c. To conduct regional or cluster qualifying competitions, as may be required by any sports association, in coordination with the PSC and the host LSC; and,
- d. To allow the participation of all athletes, including national athletes, entered by the LSCs regardless of their membership status with their respective NSAs: *Provided, That:*
 - i. The athlete conforms and agrees to abide by the competition rules and regulations of the NSA; and,
 - ii. The athlete is not under any sanction by the concerned National Sports Association or International Federation.

Section 10. *The Local Sports Councils (LSCs).* The LSCs organized by their respective LGUs shall be headed by the provincial governor or the city mayor. For purposes of this Act, the LSC shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- a. To encourage, promote and organize local sports competitions within their respective jurisdictions;
- b. To recruit, train, and select athletes for participation in the PNG;
- c. To develop and maintain a pool of local athletes and provide them with the necessary assistance;
- d. To enter athletes in the PNG and its corresponding regional and cluster qualifying competitions;
- e. To be responsible for the entire delegation entered into the PNG, and ensure the compliance of their athletes with the eligibility rules of the PNG;
- f. To enter an athlete in any sports event subject to PNG rules, provided said athlete is not under any sanction by the concerned National Sports Association or International Federation;

- g. To give athletes the authority to represent their respective LSC in the PNG and corresponding regional and cluster qualifying competitions; and,
- h. To carry only the name of the LSC that it represents.

Section 11. *Participation Rules.* To participate in the PNG, all athletes shall be governed and must comply the following rules:

a. Eligibility –

- 1. All Filipinos by birth, including those residing outside of the Philippines but are of Filipino ancestry, shall be eligible to participate in the PNG;
- 2. The qualifying age for different events shall be determined by the NSAs based on their international federations' rules and regulations; and,
- 3. Compliance with other eligibility rules and regulations that may be prescribed by the PNG, LSC, and concerned NSA.

b. Representation –

- 1. Athletes shall, at all times, represent only the LSC that entered its name in the PNG or in any regional or cluster qualifying competitions; and,
- 2. No athlete shall likewise be allowed to carry, represent, or promote any public or private organization, enterprise, or sponsor in the PNG.

Section 12. *Appropriations.* 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 PNG, including the organization of the different regional and cluster qualifying competitions, the amount of one hundred eighty million pesos (Php 180,000,000.00) annually shall be appropriated by the National Treasury, and will form part of the General Appropriations Fund of the PSC. 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, logistics for the accommodation of all participating athletes and team officials, purchase of necessary competition equipment, rental of venues for competition, opening ceremonies, incentives, and rewards for athletes and LSCs; and,

- b. For the preparation, training, and participation of the athletes in the PNG, the LGUs shall, be authorized to appropriate at least one percent (1%) of their annual "Internal Revenue Allotment" (IRA) and, if the need arises, charge the amounts necessary to their "Special Activity Fund" 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.

Section 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The PSC, in coordination with the DILG, DepEd, CHED, POC, and NSAs, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days after its effectivity.

Section 14. *Separability Clause.* If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 15. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, executive orders, issuances, decrees, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified, or repealed accordingly.

Section 16. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,