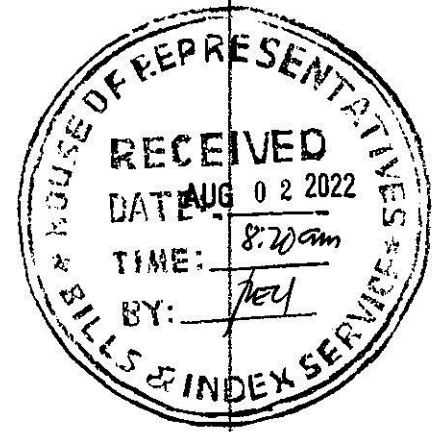


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila
Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 2968



Introduced by Rep. Anthony R. T. Golez Jr. MD, MBAH

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The field of sports is a great indicator of the level of civility in an area. There is not a single developed country in the world that does not engage in sports. In the Philippines, sports is one of the biggest form of entertainment. One could even argue that Filipinos are one of the most avid sports fans in the world. The likes of Manny Pacquiao, Efren "Bata" Reyes, and Hidilyn Diaz have brought the Philippines much recognition in the field.

Despite this much gusto, the field of sports has only recently begun to experience a surge in support from the government. For years, our athletes have decried the lack of support from the government. Through some successful reformations in the respective governing sports agencies like the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee, Filipino athletes are slowly gaining the support and confidence that they need in competing for the glory of the country.

Building on the growing support for the field of sports in the country, it is pivotal that the country discovers and develops its local talents in every sport. This bill therefore seeks to increase the support for the sports community by institutionalizing a more comprehensive version of the "Palarong Pambansa". It aims to up the ante of the "Palarong Pambansa" by utilizing the LGUs to cater to its local athletes and help them in competing within their chosen sport through various national tournaments and programs. With the cooperation of both the public and private sectors in the field of sports, the Philippine National Games shall serve as the training ground for budding athletes. Budgetary support for the program shall be provided for through this bill, in the hopes that this will further enkindle the confidence of our athletes that the country is truly rooting for their success.

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

HON. ANTHONY R. T. GOLEZ JR. MD, MBAH
Malasakit at Bayanihan Party List

Republic of the Philippines
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HOUSE BILL NO. 2968

Introduced by **Rep. Anthony R.T. Golez Jr. MD, MBAH**

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL GAMES AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 of 2022.*"

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policies. - Article IV, Section 19 (1) 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 sports 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.

Sec. 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; 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.

Sec. 4. Preparatory Sports Program. - The *Palarong Pambansa* provided for under Republic Act Number 10588, and other local sports competitions organized by the local government units or the private sector, shall serve as "feeder" and preparatory sports program for the PNG.

Sec. 5. Secretary General. - The Chairman of the Philippine Sports Commission 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.

Sec. 6. 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;
- 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 to allow athletes to participate in the Games;
- 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;
- 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.

Sec. 7. *The Local Sports Councils (LSC).* - 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 in 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;

Sec. 8. *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;
- 2) No athlete shall likewise be allowed to carry, represent or promote any public or private organization, enterprise or sponsor in the PNG.

Sec. 9. 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 necessary to fund 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 shall be sourced out from the General Appropriations Fund of the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC).
- (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.

Sec. 10. *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.

Sec. 11. *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.

Sec. 12. *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.

Sec. 13. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,