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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 10759

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES
RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO, JOCELYN P. TULFO, AND ERWIN T. TULFO

AN ACT GRANTING DISTINCTIVE HONORS AND PRIVILEGES TO NATIONAL ATHLETES, CREATING A NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND FOR SPORTS HEROES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 17 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates the State to give priority to sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.

On July 26, 2021, weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz won the first gold medal for the Philippines at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Ninety-seven (97) years since the country first competed in the Olympics, this win became a major milestone, not just in the history of Philippine sports, but in the face of the international sports community.

Recently, the Philippines, once again, had left its mark among the best of the best in the world of sports by bagging its second and third gold medals during the 2024 Paris Olympics. Carlos Edriel Yulo, a Filipino gymnast from the Philippine Team, became a national sports icon by winning the Olympics' Men's Floor Exercise Final and Men's Vault Final in artistic gymnastics. These triumphs added up to the country's roster of silver and bronze medalists in the global sports scene.

In recognition of the significant contribution brought about by our sports heroes to the country, this proposed legislative measure aims to grant distinctive honors and privileges to our national athletes. By creating a national endowment fund, benefits will be provided for them as well as the necessary support for the continuous training of all the awardees and their participation or exposure in international sports competitions.

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

RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO	**JOCELYN P. TULFO**	**ERWIN T. TULFO**
Representative	*Representative*	*Representative*
2nd District of Quezon City	*ACT-CIS Partylist*	*ACT-CIS Partylist*

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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 "Bayaning Atletang Pilipino Act."

SEC. 2. ***Declaration of Policy.*** - It is the declared policy of the State to promote excellence in the field of sports and foster the values of sportsmanship, patriotism, and nationalism to support nation-building and development.

SEC. 3. ***Definition of Terms.*** - For purposes of this Act, the following terms are hereby defined as follows:

a. *International sports competition* shall refer to international sports competitions under the following categories:

1. Regular major competitions, such as but not limited to, the Summer Olympic Games, Winter Olympic Games, Asian Games, Asian Winter Games, Southeast Asian (SEA) GAMES, Youth Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Asian Park Games, Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, Asian Beach Games, and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Para Games;

2. World-level championships held at least every two (2) years with at least forty-five (45) countries participating by sport;

3. Asian-level competitions held at least every two (2) years with at least twenty-five (25) countries participating by sport; and

4. Qualifying competitions for World-level games with at least ten (10) countries participating;

b. *National Academy of Sports or NAS* shall refer to the NAS System established under Republic Act No. 11470, otherwise known as the "The National Academy of Sports", or any of its existing or future campuses which aims to provide quality and enhanced secondary education program integrated with a special curriculum on sports.

SEC. 4. ***The Order of National Athletes.*** - There is hereby established the Order of National Athletes (Orden ng mga Pambansang Atleta) which shall be the highest honor the Government of the Philippines shall confer to its outstanding sports heroes who have brought immense pride and honor to the country and have dedicated their lives towards the advancement of their sports.

The Order shall be under the National Order of Cultural and Scientific Merit under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order No. 236, s. 2003. It shall be administered by the Komite ng Bayaning Atletang Filipino, otherwise known as the "Committee", created under Section 8 of this Act, and conferred by the President of the Philippines upon recommendation by the Committee.

Olympic medalists shall automatically be conferred: the Orders, which shall be retroactive from the effectivity of this Act.

Awardees of the Order of National Athletes shall enjoy the following privileges:

a. The rank and title of National Athlete, as proclaimed by the President of the Philippines;

b. The National Athlete medallion and citation;

c. Lifetime emolument and material benefits such as:

1. A cash award to be determined by the Committee, net of taxes for living awardees;

2. A cash award to be determined by the Committee, net of taxes for posthumous awardees and payable to legal heir/s;

3. A monthly life pension and medical and hospitalization benefits;

4. Life insurance coverage for awardees who are still insurable;

5. A place of honor in state functions, national commemoration ceremonies, and all other sports and cultural events; and

6. A state funeral, the arrangements for, and the expenses of which shall be borne by the Government upon the death of the National Athlete.

SEC. 5. ***The National Medal of Excellence in Sports.*** - There is hereby established the National Medal of Excellence in Sports (Pambansang Medalya ng Katangi-tanging Husay sa Isports) for outstanding individual and team achievements in international sports competitions. The President of the Philippines shall confer the National Medal of Excellence in Sports upon recommendation by the Committee.

SEC. 6. ***The Balangay Medal for Sportsmanship.*** - There is hereby established the Balangay Medal for Sportsmanship (Gawad Balangay) for heroic sportsmanship shown by athletes during international and local competitions exemplifying the values of honesty, fairness, selfishness, sacrifice, amity, and goodwill. The President of the Philippines shall confer the Balangay Medal for Sportsmanship upon recommendation by the Committee.

SEC. 7. ***Coaching Excellence Medal.*** - There is hereby established the Coaching Excellence Medal (Gabay ng Atletang Pilipino) for coaches who have gone above and beyond in nurturing athletes to reach their full potential and lead the team to victory in international sports competitions. The President of the Philippines shall confer the Coaching Excellence Medal upon recommendation by the Committee.

SEC. 8. ***Scholarship Benefits.*** - Awardees under this Act shall be given priority to enroll, on a full-scholarship basis, in the National Academy of Sports System Main Campus or any regional nationally-funded high schools for sports.

SEC. 9. ***Komite ng Bayaning Atletang Filipino.*** - The Committee shall be under the Office of the President. The Committee shall be composed of the following:

a. Chairperson of the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), as Chairman;
b. Secretary of the Department of Education or an authorized representative, as Member;
c. Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education or an authorized representative, as Member;
d. President of the Philippine Olympic Committee or an authorized representative, as Member;
e. Chairperson of the Athletes' Commission or an authorized representative, as Member;
f. Chairperson of the National Youth Commission or an authorized representative, as Member; and
g. Chairperson of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines or an authorized representative, as Member.

SEC. 10. ***Role and Function of the Komite ng Bayaning Atletang Pilipino.*** - The Committee shall approve the criteria, standards, nomination and selection processes, and benefits and privileges of the recipients of the awards under this Act.

The Committee shall likewise be the administrator of the Hidilyn Diaz Endowment Fund for Sports Heroes.

SEC. 11. ***Hidilyn Diaz Endowment Fund for Sports Heroes.*** - There is hereby established a Hidilyn Diaz Endowment Fund for Sports Heroes to exclusively fund the benefits

provided in this Act and support the continuous training of all the awardees and their participation or exposure in international sports competitions.

a. The amount of One Billion Pesos (PhP1,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated as seed money of the Endowment Fund: *Provided,* that no grant shall be awarded by the Committee except the interest drawn from the Fund: *Provided, further,* that no grant shall be awarded until after one (1) year from the organization of the Fund;

b. The private portion of the Fund shall be raised from the donations and other conveyances by gratuitous title, including funds, materials, property, and services;

c. Contribution to the Fund shall be deductible for income tax purposes under Section 34 (h)(2)(a) of the National Internal Revenue Code;

d. For the sound and judicious management of the Fund, the Committee shall appoint a reputable government-accredited investment institution as Fund Manager, subject to guidelines promulgated by the Committee and applicable government auditing and accounting rules;

e. The Committee shall be the administrator of the Fund and shall prepare the implementing guidelines and decision-making mechanisms, subject to the following:

1. Unless otherwise stipulated by the private donor, only earnings of private contributions shall be used;
2. No part of the seed capital of the Fund, including earnings thereof, shall be used to underwrite overhead expenses for administration;
3. The Committee shall organize a separate staff to be headed by a comptroller appointed by and directly responsible and accountable to the Committee; and
4. The Fund shall be audited annually by an independent external auditor or the Commission on Audit, as may be appropriate.

SEC. 12. ***Existing Incentives, Benefits, and Privileges.*** - The incentives, benefits, and privileges provided under this Act shall not diminish or affect existing incentives, benefits, and privileged provided in existing laws.

SEC. 13. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Committee shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 14. ***Appropriations.*** - The amount of One Billion Pesos (PhP1,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated to serve as seed money for the Hidilyn Diaz Endowment Fund for Sports Heroes as provided in Section 11 of this Act. The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the PSC. Thereafter, such appropriations necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 15. ***Separability.*** - If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 16. ***Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, executive orders, and administrative orders, or parts thereof that are inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 17. ***Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,