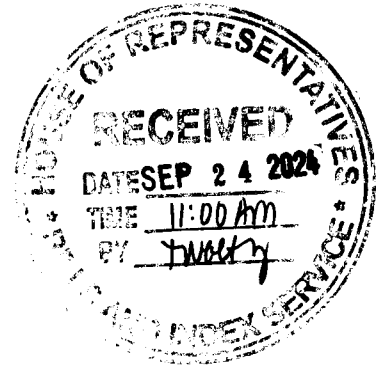




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10963**



Introduced by Representative Crispin Diego “Ping” D. Remulla

AN ACT
CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND
FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution states 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.

During the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, Hidilyn Diaz created history by bagging the first-ever gold medal of the country. Recently, during the Paris Olympics, Carlos Edriel Yulo bagged two gold medals, which created another milestone for the country. Despite these remarkable achievements, there is still a need for a more centralized, cohesive, and well-funded approach to sports development in the country.

This measure seeks to address the gaps in sports management and development in the Philippines through the creation of the Department of Sports which shall streamline the government's efforts and allocate the necessary resources to support the country's current and budding athletes. By institutionalizing this Department, the government can also ensure the continuity of programs, policies, and support to athletes and sports development in the country.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ping D. Remulla', is positioned above the printed name.

CRISPIN DIEGO "PING" D. REMULLA



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

ARTICLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Department of Sports
Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote and sustain
fitness, physical education, and sports development in the country. As such, it shall maintain
and provide equal access to resources, services, and facilities related to sports to all Filipinos
to foster and promote health and physical fitness, self-discipline, teamwork, excellence, peace
and camaraderie, youth development, and people empowerment through sports.

It shall also encourage wider participation of all sectors, including the government and
private sector, in amateur sports promotion and development and shall be led by a single,
unified, and integrated national sports policy-making body.

ARTICLE II

1 **DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS**

2 **SEC. 3. Creation of the Department of Sports.** – There is hereby created the
3 Department of Sports, hereinafter referred to as the Department.

4 **SEC. 4. Mandate.** – The Department shall be the primary policy-making, planning,
5 coordinating, implementing, and administrative entity of the Executive Branch of the
6 government that will conceptualize, develop, and promote the national sports program.

7 **SEC. 5. Powers and Functions.** – The Department shall exercise the following powers
8 and functions:

9 (a) Formulate, recommend, and implement policies and programs for integrated
10 national sports and sports for Athletes with Disabilities in coordination with the
11 Department of Health (DOH), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and
12 the Department of Education (DepEd), and local government units;

13 (b) Plan and conduct national sports competitions and establish and continually
14 strengthen a nationwide grassroots-based sports development program;

15 (c) Implement sports for early education based on functionality or practicality;

16 (d) Determine the sports to be prioritized by the government in regional and
17 international sports competitions taking into consideration the funds needed,
18 competitive opportunities for emerging and developing athlete, and chances of
19 winning;

20 (e) Oversee and support the participation of athletes in regional and international sports
21 competitions;

22 (f) Supervise and improve the standards of sports coaches and coaching staff;

23 (g) Facilitate research and development on sports science and sports medicine and
24 exercise the outputs therefrom in national sports programs;

- 1 (h) Prescribe criteria and standards for the recognition of all national sports associations
2 and exercise supervisory and visitorial powers over the same;
- 3 (i) Supplement government appropriations for sports promotion and development by
4 encouraging the private sector to contribute to the funding of the various programs
5 in the Department;
- 6 (j) Provide and supervise the completion of adequate and fully-equipped sports
7 facilities, centers, and complexes in strategic places across the country and regularly
8 revisit, inspect, and ensure the proper management and maintenance thereof,
9 excluding school or college-owned sports complexes;
- 10 (k) Enter into contracts pursuant to its functions and powers;
- 11 (l) Acquire, own, possess, regulate, and dispose of any real or personal property
12 required or otherwise necessary for the accomplishment of the purposes of the
13 Department;
- 14 (m) Accept donations, gifts, bequests, and grants for the accomplishment of the
15 purposes of the Department;
- 16 (n) Exercise such other acts as are incident to or are appropriate and necessary in
17 connection with the creation of the Department.

18 **SEC. 6. Composition of the Department.** – The Department of Sports shall be headed
19 by a Secretary. The Department shall be composed of the Office of the Secretary, the offices
20 of the Undersecretaries, and the Assistant Secretaries.

21 **SEC. 7. Secretary of Sports.** – The Secretary shall be appointed by the President,
22 subject to confirmation by the Commission on Appointments. The Secretary shall be appointed
23 by the President, subject to confirmation by the Commission on Appointments. The Secretary
24 shall have the following functions:

- 1 a) Provide executive direction and supervision over the entire operations of the
2 Department and its attached agencies;
- 3 b) Establish and implement policies and standards for the efficient and economical
4 operation of the Department;
- 5 c) Coordinate with other government agencies, local government units, and public and
6 private interests groups on Department policies and initiatives;
- 7 d) Advise the President on its regulatory and legislative proposals as well as the
8 promulgation of executive and administrative orders pertaining to sports programs
9 and development;
- 10 e) Formulate rules and regulations, and exercise such other powers as may be required
11 to implement the objectives of this Act;
- 12 f) Organize the Department and provide it with such staff as may be necessary to
13 discharge its functions and responsibilities and those of various offices under it;
- 14 g) Perform such other tasks as may be provided by law or assigned by the President;

15 **SEC. 8. Undersecretaries.** – The Secretary shall be assisted by three (3)
16 Undersecretaries, who shall be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the
17 Secretary: *Provided, That* one (1) of the Undersecretaries shall be a career officer coming from
18 ranks of existing government institution or office on sports or qualified individuals in the
19 private sector who actively supports the promotion and development of sports in the country.

20 **SEC. 9. Assistant Secretaries.** – The Secretary shall be assisted by three (3) Assistant
21 Secretaries who shall be career officers appointed by the President upon recommendation of
22 the Secretary.

23 **SEC. 10. Regional Offices.** – The Department shall be authorized to establish, operate,
24 and maintain a Regional Office in each of the administrative regions of the country as the need
25 arises. The regional office shall be headed by a Regional Director, who may be assisted by one

(1) Assistant Regional Director. The Regional Offices shall coordinate with regional offices of other departments, other agencies, and local government units with respect to their local sports programs.

SEC. 11. Structure and Staffing Pattern. – The Department shall determine its organizational structure and create new divisions or units as it may deem necessary and shall appoint officers and employees of the Department in accordance with the Civil Service Law, rules and regulations.

SEC. 12. Regular Bureaus, Divisions, and Offices. – The Department shall organize bureaus, divisions, and offices in such manner as would best carry out the declared policies and objectives enunciated herein and consistent with the provisions of civil service laws, rules, and regulations. There shall be an administrative services bureau, which shall be primarily responsible for providing services related to financial management, personnel, records, supplies, and equipment, and a support services bureau, which shall be primarily responsible for plans and programs formulation, research, electronic data processing (EDP) and system management, public information and production, transportation, communication, and such other functions and responsibilities as may be necessary and required by the Department.

SEC. 13. Specialized Bureaus. – There are hereby created two (2) specialized bureaus under the Department: (a) the Amateur Sports Development Bureau; and (b) the International Sports Development Bureau, both of which shall be headed by Deputy Executive Directors.

SEC. 14. Tax Exemption of Earnings from the Use of Sports Facilities. – To encourage popular participation in amateur sports, no tax, charge, or fee of whatever nature or any kind shall be levied on the use of sports facilities by the general public, individuals, or public agencies or offices, or the earnings from the use thereof whether by public or private entities, whether the tax or fee be on the user, owner, or operator of the sports facility.

1 **SEC. 15. Tax Deduction or Exemption of Donations and Contributions.** – All

2 donations and contributions to the Department in connection with its fund-raising projects and
3 its continuing sports development programs shall be exempt from the donor's taxes and shall
4 be deductible in full in the computation of the taxable net income of the donor. Donations and
5 contributions to the various national sports certified by the Department to be pursuant to the
6 development of sports in the country shall likewise be exempt from the payment of the donor's
7 and estate taxes and shall be deductible in full in computing the taxable net income of the
8 donor.

9 **SEC. 16. Sports Delegations.** – The Department and its delegation or representatives

10 to any international sports competitions, convention, conference, meeting, and events, and
11 athletes, coaches, and other officials to any international competition shall be exempt from the
12 payment of travel tax, airport tax, and any other related taxes or fees now or hereafter imposed
13 by law or regulation.

14 **SEC. 17. Presidential Land Grant.** – The provisions of any existing law to the

15 contrary notwithstanding the President may, upon the recommendation of the Secretary of the
16 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), grant by donation, sale, lease,
17 usufruct, or otherwise to the Department portions of the land of the public domain as may be
18 necessary for the establishment of regional training centers in all the regions for the country
19 and the accomplishment of any of its purposes.

20 **SEC. 18. Sports Facilities.** – The ownership, administration, and full control of all

21 existing sports facilities, including land, buildings, and equipment, owned by the national
22 government as well as those owned by government-funded foundations, associations, and
23 entities except liabilities, shall be transferred to the Department. *Provided, That,* the sports
24 facilities owned by the local government units, state colleges and universities, or public schools

shall remain with the said institutions or entities. The Department shall establish, organize, manage, and maintain the National Sports Training Center as may be authorized by law.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 14 of this Act, in the event that sports equipment and facilities of the Department are contracted out for use by private entities, all rental income from the sports equipment and facilities owned and operated by the Department shall be remitted directly to the Department to be used exclusively for the operation and maintenance of said equipment and facilities.

SEC. 19. Assistance by the Government Entities. – The Department may call upon any government entity for assistance in the performance of its functions and duties. All heads of departments, agencies, corporations, and offices of the government are hereby enjoined to render full assistance and cooperation to the Department to ensure the attainment of its objectives and the success of the national sports development program.

SEC. 20. Integration of the Philippine Sports Commission. – The Philippine Sports Commission created and established under Republic Act 6847, together with its adjunct offices and entities, shall be integrated with the Department of Sports within six (6) months from the enactment of this law. All powers, functions, duties, and responsibilities of the Philippine Sports Commission not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act shall continue to be exercised and performed by the Department. Forthwith, the Philippine Sports Commission shall conduct an inventory of its assets and liabilities and shall turn over the same together with the inventory to the Department of Sports.

All programs, contracts, and projects of the Philippine Sports Commission, which are inconsistent with the policies and provisions of this Act shall be terminated on or before six (6) months from the enactment of this law. *Provided, That* contracts, programs, and projects which cannot be unilaterally terminated shall remain in force and effect and the Department shall

negotiate for the soonest rescission of the contract or termination of the project or program for a period earlier than what has been previously agreed upon.

SEC. 21. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to carry out the initial of this Act shall be sourced from any available funds of the National Treasury and is hereby appropriated and authorized to be released for the organization of the Department and its initial operations. *Provided That*, at least eighty percent (80%) of said annual appropriation and all of the national sports development funds, as hereinafter provided, shall be disbursed for the national sports program, particularly in support of the identification, recruitment, and training of athletes in pre-regional, regional, national, and international competitions.

To finance the country's integrated sports development program, including the holding of the national games and all other sports competitions at all levels throughout the country as well as to carry out well-planned preparations to sustain the complete needs of national and development athletes during the country's preparation and participation at international sports competitions, such as, but not limited to the Olympics, Asian Games, Southeast Asian Games, Paralympics, Universiade or World University Games, and other international competitions sanctioned by international sports institutions, federations, organizations, and associations, thirty percent (30%) of the charity fund representing the proceeds of six (6) lottery draws per annum of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Offices, taxes on horse races from ten (10) racing days to be determined by the Philippine Racing Commission and the Department; five percent (5%) of the gross income before taxes of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation; and the proceeds from the sale of stamps as hereinafter shall be automatically remitted directly to the Department by the concerned entity and are hereby constituted as the National Sports Development Fund. Further, the Philippine Postal Corporation is hereby authorized to print paper and gold stamps which shall depict sporting event and such other motif as the Philippine Postal Service Office and the Department may agree on, at the expense of the Department. Any

1 deficiency in the financial requirements of the Department for its national sports development
2 program shall be covered by an annual appropriation passed by Congress.

3 **SEC. 22. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Department shall, within
4 ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, issue the necessary rules and regulations to
5 implement the provisions hereof.

6 **SEC. 23. Annual Report.** – The Department shall, within ninety (90) days after the
7 end of every fiscal year, submit to Congress an annual report on its compliance with, or
8 accomplishments under this Act, together with its plans and recommendations to improve and
9 develop its capability to enforce the provisions of this Act, and a complete accounting of
10 transactions with respect to any funds received under this Act.

11 **SEC. 24. Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
12 unconstitutional, the reminder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
13 valid and subsisting.

14 **SEC. 25. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or parts
15 thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

16 **SEC. 26. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its
17 publication in the Official Gazette or in any major newspaper of general circulation in the
18 Philippines.

Approved,