



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3558



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 Philippine Constitution mandates the State to promote physical education and support sports programs that build discipline, resilience, and excellence. Yet decades later, Filipino athletes continue to train under fragmented systems, with limited support and inconsistent long-term planning.

In 2021, the world watched as Hidilyn Diaz lifted not only a barbell but an entire nation, bringing home the Philippines’ first Olympic gold medal. In 2024, Carlos Yulo soared to double gold at the Paris Olympics. These victories are historic. But they were achieved despite systemic limitations, not because of institutional strength.

The reality is clear: our athletes have the talent. What they need is a nation that fully supports them.

This bill seeks to create a Department of Sports that will lead the development of grassroots programs, unify national and local initiatives, and provide sustained support to both amateur and elite athletes. By elevating sports to a full department, the government can ensure

consistent funding, strategic planning, and long-term vision. It will allow athletes to focus on their training, knowing their country stands firmly behind them.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Remulla', with a stylized flourish at the end.

CRISPIN DIEGO “PING” D. REMULLA



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HOUSE BILL NO. **3558**

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

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

DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS

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

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

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

- 8 (a) Formulate, recommend, and implement policies and programs for integrated
9 national sports and sports for Athletes with Disabilities in coordination with the
10 Department of Health (DOH), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and
11 the Department of Education (DepEd), and local government units;
- 12 (b) Plan and conduct national sports competitions and establish and continually
13 strengthen a nationwide grassroots-based sports development program;
- 14 (c) Implement sports for early education based on functionality or practicality;
- 15 (d) Determine the sports to be prioritized by the government in regional and
16 international sports competitions taking into consideration the funds needed,
17 competitive opportunities for emerging and developing athlete, and chances of
18 winning;
- 19 (e) Oversee and support the participation of athletes in regional and international sports
20 competitions;
- 21 (f) Supervise and improve the standards of sports coaches and coaching staff;
- 22 (g) Facilitate research and development on sports science and sports medicine and
23 exercise the outputs therefrom in national sports programs;
- 24 (h) Prescribe criteria and standards for the recognition of all national sports associations
25 and exercise supervisory and visitorial powers over the same;
- 26 (i) Supplement government appropriations for sports promotion and development by
27 encouraging the private sector to contribute to the funding of the various programs
28 in the Department;
- 29 (j) Provide and supervise the completion of adequate and fully-equipped sports
30 facilities, centers, and complexes in strategic places across the country and regularly
31 revisit, inspect, and ensure the proper management and maintenance thereof,
32 excluding school or college-owned sports complexes;
- 33 (k) Enter into contracts pursuant to its functions and powers;

1 (l) Acquire, own, possess, regulate, and dispose of any real or personal property
2 required or otherwise necessary for the accomplishment of the purposes of the
3 Department;

4 (m) Accept donations, gifts, bequests, and grants for the accomplishment of the
5 purposes of the Department;

6 (n) Exercise such other acts as are incident to or are appropriate and necessary in
7 connection with the creation of the Department.

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

11 **SEC. 7. Secretary of Sports.** – The Secretary shall be appointed by the President,
12 subject to confirmation by the Commission on Appointments. The Secretary shall be appointed
13 by the President, subject to confirmation by the Commission on Appointments. The Secretary
14 shall have the following functions:

15 a) Provide executive direction and supervision over the entire operations of the
16 Department and its attached agencies;

17 b) Establish and implement policies and standards for the efficient and economical
18 operation of the Department;

19 c) Coordinate with other government agencies, local government units, and public and
20 private interest groups on Department policies and initiatives;

21 d) Advise the President on its regulatory and legislative proposals as well as the
22 promulgation of executive and administrative orders pertaining to sports programs
23 and development;

24 e) Formulate rules and regulations, and exercise such other powers as may be required
25 to implement the objectives of this Act;

26 f) Organize the Department and provide it with such staff as may be necessary to
27 discharge its functions and responsibilities and those of various offices under it;

28 g) Perform such other tasks as may be provided by law or assigned by the President;

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

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

4 **SEC. 10. Regional Offices.** – The Department shall be authorized to establish, operate,
5 and maintain a Regional Office in each of the administrative regions of the country as the need
6 arises. The regional office shall be headed by a Regional Director, who may be assisted by one
7 (1) Assistant Regional Director. The Regional Offices shall coordinate with regional offices of
8 other departments, other agencies, and local government units with respect to their local sports
9 programs.

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

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

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

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

31 **SEC. 15. Tax Deduction or Exemption of Donations and Contributions.** – All
32 donations and contributions to the Department in connection with its fund-raising projects and
33 its continuing sports development programs shall be exempt from the donor's taxes and shall
34 be deductible in full in the computation of the taxable net income of the donor. Donations and

1 contributions to the various national sports certified by the Department to be pursuant to the
2 development of sports in the country shall likewise be exempt from the payment of the donor's
3 and estate taxes and shall be deductible in full in computing the taxable net income of the
4 donor.

5 **SEC. 16. Sports Delegations.** – The Department and its delegation or representatives
6 to any international sports competitions, convention, conference, meeting, and events, and
7 athletes, coaches, and other officials to any international competition shall be exempt from the
8 payment of travel tax, airport tax, and any other related taxes or fees now or hereafter imposed
9 by law or regulation.

10 **SEC. 17. Presidential Land Grant.** – The provisions of any existing law to the
11 contrary notwithstanding the President may, upon the recommendation of the Secretary of the
12 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), grant by donation, sale, lease,
13 usufruct, or otherwise to the Department portions of the land of the public domain as may be
14 necessary for the establishment of regional training centers in all the regions for the country
15 and the accomplishment of any of its purposes.

16 **SEC. 18. Sports Facilities.** – The ownership, administration, and full control of all
17 existing sports facilities, including land, buildings, and equipment, owned by the national
18 government as well as those owned by government-funded foundations, associations, and
19 entities except liabilities, shall be transferred to the Department. *Provided, That,* the sports
20 facilities owned by the local government units, state colleges and universities, or public schools
21 shall remain with the said institutions or entities. The Department shall establish, organize,
22 manage, and maintain the National Sports Training Center as may be authorized by law.

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

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

33 **SEC. 20. Integration of the Philippine Sports Commission.** – The Philippine Sports
34 Commission created and established under Republic Act 6847, together with its adjunct offices

1 and entities, shall be integrated with the Department of Sports within six (6) months from the
2 enactment of this law. All powers, functions, duties, and responsibilities of the Philippine
3 Sports Commission not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act shall continue to be
4 exercised and performed by the Department. Forthwith, the Philippine Sports Commission
5 shall conduct an inventory of its assets and liabilities and shall turn over the same together with
6 the inventory to the Department of Sports.

7 All programs, contracts, and projects of the Philippine Sports Commission, which are
8 inconsistent with the policies and provisions of this Act shall be terminated on or before six (6)
9 months from the enactment of this law. *Provided, that* contracts, programs, and projects which
10 cannot be unilaterally terminated shall remain in force and effect and the Department shall
11 negotiate for the soonest rescission of the contract or termination of the project or program for
12 a period earlier than what has been previously agreed upon.

13 **SEC. 21. Coordination with Local Government Units.** – The Department shall
14 develop a Local Sports Development Assistance Program, in coordination with LGUs, to
15 support grassroots programs, provide technical training, and co-fund sports infrastructure.

16 **SEC. 22. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to carry out the initial of this Act
17 shall be sourced from any available funds of the National Treasury and is hereby appropriated
18 and authorized to be released for the organization of the Department and its initial operations.
19 *Provided That*, at least eighty percent (80%) of said annual appropriation and all of the national
20 sports development funds, as hereinafter provided, shall be disbursed for the national sports
21 program, particularly in support of the identification, recruitment, and training of athletes in
22 pre-regional, regional, national, and international competitions.

23 To finance the country's integrated sports development program, including the holding
24 of the national games and all other sports competitions at all levels throughout the country as
25 well as to carry out well-planned preparations to sustain the complete needs of national and
26 development athletes during the country's preparation and participation at international sports
27 competitions, such as, but not limited to the Olympics, Asian Games, Southeast Asian Games,
28 Paralympics, Universiade or World University Games, and other international competitions
29 sanctioned by international sports institutions, federations, organizations, and associations,
30 thirty percent (30%) of the charity fund representing the proceeds of six (6) lottery draws per
31 annum of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Offices, taxes on horse races from ten (10) racing
32 days to be determined by the Philippine Racing Commission and the Department; five percent
33 (5%) of the gross income before taxes of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation;
34 and the proceeds from the sale of stamps as hereinafter shall be automatically remitted directly

1 to the Department by the concerned entity and are hereby constituted as the National Sports
2 Development Fund. Further, the Philippine Postal Corporation is hereby authorized to print
3 paper and gold stamps which shall depict sporting event and such other motif as the Philippine
4 Postal Service Office and the Department may agree on, at the expense of the Department. Any
5 deficiency in the financial requirements of the Department for its national sports development
6 program shall be covered by an annual appropriation passed by Congress.

7 **SEC. 23. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Department shall, within
8 ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, issue the necessary rules and regulations to
9 implement the provisions hereof.

10 **SEC. 24. Annual Report.** – The Department shall, within ninety (90) days after the
11 end of every fiscal year, submit to Congress an annual report on its compliance with, or
12 accomplishments under this Act, together with its plans and recommendations to improve and
13 develop its capability to enforce the provisions of this Act, and a complete accounting of
14 transactions with respect to any funds received under this Act.

15 **SEC. 25. Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
16 unconstitutional, the reminder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
17 valid and subsisting.

18 **SEC. 26. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or parts
19 thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

20 **SEC. 27. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its
21 publication in the Official Gazette or in any major newspaper of general circulation in the
22 Philippines.

Approved,