



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4464



INTRODUCED BY HON. FAUSTINO MICHAEL CARLOS T. DY III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Prior to the rise of online games, Philippine indigenous games were a popular form of recreation among Filipino children. There are about forty known traditional Filipino games, and children were previously seen playing these mostly on the streets, if not indoors. Games such as Sungka, Dama, and Cara-cruz are played indoors while Luksongtinik, Patintero, Piko, and Tumbang Preso are played outdoors. These games provide excellent opportunities for children to maximize the benefits of play across a wide variety of developmental domains, making it holistic for learning, growth, and development.

Our Constitution recognizes and promotes the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the framework of national unity and development. Furthermore, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples enjoins all State signatories to take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise of the indigenous people's rights such as preservation and development of their cultural heritage and traditions, including traditional games.

This bill seeks to promote the interest of our indigenous peoples, preserve their intangible cultural heritage as a living heritage and help the Filipino people reconnect with their historical roots through the preservation of the indigenous peoples' games.

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


FAUSTINO MICHAEL CARLOS T. DY III
Representative, Isabela 5th District

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Introduced by Representative Faustino Michael T. Dy III

AN ACT
**PRESERVING THE INDIGENOUS GAMES OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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 Indigenous Games Preservation Act*.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Article II, Section 22 of the Constitution provides that the State shall recognize and promote the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the framework of national unity and development. Furthermore, Article 31.1 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples enjoins all State signatories to take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise of the indigenous peoples' rights which include the maintenance, control, and development of their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and expression, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports, and traditional games.

Pursuant to the aforesaid mandates, it is incumbent upon the State to lay down specific policy directives to promote the interest of our indigenous peoples, preserve the intangible cultural heritage as living heritage and help people connect with their historical roots. The State shall take the necessary steps to preserve the indigenous peoples' games which serve as the best avenue for their self-expression, and for promoting peace, harmony, goodwill, and camaraderie among them.

SEC. 3. *Indigenous Games.* – The term “indigenous games” refer to the traditional sports and games distinctly connected and rooted in the traditions, customs, and practices, and reflect the rich cultural heritage of the different indigenous cultural communities or indigenous peoples, handed down from generation to generation such as *bunong braso, ginnuyudan, hilahang lubid, kadang-kadang, karera sa sako, luksong-tinik, patintero, syato, unggoy-unggoyan*. These include games played by the indigenous communities, usually accompanied by indigenous materials and implements, in observance of indigenous peoples’ rituals, celebration of cultural festivals, expression of socialization, entertainment, and competition.

SEC. 4. *Annual Regional and National Indigenous Sports Competitions.* – The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) shall, in coordination with the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC), the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), and the local government units (LGUs), conduct annual regional and national indigenous sports competitions.

The host LGU shall, in coordination and consultation with the concerned indigenous cultural communities or indigenous peoples, identify which games or sports events shall be included in the regional and national indigenous sports competitions.

SEC. 5. *Other Means of Preserving the Indigenous Games.*– The NCIP and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) shall, in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the PSC, POC, LGUs, and the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), initiate measures to preserve indigenous games in the country, such as the inclusion of indigenous games as part of the curriculum and other appropriate school activities in the basic and higher education system, the production of documentary and other materials on indigenous games, and the conduct of regular demonstration of such games in the *Palarong Pambansa* and in other national sports events.

The NCIP and the NCCA shall likewise conduct research on the various sports and games traditionally played by different indigenous groups, in consultation with the concerned indigenous cultural communities or indigenous peoples, to ensure the preservation and continuity of the indigenous games.

SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The PSC and the NCIP as the lead agencies shall, in coordination with the POC, NCCA, DepEd, CHED, LGUs, and PIA, promulgate the rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days after its effectivity.

SEC. 8. *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. 9. *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. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,