

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4948



Introduced by **Representative AGATHA PAULA "AGAY" A. CRUZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is an archipelago not only of islands but of cultures. Across our uplands, coasts, and plains, our indigenous peoples have handed down games that are not mere pastimes but living expressions of history and collective memory. These embody values of discipline, cooperation, ingenuity, and community identity. Sadly, many of these games are steadily vanishing under the dominance of imported sports and digital distractions.

This measure seeks to arrest that cultural erosion. It declares a state policy to preserve indigenous games, not as museum pieces but as vibrant practices handed down from generation to generation. It mandates concerned government agencies, to conduct annual competitions and integrate indigenous games into learning and media.

The bill also establishes a Philippine Indigenous Games Fund to support these initiatives and provides for annual reporting to Congress to ensure transparency and accountability. Through documentation, research, and the protection of the intellectual property rights of indigenous communities, the measure safeguards that any benefit derived from the use of these games redounds to the very communities that created them.

By passing this measure, we do not simply preserve old games, but we keep alive the values of community, creativity, and resilience embedded in them. If we want the next generation to stand on the shoulders of giants, let us first make sure they still know how to play *tiyakad*.

Considering that this bill has passed the third and final reading last Congress, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


AGATHA PAULA "AGAY" AGUILAR CRUZ
Representative, Fifth Legislative District of Bulacan



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

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

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Indigenous
2 Games Preservation Act.”
3

4 **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 recognize and promote the rights of indigenous cultural communities and indigenous
6 peoples, consistent with Article II, Section 22 of the Constitution and Article 31.1 of the
7 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including their cultural
8 heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional sports and games.
9

10 To this end, the State shall ensure the preservation and promotion of indigenous
11 games as living heritage and as expressions of self-identity, community solidarity, peace,
12 and goodwill. The State likewise recognizes the collective intellectual property rights of
13 indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples over their traditional games
14 and shall guarantee their participation and consultation before any documentation,
15 reproduction, commercialization, or public presentation of such games outside their
16 community context.
17

18 **Section 3. Definition of Indigenous Games.** – For purposes of this Act, “indigenous
19 games” refer to the traditional sports and games distinctly connected and rooted in the
20 traditions, customs, and practices of indigenous cultural communities or indigenous
21 people and reflect their rich cultural heritage, handed down from generation to generation
22 such as *bunong braso*, *ginnuyudan*, *hilahang lubid*, *kadang-kadang*, *karera sa sako*, *luksong-tinik*,
23 *patintero*, *syato*, *unggoy-unggoyan*. These include games accompanied by indigenous
24 materials and implements, observed during indigenous peoples’ rituals, cultural festivals,
25 social gatherings, entertainment, or competition.

Section 4. *Lead Agencies.* – The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) shall serve as the lead implementing agency of this Act, in coordination with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), Philippine Olympic Committee (POC), Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), local government units (LGUs), and Philippine Information Agency (PIA).

Section 5. *Annual Indigenous Games Competitions.* – The PSC shall, in coordination with the agencies mentioned in Section 4, 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 competitions. LGUs hosting competitions may provide counterpart funding or other forms of support.

Section 6. *Other Measures for Preservation.* – The NCIP and the NCCA, in coordination with the DepEd, CHED, PSC, POC, LGUs, and PIA, shall undertake complementary programs to preserve indigenous games in the country, including but not limited to:

- (a) Documentation, research, and protection of the intellectual property rights of the concerned indigenous communities;
- (b) Inclusion of indigenous games as part of the curriculum and other appropriate school activities in the basic and higher education system, in accordance with DepEd and CHED procedures and standards;
- (c) Production of documentary and other materials on indigenous games; and
- (d) Regular demonstrations of such games in the *Palarong Pambansa* and in other national sports events.

Section 7. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

There is hereby created a “Philippine Indigenous Games Fund” under the Philippine Sports Commission to finance activities under this Act. The Fund shall be sourced from appropriations under the General Appropriations Act, grants, donations, and LGU cost-sharing.

Section 8. *Monitoring and Evaluation.* – The Philippine Sports Commission, in coordination with the NCIP and NCCA, shall submit to Congress an annual report on the implementation of this Act, including the number of indigenous games documented and preserved, competitions held, indigenous communities consulted, and financial statements of the Fund.

Section 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the PSC and the NCIP, as lead agencies, in coordination with the

1 POC, NCCA, DepEd, CHED, LGUs, and PIA, shall promulgate the necessary rules and
2 regulations to implement its provisions.

3
4 **Section 10. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this Act is held
5 unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in
6 full force and effect.

7
8 **Section 11. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and
9 regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
10 repealed or modified accordingly.

11
12 **Section 12. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the
13 completion of its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

14
15 *Approved,*