

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6586



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Indigenous games are vital expressions of community identity, history, and traditional knowledge. They cultivate cooperation, skill, resilience, and holistic development, and they reflect the cultural integrity of indigenous peoples. Many of these practices are now threatened by displacement, modernization, and the absence of institutional support. Existing laws already affirm the State's duty to preserve indigenous culture, including the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act, which directs government to respect and protect the cultural integrity of indigenous communities, and the National Cultural Heritage Act, which safeguards both tangible and intangible heritage through registration, conservation, and local participation.

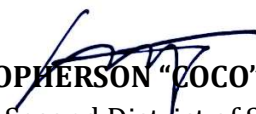
The *Palarong Pambansa* law reinforces this policy direction by mandating sports and physical education programs that promote youth development and community well-being, providing an opportunity to integrate traditional games into school and community settings. Jurisprudence has likewise emphasized the constitutional shift toward preservation of indigenous identity and practices, underscoring that public institutions must reflect this orientation in law and policy. A national program for indigenous games therefore aligns culture, education, and youth development mandates, while ensuring that indigenous communities remain the primary stewards of their heritage.

This bill establishes a comprehensive and culturally grounded framework for recognizing, documenting, and transmitting indigenous games nationwide. It supports community-led safeguarding, integrates these games into education and local heritage programs, and strengthens coordination among the NCCA, NCIP, DepEd, and LGUs. It also ensures respect for community consent, provides resources for

teaching and cultural exchange, and creates avenues for research, health promotion, and youth participation. Through sustained funding and clear institutional roles, the measure protects indigenous cultural rights while promoting inclusive learning and strengthening national identity.

In the Nineteenth Congress, the House of Representatives approved a similar measure on Third Reading as House Bill No. 8466 on August 16, 2023.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte

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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*.”

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 6. Appropriations. — The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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,