

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 7338

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI**

AN ACT
EXPANDING AND INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL GAMES
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The proposed Philippine National Games Act aims to institutionalize and expand the Philippine National Games (PNG) as the country's premier multi-sport competition, bridging grassroots sports development and elite athletic programs. At present, sports development in the Philippines remains fragmented, with limited opportunities for talent identification outside major urban centers. While the Palarong Pambansa caters primarily to student-athletes, there is no comprehensive national platform for amateur athletes and para-athletes to progress toward elite levels.

The institutionalization of the PNG addresses this gap by providing a structured, inclusive, and nationwide sports program that encourages active participation from local government units (LGUs) and serves as a venue for National Sports Associations (NSAs) to identify and recruit athletes for international competitions. The Philippines ranked 5th in the 2023 Southeast Asian Games, securing 58 gold medals¹, but continues to lag behind regional neighbors in overall medal tally, partly due to a narrow talent pool. Furthermore, the country has 1.44 million persons with disabilities² (PWDs), yet participation in mainstream sports remains minimal. Institutionalizing para-sports within the PNG will promote inclusivity and compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

¹ <https://www.manilatimes.net/2023/05/18/news/national/games-over-ph-ranks-5th-in-sea-/1892021>

² [Philippine EJournals | Breaking The Barrier: Persons With Disabilities \(PWDs\) as A Workforce in The Philippines](#)

The bill mandates the conduct of biennial national games involving athletes and para-athletes from all provinces, highly urbanized cities, and independent component cities. It also creates the Philippine National Games Coordinating Committee, composed of representatives from relevant government agencies, and ensures the inclusion of Olympic and Paralympic sports, with flexibility for host LGUs to showcase local sports. The expected impact of this proposed measure includes widening the base for athlete recruitment and training for international competitions, strengthening LGU involvement in sports programs, promoting para-sports and equal opportunities for PWD athletes, and enhancing the Philippines' competitiveness in regional and global sporting events.

In lieu of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI
Representative, 3rd District of Bukidnon

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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 National Games
2 Act."

3
4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - Section 19 (1), Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution
5 provides that the State shall promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league
6 competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international sports competitions, to
7 foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert
8 citizenry. As a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the State
9 adheres to its commitment to encourage and promote the participation, to the fullest extent
10 possible, of persons with disabilities in mainstream sporting activities at all levels. Pursuant
11 thereto, the State shall institutionalize an inclusive national sports competition that will
12 promote awareness and interest in sports, particularly in the countryside, generate wide
13 participation of the citizenry in sports through the active involvement of local government
14 units, and serve as the linkage between grassroots sports development and national amateur
15 and elite sports development.

16
17 **SEC. 3. *Expansion and Institutionalization of the Philippine National Games.*** - The
18 Philippine National Games (PNG), the national multi-sport tournament organized by the
19 Philippine Sports Commission, is hereby expanded and institutionalized.

1 The PNG shall serve as the country's premier national sports competition and venue for
2 the discovery of potential national and elite athletes. It shall be composed of a competition on
3 sports for regular athletes and a competition on sports designed for para-athletes or athletes
4 with disabilities. It shall be held once every two years and shall be participated in by athletes
5 and para-athletes from the different provinces, highly urbanized cities (HUCs), and
6 independent component cities (ICCs) of the country.

7
8 The PNG shall have the following purposes and objectives:

- 9
10 (a) To provide a framework and structure for a truly integrated and comprehensive
11 national sports program, linking grassroots sports promotion to elite sports
12 development, including sporting events applicable to para-athletes or persons with
13 disabilities;
14 (b) To encourage all local government units to promote the development of sports in
15 the countryside, covering all provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays;
16 (c) To serve as a venue for the National Sports Associations in promoting their
17 respective sports at the grassroots level and providing the necessary linkages with
18 local government units; and
19 (d) To widen the base for talent identification, selection, and recruitment of athletes
20 and para-athletes who shall constitute the national pool to be trained for
21 international sports competitions.

22
23 **SEC. 4. *Participation in the PNG.*** - To generate awareness and ensure the wide
24 participation of athletes with the potential to become national amateur and elite athletes and
25 para-athletes, local government units, through their barangay, municipal, city and provincial
26 Local Sports Councils, shall encourage, promote or organize local sports competitions within
27 their respective jurisdictions as well as recruit, train and select athletes and para-athletes for
28 sporting events competed at the PNG.

29
30 Provinces, in collaboration with component cities and municipalities under their
31 jurisdiction, HUCs and ICCs may form and send their delegations to the qualifying
32 competitions and, thereafter, to the national championship competition of the PNG.

1 Athletes and para-athletes who will form part of the delegation of the participating
2 provinces and cities to the PNG must be Filipinos by birth, or whose parents are of Filipino
3 ancestry, or have been naturalized as Filipinos by law, and whose age must comply with the
4 minimum age requirement of the concerned National Sports Association for the particular
5 sport.

6
7 No athlete or para-athlete shall carry, represent or promote any public or private
8 organization, enterprise or sponsor in the PNG.

9
10 **SEC. 5. *Sporting Events.*** - The sporting events that will be competed in at the PNG
11 shall be determined by the PNG Coordinating Committee created under Section 6 of this Act:
12 Provided, That these sporting events are aligned with the sporting events participated in by the
13 Philippines in the Southeast Asian Games, ASEAN Para Games, Asian Games, Asian Para
14 Games, Olympics, Paralympic Games and other international sports competitions: *Provided,*
15 *further,* That mandatory sporting events in the Olympic and Paralympic Games shall, as far as
16 practicable, be included in the PNG, subject to the availability of sports facilities and venues
17 in the LGU where the PNG will be held: *Provided, finally,* That the host LGU may recommend
18 the inclusion of local sports to promote and showcase its socioeconomic and cultural
19 uniqueness through the PNG.

20
21 **SEC. 6. *Creation of the Philippine National Games Coordinating Committee.*** - To
22 ensure the attainment of the purposes and objectives of this Act, there is hereby created the
23 Philippine National Games Coordinating Committee, hereinafter referred to as the PNG
24 Coordinating Committee. It shall be the policy-making and coordinating body for the
25 preparation and conduct of the PNG. The PNG Coordinating Committee shall be the
26 proprietary owner of the phrase "Philippine National Games" and its related symbols, logos,
27 and concepts.

28
29 **SEC. 7. *Powers and Functions of the PNG Coordinating Committee.*** - The PNG
30 Coordinating Committee shall have the following powers and functions:

- 31
32 a) To formulate plans, policies and guidelines that shall govern the conduct of the
33 PNG, and the relationships among the organizations involved;

- b) To recognize the provincial and city Local Sports Councils that will be given authority to register athletes and teams in the PNG;
- c) To determine the host and schedule of the PNG;
- d) To coordinate with the Department of Budget and Management and other government agencies on the needed funding and technical assistance in the implementation of this Act;
- e) To determine the sports to be included in the PNG based on the appropriated budget in a given year, subject to the conditions set in Section 5 hereof;
- f) To develop programs and policies that shall promote the PNG and ensure multi-sectoral support to the PNG as the country's premier sports event; and
- g) To exercise such other functions as may be necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Composition of the PNG Coordinating Committee.* - The PNG Coordinating Committee shall be composed of the following:

- a) Chair: Chairperson of the Philippine Sports Commission
- b) Vice-Chair: Undersecretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, in charge of Sports Development at the local levels
- c) Members:
 - i. Undersecretary of the Department of Education in charge of the Palarong Pambansa
 - ii. Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education
 - iii. President of the Philippine Olympic Committee
 - iv. President of the Philippine Paralympic Committee
 - v. President of the League of Provinces of the Philippines
 - vi. President of the League of Cities of the Philippines
 - vii. President of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines
 - viii. President of the Liga ng mga Barangay
 - ix. Chairperson, Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations of the Philippines

1 The members of the PNG Coordinating Committee, except the Chair and Vice-Chair,
2 may be represented by the next-in-rank officers of their agencies or organizations, as the case
3 may be.
4

5 **SEC. 9. Roles of Government Agencies and Private Associations.** - In addition to the
6 duties and responsibilities that may be assigned to them by the PNG Coordinating Committee,
7 the following government agencies and private associations shall perform the following:
8

9 a) Philippine Sports Commission:

- 10 i. To carry out the overall management of the PNG;
11 ii. To form an Executive Committee and Working Committees, composed of
12 PSC officials, which shall implement, the policies and activities set by the
13 PNG Coordinating Committee and lead inter-agency coordination; and
14 iii. To coordinate with the DBM and other government agencies to secure the
15 needed funding and technical assistance in the implementation of this Act.

16 b) Department of the Interior and Local Government:

- 17 i. To mandate all LGUs to coordinate, cooperate, and support the plans,
18 programs and activities of the PNG through the issuance of corresponding
19 memorandum circulars or department orders and guidelines within its
20 jurisdiction to help carry out the objectives of the PNG; and
21 ii. To direct the Philippine National Police to prepare and implement a
22 comprehensive security plan for the LGU venues where the PNG shall be
23 held.

24 c) League of Provinces of the Philippines, League of Cities of the Philippines, League
25 of Municipalities of the Philippines and Liga ng mga Barangay:

- 26 i. To encourage the implementation of the PNG in their respective member
27 local government units; and
28 ii. To assist in disseminating information on the PNG within their respective
29 jurisdictions to encourage the active participation of their members.

30 d) Department of Education:

- 31 i. To align the Palarong Pambansa calendar of activities, programs and
32 policies to the conduct of the PNG;
33 ii. To allow the use of its sports facilities, school buildings and classrooms as
34 may be necessary for the conduct of the PNG; and

- 1 iii. To issue memorandum circulars or department orders and guidelines within
2 its jurisdiction to implement the objectives of the PNG.

3 e) Commission on Higher Education:

- 4 i. To promote the program and activities of the PNG to all higher educational
5 institutions;
6 ii. To recommend to the state universities and colleges the use of their sports
7 facilities, school buildings and classrooms as may be necessary for the
8 conduct of the PNG; and
9 iii. To issue memorandum circulars or department orders on the alignments of
10 tertiary sports events and calendar of activities to the PNG.

11 f) Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations of the Philippines:

- 12 i. To promote the program and activities of the PNG to all private educational
13 institutions;
14 ii. To take into consideration in its calendar of activities, programs and policies
15 the conduct of the PNG; and
16 iii. To encourage private educational institutions to allow the use of their sports
17 facilities, school buildings and classrooms as may be necessary for the
18 conduct of the PNG.

19 g) Local Government Units:

- 20 i. Organize multi-sectoral Local Sports Councils, to be headed by the local
21 chief executive, that will coordinate the implementation of an annual palaro
22 at the barangay, municipal, city and provincial levels, pursuant to the
23 mandates under Sections 389 (b) (m), 444 (B) (1) (xix), and 465 (b) (1) (xix)
24 of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended;
25 ii. Through the Local Sports Councils, implement the following:
26 a) Encourage, promote and organize local sports competitions within
27 their respective jurisdictions;
28 b) Recruit, train, and select athletes who will participate in the PNG;
29 and
30 c) Develop and maintain a pool of local athletes and provide them
31 with the necessary assistance;
32 iii. For provincial and city Local Sports Councils:
33 a) Register an athlete in sporting events of the PNG, including its
34 regional and cluster qualifying competitions: *Provided, That the*

1 athlete is not under any sanction of a National Sports Association
2 of an International Federation: *Provided, further*, That no athlete
3 who participated in a local sports competition organized by a Local
4 Sports Council and subsequently represented the provincial or city
5 sports delegation shall be permitted to transfer and represent
6 another provincial or city sports delegation; and

7 b) Be responsible for the entire delegation registered in the PNG, and
8 ensure their athletes' compliance with the PNG's eligibility rules.

9 h) Philippine Olympic Committee:

10 i. Supervise the National Sports Association involved in the PNG; and

11 i) National Sports Associations/ Philippine Paralympic Committee:

12 i. To set the qualifications for athletes and para-athletes who will be
13 participating in different sporting events, based on the international
14 federations' rules and regulations;

15 ii. To provide technical assistance in the conduct of their respective sports
16 competitions in the PNG, including the appointment of qualified officiating
17 officials; and

18 iii. To allow the participation of all national athletes, registered by the LSCs,
19 regardless of their membership status with their respective NSAs: *Provided*,
20 That the athlete conforms and agrees to abide by the competition rules and
21 regulations of their respective NSAs and PNG; and *Provided*, That the
22 athlete is not under any disciplinary sanction, or is otherwise suspended by
23 the concerned NSA or International Federation, consistent with the rules of
24 their respective sports.

25
26 **SEC. 10. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act
27 shall be included in the budget of the Philippine Sports Commission in the annual general
28 appropriations acts.

29
30 **SEC. 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within sixty (60) days from the start
31 of the effectivity of this Act, the PSC, in coordination with the DILG, DepEd, CHED, POC,
32 and NSAs, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

1 **SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.*** - If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid or
2 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

3
4 **SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, executive orders, issuances, decrees, and rules
5 and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended,
6 modified or repealed accordingly.

7
8 **SEC. 14. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its
9 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,