



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11073



Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez and Jude A. Acidre

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE “LARO’T SAYA SA PARKE” PROGRAM,
PROMOTING WEEKEND COMMUNITY SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL
ACTIVITIES IN PUBLIC PARKS, STRENGTHENING SPORTS
DEVELOPMENT AMONG YOUTH AND COMMUNITIES, AND
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Sports and recreational activities are essential components of youth development, physical health, mental well-being, and nation-building. They foster discipline, teamwork, resilience, and social cohesion among individuals and communities.

Despite the constitutional mandate recognizing the role of sports in fostering self-reliance and national development, access to safe and organized recreational spaces remains limited in many communities. Public parks, which are intended as communal spaces for recreation and social engagement, are often underutilized or lack structured programs that encourage active participation in sports and physical activities.

This bill seeks to institutionalize the “Laro’t Saya sa Parke (LSP)” Program, that was created under the Memorandum Circular No. 49 issued by the Office of the Presidential, as a national initiative that promotes organized sports and recreational activities in public parks during weekends. It aims to encourage active lifestyles, strengthen community engagement, and provide accessible sports opportunities for children, youth, and families.

By leveraging public parks as inclusive spaces for recreation and sports development, this measure seeks to address sedentary lifestyles, promote mental and physical well-being, and cultivate a culture of sportsmanship and community participation among Filipinos.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



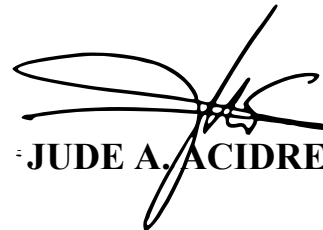
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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines
in Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Laro’t Saya sa Parke Act.*”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the development of sports and physical fitness as an integral

component of youth development, public health, and nation-building. The State recognizes the importance of accessible recreational spaces in fostering active, healthy, and socially engaged communities.

The State shall institutionalize community-based sports and recreational programs in public parks and open spaces, particularly during weekends, to encourage widespread participation in physical activities and to strengthen social cohesion among individuals and families.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act:

(a). *Laro't Saya sa Parke Program* refers to a national community-based initiative that promotes organized sports, games, and recreational activities in public parks during weekends;

(b). *Public Parks* refers to open and publicly accessible spaces designated for recreation, sports, and leisure activities under the management of Local Government Units (LGUs);

(c). *Participants* refers to the individuals, including children, youth, adults, and senior citizens, who engage in program activities;

SECTION 4. *Institutionalization of the Laro't Saya sa Parke Program.* --
Thereby institutionalized the Laro't Saya sa Parke Program, a nationwide initiative to be implemented primarily during weekends in designated public parks and open community spaces.

The program shall be jointly implemented by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Education (DepEd), Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), Local Government Units (LGUs), and the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK), in coordination with other relevant agencies and stakeholders.

SECTION 5. *Objectives.* - The Laro't Saya sa Parke Program shall have the following objectives:

- (a) To promote sports and physical fitness as a vital component of youth and community development;
- (b) To encourage active and healthy lifestyles among Filipinos through accessible recreational activities;
- (c) To utilize public parks as inclusive spaces for sports, recreation, and social interaction;
- (d) To strengthen community engagement and social cohesion through organized weekend activities;
- (e) To develop sports interest and talent at the grassroots level;
- (f) To promote mental well-being and reduce sedentary lifestyles among youth and families.

SECTION 6. *Implementation in Public Parks.* – All Local Government Units shall designate suitable public parks and open spaces for the regular conduct of Laro't Saya sa Parke activities every weekend.

LGUs shall ensure that designated areas are safe, accessible, and equipped with basic facilities necessary for sports and recreational activities, including but not limited to open fields, courts, and multipurpose spaces.

SECTION 7. *Program Activities* – The Laro’t Saya sa Parke Program shall consist of structured, inclusive, and age-appropriate sports, fitness, and recreational activities to be conducted regularly, primarily during weekends, in designated public parks and open spaces.

Such activities shall include, but shall not be limited to, traditional Filipino games (larong pinoy), team sports such as basketball, volleyball, and football, individual and group fitness activities, youth sports clinics, recreational competitions, family-oriented games, and community-based wellness programs.

The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd) and Local Government Units (LGUs), shall develop program guidelines to ensure that activities are development-oriented, culturally relevant, safe, and responsive to the needs of various age groups and sectors. Program activities shall be designed to promote physical fitness, teamwork, discipline, sportsmanship, and mental well-being, and may include talent identification and grassroots sports development components.

SECTION 8. *Role of Local Government Units*. — Local Government Units (LGUs) shall serve as the primary implementing bodies of the Laro’t Saya sa Parke Program within their respective jurisdictions and shall ensure the effective, regular, and sustainable conduct of program activities.

- (a). Designate and maintain suitable public parks and open spaces as program venues, ensuring that such areas are safe, accessible, and adequately equipped for sports and recreational use;
- (b). Allocate sufficient funds and resources for the implementation, maintenance, and improvement of program facilities, equipment, and logistics;
- (c). Appoint a Local Program Head, who shall oversee the overall planning, coordination, implementation, and supervision of program activities, and who shall work in close coordination with the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK), barangay officials, and relevant stakeholders;
- (d). Develop and implement a regular schedule of weekend activities, taking into consideration community needs, participation levels, and inclusivity;
- (e). Ensure the availability of trained facilitators, coaches, volunteers, and support personnel;
- (f). Maintain peace and order, and ensure safety and security in all program venues; and
- (g). Coordinate with schools, community organizations, civil society groups, and private sector partners to promote participation and support program implementation.

SECTION 9: *Designation of Local Program Head.* – Each Local Government Unit (LGU) shall designate a Local Program Head for the Laro't Saya sa Parke Program, who shall be responsible for the overall planning, coordination, implementation, and supervision of program activities within their jurisdiction.

The Local Program Head shall be appointed by the Local Chief Executive and may be drawn from the local sports office, youth development office, or any appropriate unit of the LGU. The designated official shall closely coordinate with the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK), barangay officials, and relevant community stakeholders to ensure the effective conduct of weekly program activities.

The Local Program Head shall have the following functions:

- (a) Develop and oversee the weekly schedule of sports and recreational activities in designated public parks;
- (b) Ensure the availability of facilitators, volunteers, and necessary resources for program implementation;
- (c) Coordinate with schools, youth organizations, and community groups to encourage participation;
- (d) Ensure compliance with safety, inclusivity, and child protection standards;
- (e) Submit periodic reports on program implementation, participation rates, and challenges encountered to the Local Government Unit and relevant national agencies.

The Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) shall serve as a key partner in mobilizing youth participation, assisting in program facilitation, and promoting community engagement in all activities under this Act.

SECTION 10. *Role of National Agencies.* — Relevant national government agencies shall coordinate to provide technical assistance, program support, and policy alignment in furtherance of the objectives of this Act;

- (a) The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) shall serve as the lead technical agency and shall provide guidance on program design, sports development, training modules, and capacity-building for local implementers;
- (b) The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall oversee and monitor LGU compliance with this Act and shall issue policy directives to ensure effective local implementation; and
- (c) The Department of Education (DepEd) shall promote student participation and integrate awareness of the program into school-based physical education and youth development initiatives.

SECTION 11. *Private Sector and Community Participation.* – The State shall encourage the active participation of private entities, sports organizations, non-government organizations, academic institutions, and community groups in the implementation of the Laro't Saya sa Parke Program. Such participation may include the provision of financial support, sponsorships, sports equipment, technical expertise, volunteer services, and other forms of assistance, subject to applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

Local Government Units may enter into partnerships or agreements with private and civil society partners to enhance program delivery, provided that such partnerships uphold the public interest and ensure transparency and accountability.

SECTION 12. *Safety and Child Protection Measures.* – All activities conducted under this Act shall adhere to established standards on safety, health, and child protection.

Local Government Units shall ensure that:

- (a) Adequate safety measures, including the presence of first aid kits, trained first responders, and emergency response protocols, are in place during all program activities;
- (b) Facilities and equipment used are safe, well-maintained, and appropriate for participants;
- (c) Activities are supervised by qualified personnel to prevent accidents, injuries, or misconduct;
- (d) Child protection policies are strictly observed, including safeguarding mechanisms against abuse, exploitation, and discrimination; and
- (e) Health protocols, as may be prescribed by relevant authorities, are complied with to protect participants from health risks.

SECTION 13. *Inclusion and Accessibility.* – The Laro't Saya sa Parke Program shall be inclusive and accessible to all sectors of society, without discrimination based on age, gender, disability, socioeconomic status, or other similar grounds.

Local Government Units shall ensure that program activities are designed to accommodate the participation of children, youth, women, senior citizens, and

persons with disabilities, including the provision of reasonable accommodations and adapted activities where necessary.

SECTION 14. *Funding.* – The funding requirements for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual budgets of LGUs and participating national government agencies. Additional funding may be sourced from partnerships, donations, and sponsorships, subject to applicable laws and regulations.

SECTION 15. *Monitoring and Evaluation.* – The DILG, in coordination with PSC and LGUs, shall establish a monitoring and evaluation system to assess program implementation, participation rates, and community impact. An annual report shall be submitted to Congress.

SECTION 16. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DILG, PSC, and concerned agencies shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations.

SECTION 17. *Separability Clause* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 18. *Repealing Clause* – All laws, decrees, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 19. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,