

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 11340



INTRODUCED BY REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS

AN ACT
PRESERVING AND PROMOTING THE INDIGENOUS GAMES
OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Culture shapes values. In this digital era, Filipino children spend most of their time with game consoles or mobile gadgets either at home or in internet cafés, in contrast with the children of the past who spent their leisure time interacting with other children and playing traditional street games. These games include *patintero*, *tumbang preso*, *siato*, and *taguan*, to name a few.

These indigenous games have shaped generations of Filipinos and have imparted values of teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship. They have been part of our childhood and our cultural heritage.

This proposed measure seeks to preserve indigenous games to ensure that future generations of Filipinos can still enjoy them. This bill has been approved on third and final reading in the House of Representatives for three consecutive Congresses (17th, 18th, and 19th) but failed to be passed into law due to time constraints. We seek to revive efforts to make this worthwhile advocacy a law.

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


REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS
Fifth District, Quezon City

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Be it enacted by the Senate and the 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 1987 Philippine 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 to protect the exercise of the indigenous peoples' rights which include the maintenance, control, and development of their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional expression, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games, among others.

Pursuant to the aforesaid mandates, it is incumbent upon the State to lay down specific policy directives to promote the interests of our indigenous peoples, to strengthen our cultural heritage and our historical roots. To further this policy, the State shall take the necessary steps to preserve the indigenous peoples' games which serve as the best avenue for self-expression, and for promoting peace, harmony, goodwill, and camaraderie among them.

SECTION 3. Indigenous Games. – Indigenous games refer to the traditional sports and games or activities inherent to the different indigenous cultural communities, reflecting their rich cultural heritage, traditions, or customs handed down from generation to generation such as, but not limited to, dug-out, canoe races, precision around obstacles or rapids, *supok* or *sumpit*,

sungka, kadang-kadang, tumbang preso, piko, and sepak takraw, and such other games distinct to the indigenous communities.

SECTION 4. *Preservation of Indigenous Games.* — The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd), shall initiate measures to preserve indigenous games in the country, such as the inclusion of games as part of the curriculum in the basic education system of our schools, production of documentary or other useful means, and the conduct of regular demonstration of such games in national events and in appropriate school activities.

The NCCA shall likewise conduct research on the various sports traditionally played by different indigenous groups within the region to ensure the preservation and development of these games.

SECTION 5. *Annual Regional and National Indigenous Games.* The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), in coordination with the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC), and the local government units (LGUs) shall conduct annual regional and national indigenous sports competitions.

The host LGU shall have the prerogative to choose which sports events shall be included in the regional and national Indigenous sports competitions.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — The NCCA and the DepEd, as the lead agencies, in coordination with the PSC, POC, and LGUs, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days after its effectivity.

SECTION 7. *Non-Impairment Clause.* – Nothing in this Act shall be construed as to diminish, impair, or repeal rights recognized, granted, or made available to disadvantaged, marginalized, or specific sectors under existing laws.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby 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,