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SENATE

P.S. Resolution No. **1199**

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Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

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RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GAMES, AMUSEMENT AND SPORTS TO IMMEDIATELY LOOK INTO THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION AND THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE AND THE FACTIONALISM AMONG VARIOUS SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS WHICH PREJUDICE THE INTEREST AND WELFARE OF FILIPINO ATHLETES ESPECIALLY THE COUNTRY'S PREPARATIONS FOR THE 25<sup>TH</sup> SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES IN DECEMBER 2009 WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ADDRESSING THE SAME THROUGH LEGISLATIVE MEANS

*WHEREAS*, the State adopts as a policy the prioritization of, among others, sports "to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development."<sup>1</sup>

*WHEREAS*, Republic Act No. 6847, or the Philippine Sports Commission Act, in order to achieve its declared objective, mandates the use of "a unified national sports promotion and development program, and "the establishment and creation of a single, unified and integrated national sports policy-making body."<sup>2</sup>

*WHEREAS*, RA No. 6847 recognizes the function of the Philippine Olympic Committee which, as an autonomous organization, is affiliated with the International Olympic Committee and has the "primary responsibility for activities pertaining to the country's participation" in international athletic competitions such as the Olympic Games, Asian Games and Southeast Asian Games.<sup>3</sup>

*WHEREAS*, reports show that supposed conflicting policies exist among leaders of the PSC, the POC and various sports organizations such that to date the actual composition of the Philippine team to the 25<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Games in Laos is yet to be known and finalized.

*WHEREAS*, the 25<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Games in Laos will be held in December this year, which practically gives a mere five month period of preparations for Philippine athletes and even sports officials concerned.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 17, Article II, Constitution.

<sup>2</sup> Section 2, RA No. 6847.

<sup>3</sup> Section 12, *Ibid.*

*WHEREAS*, the continuous tension among sports organizations and their leaders, especially between the PSC and the POC, practically puts all Filipino athletes in limbo, whether they will be officially competing or not, which negatively affects their practice and focus.

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED* that the Senate Committee on Games, Amusement and Sports immediately look into the conflict between the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee and the factionalism among various sports organizations which prejudice the interest and welfare of Filipino athletes especially the country's preparations for the 25<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Games in December 2009 with the end in view of addressing the same through legislative means.

Adopted,



FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO