

SENATE

10 JAN 21 AM 15

P.S. RES NO. 1541

Introduced by SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GAMES, AMUSEMENT AND SPORTS TO REVIEW AND REDEFINE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF, AND THE COORDINATION BETWEEN, THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION (PSC) AND THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (POC) TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF SPORTS IN THE COUNTRY AND TO ENSURE THE ATTAINMENT OF THE FULL POTENTIAL OF FILIPINO ATHLETES

WHEREAS, the past year has seen the power struggle between the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) currently chaired by Mr. Harry Angping and Philippine Olympic Commission (POC) currently headed by its President, Mr. Jose Cojuangco;

WHEREAS, in the course of these squabbles, allegations of favoritism, usurpation of authority, and graft and corruption have been thrown against each other by both POC and PSC;

WHEREAS, the feud between the two leaders has been detrimental to the development of sports and, at the end of the day, the athletes and the country suffer as a result of these politicking in sports;

WHEREAS, due to this strife, there has been no unity among Filipino athletes, as was exemplified in the 25th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games held in Vientiane, Laos last 9 to 18 December 2009;

WHEREAS, in the 25th SEA Games, the Philippine team was composed of 251 athletes, 153 funded by the PSC and 98 by the POC;

WHEREAS, the Philippines landed fifth over all and brought home 38 gold medals, 35 silver medals, and 51 bronze medals;

WHEREAS, the athletes funded and sent by POC, garnered 4 of the 38 gold medals, 13 of the 35 silver medals and 23 of the 51 bronze medals;

WHEREAS, had there been unity among our sports officials, more athletes, including those from the cycling team, could have joined the competition, possibly allowing the Philippines to land third or fourth place;

WHEREAS, there are also reports that while the athletes were training and preparing for the competition, the PSC only released funding for selected national athletes;

WHEREAS, despite being members of the national team, the other athletes, who were not chosen by the PSC, were allegedly not given their allowances;

WHEREAS, the PSC is a government-run organization and the government's funding arm in sports aimed at promoting sports in the country;

WHEREAS, under Republic Act 6847 or "The Philippine Sports Commission Act," the PSC is mandated, among others, to "plan, implement and oversee an integrated amateur sports promotion and development program for the country ... in coordination with various sectors involved in sports, including, among others, the Philippine Olympic Committee, the National Sports Associations, the public and private schools, government corporations and entities, the local governments, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and other sports organizations and private corporations;"

WHEREAS, under also RA 6847, the POC is tasked to "maintain its primary responsibility for activities pertaining to the country's participation in the Olympic Games, Asian Games, Southeast Asian Games and other international athletic competitions in accordance respectively with the rules and regulations of the International Olympic Committee, the Olympic Council of Asia, the Southeast Asian Games Federation and other international sports bodies;"

WHEREAS, despite the mandate in RA 6847 that the NSAs shall "select the athletes, coaches and other officials for their national teams taking into consideration not only their athletic abilities but also their discipline, moral character, aptitude and attitude," there are reports that the PSC intends to choose would-be members of the national training pool for future international meets;

WHEREAS, given the turbulent year 2009 in the sports arena, it is important to look into, and review, the mandates of both the PSC and POC to be able to clearly define their respective roles and responsibilities and coordination mechanisms so as not to affect the performance and benefits of our Filipino athletes especially in the future international competitions;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines direct the Senate Committee on Games, Amusement and Sports to review and redefine, in aid of legislation, the roles and responsibilities of, and the coordination between, the PSC and the POC to enhance the quality of sports in the country and ensure the attainment of the full potential of Filipino athletes.

Adopted,


PIA S. CAYETANO
Senator