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SENATE

P. S. RES. NO. 430

RECEIVED BY: *J*

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GAMES, AMUSEMENT AND SPORTS TO INVESTIGATE, INQUIRE, AND LOOK INTO, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE CURRENT STATE OF SPORTS DEVELOPMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES, AFTER THE DISMAL PERFORMANCE OF THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATIONS IN THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED 27th SOUTH EAST ASIAN (SEA) GAMES HELD IN MYANMAR FROM DECEMBER 11-22, 2013.

WHEREAS, Article XIV, Section 19 (1) of the 1987 Constitution expressly states and mandates that: *"The State shall promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions and amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry"*;

WHEREAS, in cognizance of the aforementioned Constitutional mandate, since 1977, the Philippines has been sending athletes to the Southeast Asian Games, a biennial multi-sport event involving participants from the current eleven countries of Southeast Asia;

WHEREAS, however, in the recently concluded 27th Southeast Asian Games held in the cities of Naypyidaw, Yangon and Mandalay in Myanmar from December 11-22, 2013, the Philippines emerged at seventh place, its worst finish since it started competing in 1977. The last time the Philippines logged less than 30 gold medals was in the 1999 Brunei Games where it won only 20 out of the 490 gold medals in 21 sports to finish at the fifth spot¹;

WHEREAS, the Philippines yielded to Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and even Myanmar with only 29 gold, 34 silver and 38 bronze medals to show, out of a total of 1557 medals awarded;

WHEREAS, despite the genuine desire, perseverance and sincere efforts of Filipino athletes to bring pride, honor and glory for the country and our people, the Philippines was only able to send around 148 athletes due to the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippine Sports Commission's allegedly defeatist and narrow-minded criteria of selecting a lean delegation capable of winning medals to the tournament;

WHEREAS, albeit there is no shortage of perseverance, dedication, moral courage, strength of character and competitive spirit displayed by our Filipino athletes, it is evident that the country is lagging behind in terms of its performance in sports competitions not only in the world level but in the Southeast Asia as well;

¹ With just 29 golds for seventh place, worst ever campaign for Philippines in SEA Games. Information retrieved <http://www.interaktyon.com/Interaktyv/with-just-29-golds-for-seventh-place-worst-ever-campaign-for-philippines-in-sea-games>

WHEREAS, further, the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) currently supports around 800 national athletes and coaches from more than 50 different national sports associations, and faces the challenge of maximizing its limited budget and allocating limited funds and resources to fulfill its statutory mandate, support sports development, and implement its national sports development plans and programs;

WHEREAS, the law clearly provides for the sources of funds for the PSC to be utilized for development and promotion of Philippine sports but the same is allegedly being violated, thereby, rendering the issue of funding a perennial problem, especially compared to our Southeast Asian neighbors which regularly allocate significant portions of their annual budgets for sports promotion and development;

WHEREAS, corollary to the aforementioned, the low priority given to Physical Education (PE) in the country and the failure to prioritize the development of a corps of capable coaches, trainers and/or officials with proper training and/or appropriate background and experience have not helped at all in recognizing and/or harnessing sports as an important and significant tool for national development and for the promotion of health and well-being of our countrymen;

WHEREAS, in view of all the foregoing, there is an apparent need for the Senate to investigate, inquire, and look into, in aid of legislation, the current state of Philippine sports, particularly in light of the lackluster performance of the Philippine delegations to the recently concluded 27th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games, such that corrective measures can be crafted and/or can remedial actions can be undertaken to once and for all address the concerns, problems and/or issues perennially affecting the Philippine Sports Commission, the different national sports associations, national athletes and/or Philippine sports in general;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate to direct the Senate Committee on Games, Amusement And Sports to investigate, look into and/or inquire, in aid of legislation, the current state of sports development in the Philippines in light of the lackluster performance of the Philippine delegations to the recently concluded 27th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games, such that corrective measures can be crafted and/or can remedial actions can be undertaken, to once and for all address the concerns, problems and/or issues perennially affecting the Philippine Sports Commission, the different national sports associations, national athletes and/or Philippine sports in general.

Adopted,


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator