

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'16 FEB -1 P3 22

SENATE
S. No. 3201

RECEIVED BY: J.

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A COUNTRYSIDE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 17, provides:

The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.

Apart from the intermittent efforts of some national teams and associations, there is no single program to address the problems that slow down sports development. There is a need to better our sports programs on a long-term basis. These appear to come from the public perception of sports. In the interest of sports development in the country, there is a need to improve the existing national sports program, not only by unifying the efforts of the different national teams and associations, but also by a high-profile campaign encouraging as many Filipinos as possible to engage in sports.

With the manner that sports programs are facilitated in the country, those who are well off are the ones who have access to better instruction, training, and facilities. In a developing country like the Philippines, most live below the poverty level so more pressing problems prevent them from pursuing any interest they have in sports. There is only the annual basketball *liga* in different barangays which is the highlight of the sports activities for most rural communities.

Knowing that only a few sports are financially rewarding (e.g. professional basketball), many among those who are interested in sports are content to play occasionally or remain spectators rather than turn full time athletes. Sponsors would naturally only support the events with the most number of followers.

“A unified sports program is one in which all the sectors of the society are given the opportunity to participate in any sports program they choose, at whatever level appropriate for them,” says Dr. Hercules Callanta, dean of the UP College of Human Kinetics. “The program should allow and encourage the participation of the citizenry. This includes spectators who wish merely to engage in sports without necessarily excelling in them or turning professional; older people who go into sports as recreation and diversion; the very young who can pick up social and athletic skills through early exposure to discipline and vigorous play; and the financially underprivileged, who should be encouraged to pursue wellness and health through physical activity.”

With the recent international success of Filipinos in newer fields like martial arts, dragon boat racing and football, now is not the time to be complacent. We have to reassess the way we source our athletes and should therefore create a fertile ground for the birth of our future Olympic gold medalists.

This bill seeks to establish a countryside sports development program not just to tap the potential for athletic success of the marginalized sectors of society in the far flung areas, but also to create a culture of love for sports and the physical wellness that goes with it.¹


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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¹ This bill was originally filed during the Fifteenth Congress, Second Regular Session.

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Countryside Sports
2 Development Act.”

3 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to give priority to
4 sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total
5 human liberation and development. To this end, there is a need to improve the national
6 sports program to start at the grassroots level particularly those from the countryside.

7 SECTION 3. *Sports Guidance Office.* – There shall be a Sports Guidance Office
8 (SGO) to be established in every province. It shall be headed by an Executive Director
9 who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Education. The SGO shall work closely with
10 the governor in the development of the sports program of the province. The SGO shall
11 have the following functions:

12 (A) Develop School Sports Competition Programs within the province;

13 (B) Coordinate the construction of sports facilities and development of sports
14 equipment in the province. There shall be at least one provincial sports center in every
15 province;

1 (C) Conduct training programs for PE teachers, coaches, instructors, referees,
2 officiating officials, and trainers;

3 (D) Inform graduating high school students of possible sports scholarships in
4 different universities both here and abroad;

5 (E) Develop a fitness program for the residents of their province;

6 (F) The SGO shall request the local television, radio and print media to
7 disseminate information about their activities and to encourage the local residents to
8 engage in sports;

9 (G) Work with different national sports associations to promote different kinds of
10 sports in their province; and

11 (H) Submit an annual report to Congress on the progress of the sports programs
12 they have instituted.

13 SECTION 4. *Observance of National Fitness Day.* – There shall be a “National
14 Fitness Day” to be observed every 30th of September. The SGO shall prepare activities
15 on a provincial level that promote sports and health.

16 SECTION 5. *Role of the Department of Education.* – The Department of
17 Education shall emphasize the need for sports development and shall allocate at least two
18 hours in every week for the Physical Education subject except during examination week.
19 It shall draft a standard curriculum for sports in grade school and high school which will
20 include the following:

21 (A) History of sports and different kinds of sports including Filipino sports icons;

22 (B) Health and proper nutrition;

23 (C) It shall be designed to allow students to experience at least a minimum
24 exposure to the following categories of activities:

25 (1) aquatics;

- 1 (2) conditioning activities;
- 2 (3) gymnastics;
- 3 (4) individual/dual sports;
- 4 (5) team sports;
- 5 (6) rhythms; and
- 6 (7) dance.

7 Students shall be encouraged to continue to explore those activities in which they
8 have a primary interest by effectively managing their community resources. A planned
9 sequence of learning experiences must be designed to support a progression of student
10 development.

11 **SECTION 6. *Appropriations.*** – To carry out the provisions of this Act, such sums
12 as may be necessary are hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury.

13 **SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
14 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other
15 provisions hereof.

16 **SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or
17 portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby
18 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

19 **SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
20 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,