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THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session

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SENATE

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Resolution No. 83

Introduced by Senator Richard J. Gordon

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INQUIRY INTO THE PHILIPPINES' CAPABILITIES AND PLANS FOR HOSTING AND PARTICIPATING IN THE 2005 SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES

WHEREAS, the Philippines performed miserably in the last Olympics, having lost all events in which we participated, and lost all opportunities to win even a single medal at the quadrennial sports event;

WHEREAS, from a remarkable second place finish in the medal tally in the 1991 Southeast Asian Games ("SEA Games"), the Philippine performance has dramatically deteriorated, placing *merely fourth* at the 2003 SEA Games;

WHEREAS, it is beyond doubt that the Philippine sports program has failed to truly tap the athletic potential of the Filipino, strengthen our sense of national identity, and generate a sense of pride in being Filipino;

WHEREAS, the Philippines has undertaken to host the 2005 SEA Games;

WHEREAS, it is likewise beyond doubt that the nation is in the midst of a fiscal crisis, and every Filipino is being asked to share in the burden of revitalizing the national economy;

WHEREAS, the Philippine government and the private sector will have to spend millions of pesos to properly prepare our athletes, the venues and the nation for the 2005 SEA Games;

WHEREAS, while it is recognized that the 2005 SEA Games will promote the Philippines as a tourism destination, bring in tourists and much needed foreign exchange, and in turn generate jobs for the Filipino, it is absolutely necessary to examine the relevance of hosting the 2005 SEA Games in the midst of a fiscal crisis;

WHEREAS, if it is necessary to host the 2005 SEA Games, it is absolutely essential that all the country's efforts for the 2005 SEA Games are properly coordinated to maximize the socio-cultural and economic benefits of the event, highlight the excellence of Filipinos in sports, and insure that the SEA Games will not become a source of national embarrassment;

WHEREFORE, let it be resolved, that the Senate, through a relevant committee, conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, to examine and evaluate the Philippines' capabilities and plans of hosting and participating in the 2005 SEA Games, to determine the propriety of hosting the 2005 SEA Games, and if necessary, to assist in coordinating all efforts to support not only the government in organizing the event, but more importantly, our athletes in their struggle for excellence.

Approved,

RICHARD J. GORDON