

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 541



Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION TO EVALUATE THE SUPPORT, BOTH FINANCIAL AND LOGISTICS, PROVIDED BY THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION (PSC) TO THE COUNTRY'S NATIONAL ATHLETES, COACHES, AND TRAINERS

1 WHEREAS, the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), created by virtue of
2 Republic Act 6847 on 24 January 1990, is the government's arm in creating programs
3 and policies for the development of grassroots sports in the country as well as
4 providing support for our national athletes as they represent the country in
5 international competitions;

6 WHEREAS, part of PSC's function is to provide funding assistance for athletes'
7 local and international training, participation in international competitions sanctioned
8 by International Federations, and seminars and trainings by coaches and trainers.
9 Assistance to national athletes include training and meal allowances, billeting and
10 training venue provisions, training gear, supplies and equipment, and processing of
11 travel tax and terminal fee exemptions during travel to international competitions;

12 WHEREAS, in numerous news articles, the family of Alex Eala – the first Filipino
13 to reach the semi-final round of the French Open girl's tournament – stated that the
14 PSC has not provided any financial support to the tennis athlete which is contrary to
15 the now-deleted claim of the Commission that it has provided Eala with around P3
16 million in financial support for her travels and trainings abroad on top of the P1.5
17 million assistance given for her six (6) international tournaments since January 2020;

18 WHEREAS, in fact, Eala's family was quick to deny the claim of PSC and insisted
19 that they "have not received any of the funds in the millions of pesos mentioned [here]

1 in this post.” Eala’s family also said that they have been trying to reimburse the travel
2 expenses for the Australian Open which Alex participated in January but was given a
3 “run around” by the PSC despite the extensive documentation already provided;

4 WHEREAS, the denial from Eala’s family forced the Commission to issue an
5 apology with the erratum clarifying that the earlier Facebook post was just a case of
6 “unintended misinformation” and that, while there is already an approved board
7 resolution on this matter, it is still currently being processed pending required
8 documents;

9 WHEREAS, the accomplishments of our national athletes bring pride and
10 inspiration to the entire nation especially in very difficult times where hope runs thin
11 which is why government, over the years, has continued to institute policies to reward
12 our athletes – more recently, the passage of Republic Act No. 10699 which this
13 representation helped enact ensured bigger and broader incentives and benefits to
14 our national athletes, coaches, and trainers;

15 WHEREAS, just as our athletes strive to represent the Philippines in
16 international competitions, the PSC should be just as proactive in providing adequate
17 assistance to our representatives as it will not only ease the financial burden of
18 competing abroad but will also send a clear message that the Philippines is behind
19 every national athlete, coach, and trainer. With the recent news circulating on the lack
20 of immediacy on the part of the Commission to provide assistance, there is a need to
21 look into the current practice and processes of the PSC to determine if there are other
22 athletes who have been affected by their seemingly delayed actions and – if applicable
23 – institute reforms which will enable them to expedite these processes.

24 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, for the Senate of the Philippines to direct
25 the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation to
26 evaluate the support, both financial and logistics, provided by the Philippine Sports
27 Commission (PSC) to the country’s national athletes, coaches, and trainers.

Adopted,



SONNY ANGARA