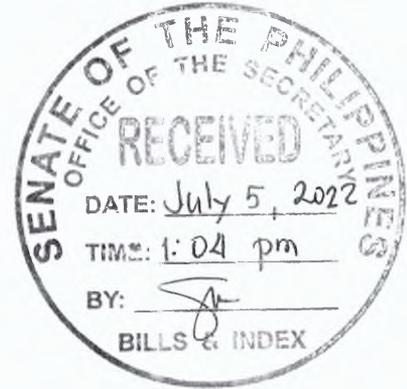


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE

S. No. 14

Introduced by Senators **PIA S. CAYETANO** and **ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO**

AN ACT
MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TWENTY (20)-YEAR SPORTS EXCELLENCE ROADMAP TO STRENGTHEN GRASSROOTS SPORTS PROGRAM, AND DEVELOP WORLD-CLASS ELITE ATHLETES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, our national athletes made an epic history for Philippine sports after winning our first Olympic gold medal and garnering two silvers and one bronze, surpassing our three-bronze record set in the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics.¹ This is a major improvement from our country's performance in the past Olympics, considering that after light flyweight boxer Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco's silver medal in the 1996 Olympics, the next Olympic medal that we won was weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz's silver in the 2016 Olympics.² However, in spite of our national athletes' recent achievements in the international multi-sport event, there is still much that we can do to support and protect them in return for their dedication, hard work, and sacrifices in honing their skills to be able to raise our flag in the world of sports and bring honor to our country.

¹ Lozada, B. (2021, August 7). PH wraps up most successful Olympics campaign with 4 medals. *Philippine Daily Inquirer*. <https://sports.inquirer.net/432836/ph-wraps-up-most-successful-olympics-campaign-with-4-medals>

² The Filipinos that brought home Olympic medals. (2021, August 8). *Business Mirror*. <https://www.bworldonline.com/sports/2021/08/08/387601/the-filipinos-that-brought-home-olympic-medals/>

As such, there is a need to establish a roadmap that would continuously support Filipino athletes, as grassroots athletes do not become world-class elite athletes overnight. A good example is our golden girl, Olympian Hidilyn Diaz, who started her weightlifting journey at the young age of 11.³ She was then able to join the 2008 Beijing Olympics as a wild card entry of the Philippine Weightlifting Association, making her the first Filipina to represent this sport.⁴ In 2012, Diaz became the first Filipina weightlifter to compete in two (2) consecutive Olympics, although she did not make a podium finish.⁵ It was during the 2016 Rio Olympics when Diaz bagged a silver medal, becoming the first Filipina to win an Olympic medal in weightlifting.⁶ Four years later, in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, Diaz made history once again after winning the gold medal in the same sport, ending the 97-year gold medal drought of our country in the Olympics.⁷

The road to sports excellence begins with population-based fitness programs, as well as participation in sports and other physical activities. From there, we can identify a pool of young athletes, some of whom will have the potential to qualify in international sports competitions and become elite world-class athletes. The State should be able to identify, develop and train these potential world-class elite athletes through a comprehensive sports framework. As such, this bill proposes to establish a national policy

³ How did Olympic gold medalist Hidilyn Diaz get into weightlifting?. (2021, July 27). *GMA Network*. <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/sports/othersports/796967/how-did-olympic-gold-medalist-hidilyn-diaz-get-into-weightlifting/story/#:~:text=According%20to%20her%20cousin%2C%20Allen,competition%20at%2011%20years%20old>.

⁴ Department of Education. (2016, December 6). Hidilyn Diaz: A Victor's Crown. *Department of Education Philippines*. <https://www.deped.gov.ph/2016/12/06/hidilyn-diaz-a-victors-crown/>

⁵ Olivares, R. (2016, July 21). Could Third Olympics be the Charm for Hidilyn Diaz? *PhilStar*. <https://www.philstar.com/sports/2016/07/21/1605160/could-third-olympics-be-charm-hidilyn-diaz>

⁶ Olympic Channel (2019, November 10). Hidilyn Diaz on eating her way to Olympic weightlifting glory. *Olympics*. <https://olympics.com/en/featured-news/exclusive-interview-weightlifting-hidilyn-diaz-philippines-diet-tokyo>

⁷ Roscher, Liz. (2021, July 27). Weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz wins first-ever gold for Philippines, ending 97-year drought. *PH News*. https://ph.news.yahoo.com/olympics-weightlifter-hidilyn-diaz-wins-first-ever-gold-for-philippines-ending-97-year-drought-202410805.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAKSoTQO9TP4wgzaaOFlieDS04mSS0Thv06w30SypcSBAA0I50sZERws59th_ZQLwbVGhXEoFYVt1hV_tLb6nK84zyk8_igipfyM_gWBYiEDmVwBMI7uvQgomj1ykUce8QIXaCtN2SPOVHI_Bip2flhVOS2NyAbd44H-UThOHEIcT

comprehensive sports framework. As such, this bill proposes to establish a national policy through a twenty-(20) year Roadmap for Sports Excellence that would improve our grassroots programs, and empower Filipino athletes to pursue their dreams in the field of sports. This proposed measure will mandate the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), in close coordination with the National Sports Associations (NSAs), the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC), and the National Academy for Sports (NAS), to start working on the blueprint for sports development that will strengthen grassroots sports and identify and train potential elite Filipino athletes who can excel in various sports competitions. The Roadmap for Sports Excellence shall likewise identify the annual budgetary requirements over a twenty-(20) year period in order to fully harness the potentials of Filipino athletes. On this note, each NSA is mandated to prepare their respective roadmaps and shall only receive financial assistance if their roadmap has been reviewed and approved by the PSC. The continuous funding of the NSAs shall be further determined by the PSC based on the proper and efficient implementation of their roadmaps.

This proposed measure also recognizes the crucial and collaborative roles of the PSC, POC, NAS, NSAs, educational institutions, and local government units, together with other stakeholders, in providing opportunities and avenues for Filipino athletes to develop and excel in their respective sports, with the end goal of creating more Filipino champions in the world of sports.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

Pia S. Cayetano
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ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
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SENATE

S. No. 14

Introduced by Senators **PIA S. CAYETANO** and **ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO**

AN ACT
MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TWENTY (20)-YEAR SPORTS EXCELLENCE ROADMAP TO STRENGTHEN GRASSROOTS SPORTS PROGRAM, AND DEVELOP WORLD-CLASS ELITE ATHLETES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the "*Roadmap for Sports*
2 *Excellence Act.*"

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — The State recognizes its vital role in promoting
4 sports excellence by ensuring population-based participation in physical activities, and
5 the development of grassroots sports programs, league competitions, and amateur
6 sports, including training for national and international competitions. Towards this end, a
7 roadmap shall be established to promote the pursuit of sports excellence, which shall be
8 based on targeted and achievable goals for sports development in the country. The
9 roadmap shall also identify and rank the specific sports and athletes that are ready and
10 primed to join international competitions based on measurable indicators, taking into
11 consideration the talent and capability of Filipino athletes. The State shall exhaust and
12 maximize available resources for the development of potential world-class elite athletes,
13 by providing them, among others, budgetary support and opportunities to participate in
14 various sports competitions.

1 *Sec. 3. Roadmap for Sports Excellence of the Philippine Sports Commission.* —The
2 Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), in close coordination with the Philippine Olympic
3 Committee (POC) and the National Academy for Sports (NAS), shall establish and
4 implement a twenty (20)-year sports development roadmap, hereinafter referred to as
5 the Roadmap for Sports Excellence, which shall be based on the roadmap of each National
6 Sports Association (NSA), and updated at least every five (5) years. In the Roadmap for
7 Sports Excellence, the PSC shall identify the specific sports in the Philippines that can
8 excel on an international level. It shall provide for a national and local policy on developing
9 the potential, honing the skills and talents, and supporting Filipino athletes to become,
10 among others, world-class qualifiers and medalists in the Olympics and other international
11 sports competitions. The PSC shall also include and delineate the tasks of the national,
12 regional, and local sports authorities to ensure the Roadmap for Sports Excellence’s full
13 implementation. The Roadmap for Sports Excellence shall also include the budgetary
14 requirements necessary for the full implementation of this Act: *Provided,* That the PSC
15 shall closely work and coordinate with all stakeholders, and issue the necessary rules and
16 regulations that would properly implement the Roadmap for Sports Excellence.

17 *Sec. 4. Roadmap of Each National Sports Associations.* — All NSAs shall craft their
18 respective roadmaps for the national development of their own sports, which shall
19 incorporate, among others, programs and activities for grassroots promotion, identifying
20 potential athletes, assistance for trainings and competitions, including the necessary
21 budgetary requirements, to support their athletes’ full development in both the national
22 and international arena, with special programs and funding for those with the potential
23 to become world-class elite athletes in the Olympics and other international sports
24 competitions. All NSAs shall set goals on the expansion of their grassroots programs and
25 the exposure and opportunities for their respective athletes and coaches in national and
26 international sports competitions: *Provided,* That the NSAs shall only receive financial
27 assistance if their roadmap has been reviewed by the PSC, certifying its propriety and
28 compliance with Section 7 of this Act: *Provided Further,* That the continuous funding of
29 the NSAs shall be determined by the PSC based on the proper, reasonable, and efficient
30 implementation of each NSA’s roadmap.

1 *Sec. 5. Development of Grassroots Program.* — In addition to its functions under
2 Republic Act No. 11470, or the “The National Academy of Sports,” the NAS, together with
3 the Department of Education (DepEd) and the PSC, shall establish a systematic grassroots
4 program that would properly identify and select Filipino athletes based on a qualifying
5 admission criteria, and develop them to become world-class elite athletes: *Provided,* That
6 all public educational institutions and Local Government Units (LGUs) shall actively
7 participate and support the programs, activities, and projects of the PSC and the NAS,
8 while private educational institutions are encouraged to do the same: *Provided Further,*
9 That nothing in this Section shall limit or prevent all NSAs from pursuing other programs
10 and activities for the development of their respective sports.

11 *Sec. 6. Institutionalization of Indicators of Olympic-Bound Sports through Local*
12 *and National Competitions.* — The PSC and the NAS shall institutionalize a point system,
13 through well-organized local and national sports competitions, that will be used as
14 indicators in identifying and ranking the Focus Sports. Focus Sports refer to specific sports
15 and athletes ready and primed to participate and excel in international competitions,
16 including the Olympics. In identifying the Focus Sports, the indicators used shall be
17 measurable and achievable by Filipino athletes, taking into consideration their talents and
18 capabilities, which shall also serve as the basis in selecting the pool of national athletes.

19 *Sec. 7. Roadmap Components.* — The Roadmap shall contain, among others, the
20 policy on the following:

- 21 a. *Sports Development and Participation for All.* — Promote and encourage
22 population-based participation in sports and other physical activities, which
23 shall be the basis for the development of more skilled athletes. Coordinate
24 with the LGUs for programs involving, among others, mass participation in
25 physical fitness activities.
- 26 b. *Talent Identification.* — Promote early recognition and development of
27 talented and exceptionally gifted Filipino athletes who have demonstrated
28 the potential of excelling in the field of sports.
- 29 c. *Education & Sports.* — In coordination with various educational institutions,
30 including the NAS, the University of the Philippines (UP), and other

1 concerned government agencies and non-governmental organizations
2 (NGOs), shall ensure that highly talented and exceptionally gifted students
3 are given the opportunity to pursue and excel in sports and have access to
4 good quality education.

5
6 Pursuant to Republic Act No. 11470, or "The National Academy of Sports",
7 NAS shall identify satellite branches and regional campuses of the NAS
8 System to enhance grassroots sports development, and for the
9 identification and training of elite Filipino athletes.

10
11 The University of the Philippines College of Human Kinetics (UP-CHK) shall
12 assist and provide expertise to the PSC and the NSAs in crafting the
13 Roadmap for Sports Excellence, pursuant to the roadmap competents
14 provided under this Act. The UP-CHK, through partnership with the PSC,
15 shall:

- 16 (1) Review existing evidence to identify various factors related to
17 elite sporting success;
- 18 (2) Examine which of these factors are applicable to the Philippine
19 setting and culture; and
- 20 (3) Recommend strategies to improve planning and implementation
21 of sports programs based on the said factors.

22 d. *Sports Scholarships and Grants.* — Provide scholarships under relevant
23 laws to all qualified athletes, and offer grants for sports science research to
24 build the knowledge generation capacity of Filipino sports science
25 practitioners and researchers.

26 e. *Health and Well-being.* — Ensure that the health of Filipino athletes,
27 including their safety, is protected at all times, which includes their physical,
28 mental, and emotional well-being. Secure elite Filipino athletes' access to
29 proper nutrition, health care professionals, including free or subsidized
30 vitamins and medical expense coverage, taking into consideration the

1 budget needed for emergency situations, such as athletes' sports-related
2 medical examination and procedures, as well as strive to provide the same
3 benefits for athletes in grassroots sports, including student-athletes, in
4 direct coordination with their educational institutions and other concerned
5 agencies.

6 f. *Infrastructure and Training Facilities.* — Ensure that all Filipino athletes are
7 given the opportunity to properly train in their respective sports, by
8 providing them with adequate support and funding to train in safe and
9 world-class facilities, with well-maintained equipment, including other items
10 needed for training.

11 g. *Amateur to National Athlete Support.* — Identify the gaps and address the
12 issues that should be resolved in order to provide a policy on the early
13 recognition and development of potential elite athletes by providing
14 adequate support for grassroots athletes and training them to become
15 potential qualifiers and medalists in the Olympics and other international
16 events. Proactively coordinate and collaborate with concerned agencies,
17 including NGOs, such as the Philippine Olympic Committee.

18 h. *Local and International Competitions.* — Plan the potential sports career
19 track for all Filipino athletes, from student to amateur to national level,
20 including the promotion of all local and international sports competitions.

21 i. *Right to Join Competitions and/or Represent the Philippines.* — Promote
22 and safeguard the right of every qualified Filipino athlete to join local and
23 international sports competitions, by, among others, protecting them from
24 unjustified refusal or objection by their respective NSAs or educational
25 institutions, whichever is applicable.

26 j. *Welfare of Filipino Athletes.* — Incorporate and mandate all interested
27 parties to recognize and uphold the rights and welfare of all Filipino athletes,
28 at all times, especially during policy- and decision-making.

29 k. *Special Benefits/Incentives/Privileges.* — Ensure that all qualified athletes
30 and coaches shall automatically be given the corresponding benefits and

1 incentives, as provided by Republic Act No. 10699, or the *National Athletes*
2 *and Coaches Benefits and Incentives Act*.

3 l. *Funding*. — Strengthen the framework for the budgetary requirements of
4 all Filipino athletes, depending on their respective needs during their
5 preparation, training, and competitions.

6 m. *Public-Private Partnership*. — Encourage active private sector participation
7 through, among others, public-private partnerships that would enable the
8 full implementation of the twenty (20)-year Roadmap for Sports Excellence,
9 including the roadmap of each NSAs.

10 In crafting the Roadmap, the PSC, in coordination with the POC and the NSAs,
11 shall identify all the gaps and possible issues that could prevent Filipino athletes from
12 harnessing their full potential in their respective sports and include the solutions, targets,
13 and objectives that would fully support the athletes in pursuit of their respective goals
14 and targets, which include becoming potential qualifiers and medalists in the Olympics
15 and other international competitions.

16 *Sec. 8. Roadmap for Sports Excellence National Coordinating Council*. — In order
17 to promote and identify a common policy direction that will navigate through a holistic
18 perspective and identify key result areas in determining a sustained sports development
19 in the Philippines, the Roadmap for Sports Excellence National Coordinating Council is
20 hereby established which shall be composed of the following:

- 21 a. The Commissioner, Philippine Sports Commission, as Chairperson of the
22 Council;
- 23 b. Heads, National Sports Associations, as members;
- 24 c. The Executive Director, National Academy of Sports, as member;
- 25 d. The Secretary, Department of Education, as member;
- 26 e. The Secretary, Department of the Interior and Local Government, as
27 member;
- 28 f. The President, Philippine Olympic Committee, as member;
- 29 g. One (1) student-athlete representative;
- 30 h. One (1) national athlete representative; and

- 1 i. Two (2) private sector representatives who are known supporters of sports
2 development in the country.

3 The heads of government agencies may be represented by an official whose rank
4 shall not be lower than an Assistant Secretary or its equivalent.

5 *Sec. 9. Functions of the Roadmap for Sports Excellence National Coordinating*
6 *Council.* — The Roadmap for Sports Excellence National Coordinating Council shall have
7 the following powers and functions:

- 8 a. Oversee and monitor the progressive realization of the Roadmap for Sports
9 Excellence, as well as the roadmap of each NSAs;
- 10 b. Identify the key result areas on measuring a sustained sports development
11 in the Philippines;
- 12 c. Constantly review and assess the roadmap components in Section 9 of this
13 Act based on national and international sports development policies and
14 standards;
- 15 d. Resolve issues relative to the implementation of this Act, without prejudice
16 to the member-agencies resolving such concerns pursuant to their
17 respective mandates;
- 18 e. Request for support and technical assistance from any department, agency,
19 or office under the Executive Branch for the effective implementation of this
20 Act;
- 21 f. Promulgate the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this
22 Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity; and
- 23 g. Perform such other functions pursuant to the fulfillment of the objectives of
24 this Act.

25 *Sec. 10. Appropriations.* — The amount needed for the initial implementation of
26 this Act shall be taken from the current budget of the PSC. Thereafter, the amount needed
27 for the full implementation of this Act, including the Roadmap for Sports Excellence shall
28 automatically be included in the annual General Appropriations Act of the PSC.

29 *Sec. 11. Separability Clause.* — If any part or provision of this Act is declared
30 unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby

1 shall remain to be in full force and effect.

2 Sec. 12. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
3 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,