

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)**



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SENATE

S.B. No. 2408

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

**AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL GAMES AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The realm of sports is in a state of continual evolution, demanding athletes to strive to remain abreast of these progressive developments. However, various challenges emerge as impediments for athletes to keep pace with such advancements, prompting government intervention as a vital proponent to ensure the equitable treatment of all athletes. Government must assist in granting them accessible platforms that foster growth, venues for skill refinement, and opportunities that incentivize industrious efforts.

Article 14, Section 19 of the Constitution mandates that the state advocate physical education as well as incentivize sports initiatives including league competitions, amateur sports, and training for international contests. This overarching objective aims to cultivate self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence thereby nurturing a vigilant and healthy populace. In line with this, all local government units are encouraged to undertake nationwide sports engagements in partnership with athletic clubs and other relevant sectors.

The primary objective of this measure is the establishment of a cohesive and all-encompassing national sports program, strategically interlinking grassroots sports promotion with the progression of elite sports development. This framework concurrently serves as a platform for national sports associations to facilitate the propagation of their distinct sports initiatives at the grassroots level. Moreover, it endeavors to broaden the scope for talent identification, selection, and recruitment of athletes, thereby establishing a vigorous foundation for athletic potential.

The provisions in this measure advocate for the formal establishment of the Philippine National Games Act (PNG) for the purpose of highlighting the extensive potential inherent in Filipinos which will also pave the way for the discovery of the country's homegrown athletic talent. These games will serve as a vital platform for developing athletes the opportunity to exhibit their latent talents while also encouraging the youth to actively participate in such pursuits. Moreover, the bill aspires to stand as a testament to the principles of equality and inclusivity, reinforced by its commitment to affording paralympic competitions and athletes due recognition and equitable compensation, akin to their non-disabled counterparts. The commendable achievements of athletes with disabilities merit due recognition and honor which this bill seeks to address.

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

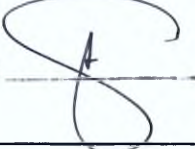


JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

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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 "Philippine National
2 Games Act of 2023."

3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - Article IV, Section 19 (1) of the 1987
4 Constitution provides that the State shall promote physical education and encourage
5 sports programs, league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for
6 international sports competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for
7 the development of a healthy and alert citizenry.

8 Pursuant thereto, it is incumbent upon the State to institutionalize a genuine
9 comprehensive national grassroots sports program which serves as the country's premier
10 national sports competition and venue for the nationwide talent search for identifying and
11 developing outstanding athletes who have the potential to excel in various sports, and
12 place the country at the forefront of international sports competitions.

13 **SEC. 3. *Philippine National Games*** – There is hereby created a national
14 grassroots sports program, hereinafter referred to as the Philippine National Games,
15 which shall serve as the country's premier national sports competition and platform for
16 the nationwide talent search in identifying and developing outstanding athletes who have
17 the potential to excel in various sports, and place the country at the forefront of
18 international sports competition.

19 **SEC. 4. *Objectives*** - The objectives of the Philippine National Games (PNG) are
20 as follows:

- 21 (a) To provide a framework and structure for a truly integrated and
22 comprehensive national sports program linking grassroots sports promotion
23 to elite sports development;
- 24 (b) To serve as the government's premier national sports competition to be
25 held once every two years;
- 26 (c) To encourage all local government units (LGUs) to promote the
27 development of sports in the countryside covering all provinces, cities,
28 municipalities, and barangays,

- 1 (d) To serve as a venue for the National Sports Associations (NSAs) in
 2 promoting their respective sports at the grassroots level providing the
 3 necessary linkages with LGUs; and
- 4 (e) To serve as a feeder program for the pool of student-athletes who shall be
 5 given priority in the grant of full scholarship on secondary education
 6 program at the National Academy of Sports; and
- 7 (f) To widen the base for talent identification, selection, and recruitment of
 8 athletes that shall constitute the national pool to be trained for
 9 international sports competitions.

10 **SEC. 5. Preparatory Sports Program.** - The *Palarong Pambansa* provided for
 11 under Republic Act Number 10588, and other local sports competitions organized by the
 12 LGUs or the private sector, shall serve as "feeder" and preparatory sports program for
 13 the PNG.

14 **SEC. 6. Establishment of the PNG Board.** – A PNG Board, hereinafter referred
 15 to as the "Board", is hereby created as the lead policy-making and coordinating body for
 16 the preparation and conduct of the PNG.

17 **SEC. 7. Membership of the Board.** – The Board shall have seven (7) members
 18 composed of the following:

- | | | | |
|----|-----|--|-------------------|
| 19 | (a) | Executive Secretary | Chairperson |
| 20 | | | |
| 21 | (b) | Secretary of the Department of the Interior
and Local Government (DILG) | Vice Chairperson |
| 22 | | | |
| 23 | | | |
| 24 | (c) | Chairperson of the Philippine Sports
Commission (PSC) | Secretary General |
| 25 | | | |
| 26 | | | |
| 27 | (d) | Secretary of the Department of
Education (DepEd) | Member |
| 28 | | | |
| 29 | | | |
| 30 | (e) | Chairperson of the Commission
on Higher Education (CHED) | Member |
| 31 | | | |
| 32 | | | |
| 33 | (f) | Secretary of the Department
on National Defense (DND) | Member |
| 34 | | | |
| 35 | | | |
| 36 | (g) | President of the Philippine
Olympic Committee (POC) | Member |
| 37 | | | |

1 **SEC. 8. *Functions and Duties of the Board*** – The Board shall perform the
2 following functions and duties:

- 3 (a) To formulate policies and guidelines that shall govern the conduct of the
4 PNG, and the relationships among the organizations involved;
- 5 (b) To form an Executive Committee which shall be headed by a Secretary
6 General in-charge for the day-to-day operations of the PNG.
- 7 (c) To recognize the Local Sports Councils (LSCs) that shall be given authority
8 to select the athletes and teams qualified to join in the PNG;
- 9 (d) To assign the venue and set the schedule of the PNG;
- 10 (e) To determine the sports to be included in the PNG, in addition to the list
11 of mandatory sports enumerated under Section 10 of this Act;
- 12 (f) To establish an advisory council composed of public and private individuals,
13 organizations or entities necessary for the success of the PNG;
- 14 (g) To create the National Screening and Accreditation Committee;
- 15 (h) To identify the regional or cluster qualifying competitions, including the
16 qualifying standards, consistent with the rules of the respective NSAs;
- 17 (i) To develop and recommend programs and policies that shall promote the
18 PNG and ensure the support of the LGUs in the conduct of the PNG as the
19 country's premier sports event;
- 20 (j) To establish a mediation body, including its rules and procedures, to resolve
21 disputes related to the conduct of PNG;
- 22 (k) To provide incentives and rewards to host LGU and winning LSCs;
- 23 (l) To enter into contracts or obligations essential for the accomplishment of
24 its purposes and objectives;
- 25 (m) To assess the conduct of PNG and submit an annual report to Congress;
26 and
- 27 (n) To exercise such other functions as may be necessary for the effective
28 implementation of this Act.

29 **SEC. 9. *Secretary General.*** - The Chairman of the PSC shall serve as the
30 Secretary General of the PNG.

1 The Secretary General shall recommend to the Board the composition of the PNG
2 Secretariat and all the activities undertaken by the latter, including the utilization of funds
3 for the preparation, organization and conduct of the PNG. The Secretariat, which shall
4 come from the existing personnel of the PSC, the DILG, the DepEd and the POC shall
5 directly manage the conduct of the PNG.

6 **SEC. 10. *Sports Events.*** – The official sports in the PNG shall include the
7 following:

- 8 (a) Aquatics
- 9 (b) Archery
- 10 (c) Arnis
- 11 (d) Athletics
- 12 (e) Badminton
- 13 (f) Baseball
- 14 (g) Basketball
- 15 (h) Billiards and Snookers
- 16 (i) Bowling
- 17 (j) Boxing
- 18 (k) Canoe-Kayak
- 19 (l) Chess
- 20 (m) Cycling
- 21 (n) Dancesport
- 22 (o) Esports
- 23 (p) Fencing
- 24 (q) Floorball
- 25 (r) Football
- 26 (s) Futsal
- 27 (t) Golf
- 28 (u) Gymnastics
- 29 (v) Handball
- 30 (w) Hockey
- 31 (x) Jiu-Jitsu
- 32 (y) Judo
- 33 (z) Karate
- 34 (aa) Lawn Tennis
- 35 (bb) Modern Pentathlon
- 36 (cc) Muay Thai

- 1 (dd) Pencak Silat
- 2 (ee) Petanque
- 3 (ff) Rowing
- 4 (gg) Rugby
- 5 (hh) Sailing
- 6 (ii) Sambo
- 7 (jj) Sepak Takraw
- 8 (kk) Shooting
- 9 (ll) Skateboarding
- 10 (mm) Softball
- 11 (nn) Soft Tennis
- 12 (oo) Squash
- 13 (pp) Surfing
- 14 (qq) Swimming
- 15 (rr) Table Tennis
- 16 (ss) Taekwondo
- 17 (tt) Tennis
- 18 (uu) Triathlon
- 19 (vv) Volleyball
- 20 (ww) Weighlifting
- 21 (xx) Wrestling
- 22 (yy) Wushu

23 *Provided*, That the sports to be played in the PNG shall be aligned with the sports
24 participated in by the Philippines in the Southeast Asian Games, Asian Games, Olympics
25 and other mandatory international sports competitions, including para games: *Provided*
26 *further*, That mandatory sports events in the Olympics and Paralympic Games shall, as
27 far as practicable, be included in the PNG, subject to the availability of sports facilities
28 and venues of the host LGU: *Provided finally*, That the host LGU may recommend local
29 sports to promote and showcase its socioeconomic and cultural uniqueness through the
30 PNG.

31 **SEC. 11. Roles of Concerned Agencies.** - The following government agencies,
32 instrumentalities and entities shall be tasked to perform the following roles and
33 responsibilities:

34 (a) PSC -

35
36 (1) To carry out overall management, coordination and implementation of the
37 PNG;

38 (2) To provide manpower, technical resources and sports facilities; and

- 1 (3) To perform other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the Board.
- 2 (b) DILG -
- 3 (1) To mandate all LGUs to coordinate, cooperate and support the plans, programs
4 and activities of the PNG through the issuance of corresponding orders, circulars,
5 and guidelines within its jurisdiction to help carry out the objectives of the PNG;
- 6 (2) To direct the Philippine National Police to prepare and implement a
7 comprehensive security plan for the LGU venues where the PNG shall be held; and
- 8 (3) To perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the
9 Board.
- 10 (c) Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) –
- 11 (1) To oversee and ensure the implementation of plans on the safe conduct of the
12 PNG in their respective localities;
- 13 (2) To assist in disseminating information on the PNG within their respective
14 jurisdiction to encourage the active participation of their constituents;
- 15 (3) To recommend to the Board the priority sports in their respective localities; and
- 16 (4) To perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be delegated by the
17 Board.
- 18 (d) DepEd -
- 19 (1) To align the *Palarong Pambansa* calendar of activities, programs and policies
20 to the conduct of the PNG;
- 21 (2) To allow the use of school buildings and classrooms as billeting centers;
- 22 (3) To allow DepEd teachers, who are licensed or accredited technical officials of
23 the NSAs, to officiate in the games;
- 24 (4) To issue appropriate orders, circulars, and guidelines within its jurisdiction to
25 implement the objectives of the PNG; and
- 26 5) To perform other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the Board.
- 27 (e) CHED -
- 28 (1) To promote the program and activities of the PNG to all higher educational
29 institutions;
- 30 (2) To enjoin state universities and colleges the use of their school buildings and
31 classrooms as billeting centers;
- 32 (3) To issue memorandum orders on the alignment of tertiary sports events and
33 calendar of activities to the PNG; and;

1 (4) To perform other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the Board.

2 (f) DND –

3 (1) To oversee and ensure the participation of military athletes in the PNG;

4 (2) To serve as the LSC which shall have the authority to accredit and allow
5 qualified military athletes and participate in the PNG;
6

7 (3) To issue appropriate orders, circulars, and guidelines within its jurisdiction to
8 implement the objectives of the PNG; and

9 (4) To perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be delegated by the
10 Board.

11 (g) LGUs -

12 (1) To organize within their jurisdiction a multi-sectoral group to serve as their LSC
13 which shall have the authority to accredit and to allow athletes to participate in
14 the PNG;

15 (2) To assist LSCs in the identification, recruitment, and training of gifted and
16 talented athletes within their respective localities;

17 (3) To organize local competitions within their respective jurisdictions to ensure a
18 wide base for the selection of national athletes who will compete in the PNG; and

19 (4) To perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the
20 Board.

21 (h) POC -

22 (1) To supervise all participating NSAs involved in the PNG; and

23 (2) To perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the
24 Board.

25 (i) NSAs -

26 (1) To set the qualifications for athletes participating in different events based on
27 their international federations' rules and regulations;

28 (2) To provide technical assistance in the conduct of their respective sports
29 competitions in the PNG, including the appointment of qualified officiating officials;

30 (3) To conduct regional or cluster qualifying competitions, as may be required by
31 any sports association, in coordination with the PSC and the host LSC; and

32 (4) To allow the participation of all athletes, including national athletes, entered
33 by the LSCs regardless of their membership status with their respective NSAs:
34 *Provided, That:*

- 1 i. The athlete conforms and agrees to abide by the competition rules and
2 regulations of their respective NSAs and the PNG; and
- 3 ii. The athlete is not under any disciplinary sanction, or otherwise suspended
4 by the concerned NSA or International Federation, consistent with the rules
5 of their respective sports.

6 **SEC. 12. *The LSCs.*** -The LSCs organized by their respective LCDs shall be headed
7 by the provincial governor, the city or municipal mayor, or the barangay chairperson. For
8 purposes of this Act, the LSC shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- 9 (a) To encourage, promote and organize local sports competitions within their
10 respective jurisdictions;
- 11 (b) To recruit, train, and select athletes who shall participate in the PNG and its
12 corresponding regional and cluster qualifying competitions;
- 13 (c) To develop and maintain a pool of local athletes and provide them with the
14 necessary assistance;
- 15 (d) To be responsible for the entire delegation entered in the PNG, and ensure the
16 compliance of their athletes with the eligibility rules of the PNG;
- 17 (e) To select an athlete in any sports event subject to PNG rules, provided said
18 athlete is not under any sanction by the concerned NSA or International
19 Federation; and
- 20 (f) To give athletes the authority to represent their respective LSC in the PNG and
21 corresponding regional and cluster qualifying competitions.

22 **SEC. 13. *Participation Rules.*** - To participate in the PNG, all athletes shall be
23 governed and must comply the following rules:

24 (a) Eligibility

- 25 (1) All Filipinos by birth, including those residing outside of the Philippines
26 but are of Filipino ancestry, shall be eligible to participate in the PNG;
- 27 (2) The qualifying age for different sports events shall be determined by
28 the NSAs based on their international federations' rules and regulations;
29 and
- 30 (3) Compliance with other eligibility rules and regulations that may be
31 prescribed by the PNG, LSC and concerned NSA.

32 (b) Representation

- 33 (1) Athletes shall, at all times, represent only the LSC that entered its name
34 in the PNG or in any regional or cluster qualifying competitions;

1 (2) No athlete shall likewise be allowed to carry, represent or promote any
2 public or private organization, enterprise or sponsor in the PNG.

3 **SEC. 14. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary for the initial implementation
4 of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the PSC.
5 Thereafter, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
6 Act.

7 The LGUs shall set aside from any available local revenue an amount deemed
8 appropriate for the preparation, training and participation of the athletes in the PNG.

9 **SEC. 15. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The PSC shall, in
10 coordination with the DILG, DepEd, CHED, ULAP, POC, and NSAs, promulgate the rules
11 and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days after its
12 effectivity.

13 **SEC. 16. Separability Clause.** - If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid
14 or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

15 **SEC. 17. Repealing Cause.** - All laws, executive orders, issuances, decrees, rules
16 and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed
17 amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

18 **SEC. 18. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
19 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,