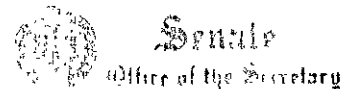



FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



11 OCT 11 P2:52

SENATE  
S. No. **2989**

RECEIVED BY: 

---

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

---

### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 17 provides:

Section 17. 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 (i. e. 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.”<sup>1</sup>

With the recent international success of Filipinos in newer fields like martial arts, dragonboat 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 sport and the physical wellness that goes with it.

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.up.edu.ph/upforum.php?issue=25&i=190>

11 OCT 11 P2:52

SENATE  
S. No. 2989

RECEIVED BY: g

---

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

---

1 AN ACT  
2 TO PROVIDE FOR A COUNTRYSIDE SPORTS  
3 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

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

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

8 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to give priority to sports  
9 to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human  
10 liberation and development.

11 The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instil health  
12 consciousness among them.

13 Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the  
14 strengthening of respect for sportsmanship and nationalism; and

15 The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental  
16 rights of every human being.

17 To this end, there is a need to improve the national sports program to start at the  
18 grassroots level particularly those from the countryside.

19 SECTION 3. *Sports Guidance Office.* – There shall be a Sports Guidance Office (SGO)  
20 to be established in every province. It shall be headed by an Executive Director who shall be  
21 appointed by the Secretary of Education. The SGO shall work closely with the governor in the  
22 development of the sports program of the province.

23 The SGO shall have the following functions:

- 1 (a) Develop School Sports Competition Programs within the province;
- 2 (b) Coordinate the construction of sports facilities and development of sports equipment  
3 in the province. There shall be at least one provincial sports center in every province;
- 4 (c) Conduct training programs for PE teachers, coaches, instructors, referees/ officiating  
5 officials and trainers;
- 6 (d) Inform graduating high school students of possible sports scholarships in different  
7 universities both here and abroad;
- 8 (e) Develop a fitness program for the residents of their province;
- 9 (f) The SGO shall request the local television, radio and print media to disseminate  
10 information about their activities and to encourage the local residents to engage in  
11 sports;
- 12 (g) Work with different national sports associations to promote different kinds of sports  
13 in their province;
- 14 (h) Submit an annual report to Congress on the progress of the sports programs they have  
15 instituted in the LGU.

16 SECTION 4. *Observance of National Fitness Day.* – There shall be a “National Fitness  
17 Day” to be observed every 30<sup>th</sup> of September. The SGO shall prepare activities on a provincial  
18 level that promote sports and health.

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

- 23 (a) History of sports and different kinds of sports including Filipino sports icons;
- 24 (b) Health and proper nutrition;
- 25 (c) It shall be designed to allow students to experience at least a minimum exposure to  
26 the following categories of activities:
  - 27 (1) aquatics,
  - 28 (2) conditioning activities,
  - 29 (3) gymnastics,

- 1 (4) individual/dual sports,
- 2 (5) team sports,
- 3 (6) rhythms, and
- 4 (7) dance.

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

8 SECTION 6. *Funding.* – An initial appropriation of P80,000,000.00 is hereby  
9 appropriated for this program.

10 SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision, or part hereof is held invalid or  
11 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain  
12 valid and subsisting.

13 SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
14 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent  
15 with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

16 SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
17 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,