

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



SENATE
Office of the Secretary

'13 JUL -8 18:05

SENATE
Senate Bill No. 505

RECEIVED BY: *Jiu*

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

One sad truth is that not many of our young people know that *sipa* is the Philippines' national sport. In fact, it is even disheartening to note that even grown-ups and our national athletes are confused and unfamiliar that *sipa* is the country's national sport¹. *Sipa*, along with other traditional games and sports are considered dying cultural legacies due to the advent of electronics, the introduction of Information technology related and/or gadgets games and the intrusion of western sports.

Filipino traditional games and sports have originated from different cultures, some of which have pre-Hispanic origin and are very unique in terms of how are they are played. The Filipinos are known as sports-loving people, creative in every aspects of life and these traditional games are a testament to our passion for play. We are proud to have games from our ascendants that were developed and handed down from generation to generation. However, these priceless ancestral heritage that included *sungka*, *dama*, and *patintero*, have become less popular with the young people. Ironically, some of the traditional Filipino games such as *sipa*, *yoyo* and *arnis* have been adopted by other countries as their own and the fact that they originated from this country has been obliterated into oblivion.

These games should remain relevant as they provide the people the opportunity to learn, appreciate and experience aspects of their own culture. Also, they provide essential training in social interaction and help develop camaraderie, sportsmanship and honesty. Hence, encouraging their preservation will mean understanding our cultural values.

Consistent with the provisions of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandating the State to conserve, promote and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources to preserve them for future generations of Filipinos and ensure continuity of Filipino identity and cultural belongingness, it is imperative that the study of traditional games and sports be made part and parcel of physical education courses in all levels of educational institutions, both public and private.

The timing for the passage of this bill could never be more an opportune season when asserting that distinct Filipino identity is a collective sentiment of our people.

Cynthia A. Villar
CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

¹ "Is Sipá the National Sport?" , by Kathleen Anne Johnson, Manila Bulletin online, www.mb.com.ph

1 traditional games in the Physical Education course in all levels of educational
2 institutions, both private and public.

3
4 **SEC. 5. *Traditional Games and Sports for School-Based Competitions.*** -

5 The DepEd and the CHED shall jointly determine which among the aforementioned
6 traditional games and sports shall be included in all school-based competitions.

7
8 **SEC. 6. *Local Government Units and Non-Government Organizations***
9 ***(NGOs) and Private Sectors Participation in the Revival and Promotion of***
10 ***Traditional Games and Sports.*** - The local government units in partnership with the

11 non-government organizations (NGOs) and the private sector shall undertake sports
12 activities throughout the country through sports competitions participated in by the
13 residents in their respective localities for the revival and promotion of traditional games
14 and sports.

15
16 **SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules.*** Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this
17 Act, the DepEd and the CHED shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to
18 effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

19
20 **SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.*** - If for any reason, any provision of this Act is
21 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall
22 continue to be in full force and effect.

23
24 **SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** Any law, presidential decree, executive order, or
25 issuance, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act is hereby repealed or modified
26 accordingly.

27
28 **SEC. 10. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its
29 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general
30 circulation.

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34 Approved,