

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 903

Introduced by SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SPORTS TO EVALUATE THE PREPAREDNESS OF THE COUNTRY'S NATIONAL ATHLETES AND SPORTS TRAINING FACILITIES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE UPCOMING 2019 SOUTHEAST ASIAN (SEA) GAMES

1 WHEREAS, the Philippines, since it first joined in the Southeast Asian (SEA)
2 Games in 1977, has been a key participant of the biennial multi-sport event along with
3 ten (10) other nations across the Southeast Asian region;

4 WHEREAS, in a span of four (4) decades since the country's first participation,
5 the Philippines has hosted the SEA Games thrice – in 1981 where we finished third, in
6 1991 where we finished second, and in 2005 where we placed first.

7 WHEREAS, the 2005 SEA Games was the first and only time the country topped
8 the multi-sport event with a total of 291 medals – 113 gold medals, 84 silver medals,
9 and 94 bronze medals;

10 WHEREAS, in 2019, the country is set to host the next iteration of the SEA
11 Games to be held in New Clark City in Capas, Tarlac which is dubbed as the next urban
12 investment hub of the country;

13 WHEREAS, according to the Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee
14 (PHISGOC) and the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), the
15 construction of the 2019 SEA Games facilities – a track and field oval, an athletes'
16 village, an aquatics center which will accommodate 2,000 people, and an athletics
17 stadium which will have a seating capacity of 20,000 people – is currently underway
18 as part of New Clark City's Phase 1A and is expected to be finished as scheduled;

1 WHEREAS, while the preparations for the actual SEA Games are on schedule,
2 many national athletes and stakeholders, however, lamented the lack of government
3 support particularly during their conditioning and training period;

4 WHEREAS, in a budget hearing for the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), our
5 national athletes cited 1) the deteriorating condition of the facilities in government
6 owned and maintained sports training centers particularly the gym equipment,
7 athletes' dormitories, and restrooms; 2) the poor quality of meals provided in these
8 training centers which, our athletes claim, does not meet their nutritional
9 requirements; and 3) the limited number of qualified physical therapists, sports
10 psychologists, and conditioning trainers;

11 WHEREAS, even Olympic medalist Hidilyn Diaz – who also recently took home
12 the gold medal for Women's Weightlifting in the 18th Asian Games in Jakarta,
13 Indonesia – also expressed discontent with the condition of the training facility at the
14 Rizal Memorial Sports Complex which, according to her coach, has remained
15 unchanged since the 90s;

16 WHEREAS, the unfortunate state of training facilities and the insufficient
17 personnel support for our national athletes is seen as a substantial factor as to why
18 the Philippines has been performing below expectations in the past few SEA Games.
19 Since getting the top rank in 2005, our country has settled below the top four – even
20 finishing 7th in 2013;

21 WHEREAS, during the most recent SEA Games held in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia,
22 the Philippines only brought home 23 gold medals – the second lowest gold medal
23 tally next only to the 1999 SEA Games where we only won 20 gold medals;

24 WHEREAS, in order to provide our national athletes with the right opportunity
25 to – once again – dominate in the SEA Games, there should be a thorough evaluation
26 of their training facilities, training condition, and all other issues and concerns related
27 to their performance and welfare as the country's representatives in the world's stage;

28 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines direct
29 the Senate Committee on Sports to evaluate the preparedness of the country's
30 national athletes and sports training facilities in anticipation of the upcoming 2019
31 Southeast Asian (SEA) Games.

32 Adopted,



SONNY ANGARA