

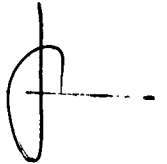
NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*Third Regular Session*

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25 JAN -6 P4:06

**SENATE**  
**S. No. 2909**

REC-100



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Introduced by Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" T. Go

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

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article 14, Section 19 of the Philippine Constitution mandates the State to promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry. In view of this mandate, the State shall also develop programs and trainings that will encourage its citizens to participate in sports and other physical fitness programs.

It is therefore high time that the State support a genuine comprehensive national grassroots sports program which serves as the country's premier national sports competition and venue for the nationwide talent search for identifying and developing outstanding athletes who have the potential to excel in various sports, and place the country at the forefront of international sports competitions.

In the government's pursuit to execute the constitutional mandate on sports development, former President Fidel Ramos issued Executive Order 163 in 1994 which declared the Philippine National Games (PNG) as the centerpiece program of the

government's national physical fitness and sports development effort. However, the perennial lack of funding in grassroots sports development including the conduct of Philippine National Games, serves as an impediment for us to achieve the objectives of the Executive Order. This Congress aimed to address this by passing the Philippine National Games Bill which was unfortunately vetoed.

It is just right to reiterate that the Philippine National Games is not a duplication of the Palarong Pambansa since the latter is a school sports program of the Department of Education students generally 18 years old and below. Meanwhile, the Philippine National Games is a grassroots competition program of the Philippine Sports Commission for athletes 18 years old and above representing local government units. The PNG may also serve as a primary recruitment platform of the National Sports Associations in identifying athlete-members of the National Training Pool as even out-of-school youth and elite adult athletes can join the PNG.

This bill aims to provide a structure for a truly integrated and comprehensive national sports program, linking grassroots sports promotion to elite sports development, and encourage all local governments to promote the development of sports in the countryside covering all barangays, towns, municipalities, cities and provinces. The PNG will also harness the vast potentials of Filipinos in discovering and developing potential athletes in various sports who could form part of our national pool of athletes and excel in international sports competitions. The bill also encourages and assists various National Sports Association in promoting their respective sports at the grassroots level providing the necessary linkages with local government units.

The passage of this bill will pave the way for improving our sports development programs and other initiatives that will promote the welfare of our Filipino athletes to further elevate our status in the sporting world.

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



**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" T. GO**

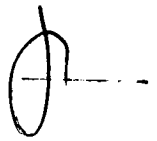
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**SENATE**

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Introduced by Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" T. Go

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

*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."

3       SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – Article XIV, Section 19 (1) of the Constitution  
4 provides that the State shall promote physical education and encourage sports programs,  
5 league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international sports  
6 competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of  
7 a healthy and alert citizenry. Pursuant thereto, the State shall institutionalize an inclusive  
8 national sports competition that will promote awareness and interest in sports,  
9 particularly in the countryside, generate wide participation of the citizenry in sports  
10 through the active involvement of local government units (LGUs), and serve as the linkage  
11 between grassroots sports development and national amateur and elite sports  
12 development.

13       SEC. 3. Expansion and Institutionalization of the Philippine National Games. – The  
14 Philippine National Games (PNG), the national multi-sport tournament organized by the  
15 Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), is hereby expanded and institutionalized. The PNG

1 shall serve as the country's premier national multi-sports competition and venue for the  
2 discovery of potential national and elite athletes. It shall be composed of sports  
3 competitions for athletes and athletes with disabilities. It shall be held once every two  
4 years and shall be participated in by athletes, including athletes with disabilities, from the  
5 different provinces, in collaboration with municipalities under their jurisdiction, and cities  
6 of the country: Provided, That the sports competition for athletes with disabilities shall  
7 be held after the conclusion of the sports competition for athletes: Provided, further, That  
8 national sports associations, in accordance with Republic Act No. 6847 or 'The Philippine  
9 Sports Commission Act", shall continue to conduct separate competitions and determine  
10 the athletes, coaches and other officials that will be part of the country's national team.

11 Sec. 4. Objectives. – The PNG shall have the following objectives:

- 12 (a) To provide a framework and structure for a truly integrated and  
13 comprehensive national sports program, linking grassroots sports  
14 promotion to elite sports development, including sporting events applicable  
15 to athletes with disabilities;
- 16 (b) To encourage all LGUs to promote the development of sports in all  
17 provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays;
- 18 (c) To serve as a venue for the National Sports Associations (NSAs) in  
19 promoting their respective sports programs at the grassroots level and  
20 providing the necessary linkages with LGUs;
- 21 (d) To serve as one of the feeder programs for the pool of student-athletes  
22 who shall be given priority in the grant of full scholarship on secondary  
23 education program at the National Academy of Sports (NAS), subject to the  
24 rules and regulations of the NAS; and
- 25 (e) To widen the base for talent identification, selection, and recruitment of  
26 athletes, including athletes with disabilities, who shall constitute the  
27 national pool to be trained for international sports competitions.

28 SEC. 5. Participation in the PNG. – To generate awareness and ensure the wide  
29 participation of athletes, including athletes with disabilities, with the potential to become  
30 national amateur and elite athletes, LGUs, through their barangay, municipal, city and

1 provincial Physical Fitness and Sports Development Councils (PFSDCs), shall encourage,  
2 promote or organize local sports competitions within their respective jurisdictions as well  
3 as recruit, train and select athletes, including athletes with disabilities, for sporting events  
4 competed at the PNG.

5 Provinces, in collaboration with municipalities under their jurisdiction, and cities  
6 shall form and send their delegations to the qualifying competitions and, thereafter, to  
7 the national championship competition of the PNG. National government agencies,  
8 government-owned or controlled corporations, state universities and colleges, and  
9 constitutional commissions shall support and allow the participation of civilian, military,  
10 and other uniformed personnel to the PNG through the provinces and cities where their  
11 personnel are residents.

12 Athletes, including athletes with disabilities, who will form part of the delegation  
13 of the participating provinces and cities to the PNG must be Filipino citizens who comply  
14 with the minimum age requirement of the concerned NSA for the particular sport. No  
15 athlete who participated in a local sports competition organized by a PFSDC and  
16 subsequently represented the provincial or city sports delegation in the qualifying  
17 competitions of the PNG for a particular edition shall be permitted to transfer and  
18 represent another provincial or city sports delegation in the national championship  
19 competition of the PNG.

20 The PNG shall take into consideration the activities and programs of the Palarong  
21 Pambansa and other local and international competitions to ensure that the welfare of  
22 the athletes is given paramount importance: Provided, That in case of overlapping  
23 competition schedules, the PSC, in coordination with concerned NSAs, shall issue  
24 guidelines on the prioritization of competitions: Provided, further, That international  
25 competitions where the Philippines is represented shall be prioritized.

26 SEC. 6. Feeder Sports Programs. – The Palarong Pambansa provided for under  
27 Republic Act No. 10588, otherwise known as the “Palarong Pambansa Act of 2013”, the  
28 Batang Pinoy Program of the PSC, and other local sports competitions organized by the  
29 LGUs or the private sector, shall serve as the feeder system for the recruitment of athletes  
30 by the LGUs for their participation in the various sporting events in the PNG.

SEC. 7. Sporting Events. – The official sports of the PNG shall include the following:

- 1) Aquatics
- 2) Archery
- 3) Arnis
- 4) Athletics
- 5) Badminton
- 6) Baseball
- 7) Basketball
- 8) Billiard and Snookers
- 9) Bowling
- 10) Boxing
- 11) Canoe-Kayak
- 12) Chess
- 13) Cycling
- 14) Dancesport
- 15) Esports
- 16) Fencing
- 17) Floorball
- 18) Football
- 19) Futsal
- 20) Golf
- 21) Gymnastics
- 22) Handball
- 23) Hockey
- 24) Jiu-Jitsu
- 25) Judo
- 26) Karate
- 27) Lawn
- 28) Modern Pentathlon
- 29) Muay Thai

- 1 30)Pencak Silat
- 2 31)Petanque
- 3 32)Rowing
- 4 33)Rugby
- 5 34)Sailing
- 6 35)Sambo
- 7 36)Sepak Takraw
- 8 37)Shooting
- 9 38)Skateboarding
- 10 39)Softball
- 11 40)Soft Tennis
- 12 41)Squash
- 13 42)Surfing
- 14 43)Swimming
- 15 44)Table Tennis
- 16 45)Taekwondo
- 17 46)Tennis
- 18 47)Triathlon/Duathlon
- 19 48)Volleyball
- 20 49)Weightlifting
- 21 50)Wrestling
- 22 51)Wushu

23 The sports to be competed in the PNG shall be aligned with the sports participated in  
24 by the Philippines in the Southeast Asian Games, ASEAN Para Games, Asian Games, Asian  
25 Para Games, Olympics, Paralympic Games, and other international sports competitions:  
26 Provided, That the mandatory sporting events in the Olympic and Paralympic Games shall,  
27 as far as practicable, be included in the PNG, subject to the availability of sports facilities  
28 and venues in the LGU where the PNG will be held: Provided, further, That, the PNG  
29 Board may include new and emerging sports to be competed in the PNG: Provided, finally,

1 That the host LGU may recommend the inclusion of local sports to promote and showcase  
2 its socioeconomic and cultural uniqueness through the PNG.

3 SEC. 8. Creation of the Philippine National Games Board. – To ensure the attainment  
4 of the purposes and objectives of this Act, there is hereby created the Philippine National  
5 Games Board, hereinafter referred to as the PNG Board. It shall be the policy-making and  
6 coordinating body for the preparation and conduct of the PNG.

7 The PNG Board shall be the proprietary owner of the phrase "Philippine National  
8 Games" and its related symbols, logos, and concepts.

9 SEC. 9. Powers and Functions of the PNG Board. – The PNG Board shall have the  
10 following powers and functions:

- 11 (a) Formulate and approve plans, programs, policies and guidelines that shall govern  
12 the conduct of the PNG, and the relationships among the organizations involved;
- 13 (b) Form an inter-agency Executive Committee, which shall be headed by a Secretary-  
14 General, and working committees on screening, registration, accreditation,  
15 billeting, and appeals, among others, as may be necessary;
- 16 (c) Recognize the provincial and city PFSDCs that will be given authority to register  
17 athletes and teams in the PNG;
- 18 (d) Determine the host and schedule of the PNG;
- 19 (e) Determine the use of sports facilities, school buildings, and classrooms as may be  
20 necessary for the conduct of the PNG: Provided, That the PNG Board shall use the  
21 Department of Education (DepEd) classrooms only after all other facilities have  
22 been utilized;
- 23 (f) Coordinate with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and other  
24 government agencies on the needed funding and technical assistance in the  
25 implementation of this Act;
- 26 (g) Determine the sports to be competed in the PNG, subject to the conditions set in  
27 Section 7 hereof;
- 28 (h) Provide incentives and rewards to host LGUs and winning LGUs;
- 29 (i) Develop programs and policies that shall promote the PNG and ensure multi-  
30 sectoral support to the PNG;

- 1 (j) Assess the conduct of the PNG and submit an annual report to Congress; and  
2 (k) To exercise such other functions as may be necessary for the effective  
3 implementation of this Act.

4 SEC. 10. Composition of the PNG Board. – The PNG Board shall be composed of the  
5 following:

6 (a) Chair: Chairperson of the PSC

7 (b) Vice-Chair: Undersecretary of the DILG, in charge of Sports Development at the  
8 local levels

9 (c) Members:

10 i. Undersecretary of the DepEd, in charge of the Palarong Pambansa

11 ii. Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED)

12 iii. President of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC)

13 iv. President of the Philippine Paralympic Committee (PPC)

14 v. President of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP)

15 vi. President of the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP)

16 vii. President of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP)

17 viii. President of the Liga ng mga Barangay (LnB)

18 ix. Chairperson, Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations of the  
19 Philippines (COCOPEA)

20 The Members of the PNG Board, except the Chair and Vice-Chair, may be  
21 represented by the next-in-rank officers of their agencies or organizations, as the case  
22 may be. The Members of the PNG Board shall be entitled to reimbursement of actual  
23 traveling and other expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties as  
24 Members thereof, subject to pertinent laws, rules and regulations.

25 SEC. 11. Secretary-General of the PNG. – The Secretary-General shall be appointed  
26 by the Chairperson of the PNG Board from among the officials of the PSC. The Secretary-  
27 General shall submit to the PNG Board all plans, programs, and activities for the  
28 preparation, organization, and conduct of the PNG. The Secretary-General shall be  
29 assisted by a Secretariat, which shall be composed of existing personnel of the PSC, the  
30 DILG, the DepEd, POC and the PPC.

1 SEC. 12. Roles of Government Agencies and Private Associations. – In addition to  
2 the duties and responsibilities that may be assigned to them by the PNG Board, the  
3 following government agencies and private associations shall perform the following:

4 (a) PSC:

- 5 i. Carry out the overall management, coordination, and implementation of the  
6 PNG;
- 7 ii. Coordinate with the DBM and other government agencies to secure the  
8 needed funding and technical assistance in the implementation of this Act;  
9 and
- 10 iii. Enter into contracts or obligations essential for the accomplishment of  
11 plans, programs and activities for the PNG that were approved by the PNG  
12 Board.

13 (b) DILG:

- 14 i. Mandate all LGUs to coordinate, cooperate and support the plans, programs  
15 and activities of the PNG through the issuance of corresponding  
16 memorandum circulars or department orders and guidelines within its  
17 jurisdiction to help carry out the objectives of the PNG; and
- 18 ii. Direct the Philippine National Police to prepare and implement a  
19 comprehensive security plan for the LGU venues where the PNG shall be  
20 held.

21 (c) LPP, LCP, LMP, and LnB:

- 22 i. Encourage the implementation of the PNG in their respective member LGUs;  
23 and
- 24 ii. Assist in disseminating information on the PNG within their respective  
25 jurisdictions to encourage the active participation of their members.

26 (d) DepEd:

- 27 i. Align the Palarong Pambansa calendar of activities, programs and policies  
28 to the conduct of the PNG;
- 29 ii. Allow the use of its sports facilities, school buildings and classrooms as may  
30 be necessary for the conduct of the PNG;

- 1           iii. Allow DepEd teachers, who are licensed or accredited technical officials of
- 2           the NSAs, to officiate in the PNG; and
- 3           iv. Issue memorandum circulars or department orders and guidelines within its
- 4           jurisdiction to implement the objectives of the PNG.

5       (e) CHED:

- 6           i. Promote the program and activities of the PNG to all higher educational
- 7           institutions;
- 8           ii. Enjoin the state universities and colleges to allow the use of their sports
- 9           facilities, school buildings and classrooms as may be necessary for the
- 10          conduct of the PNG; and
- 11          iii. Issue memorandum circulars or orders on the alignment of tertiary sports
- 12          events and calendar of activities to the PNG.

13       (f) COCOPEA:

- 14          i. Promote the program and activities of the PNG to all private educational
- 15          institutions;
- 16          ii. Take into consideration in its calendar of activities, programs and policies
- 17          the conduct of the PNG; and
- 18          iii. Encourage private educational institutions to allow the use of their sports
- 19          facilities, school buildings and classrooms as may be necessary for the
- 20          conduct of the PNG.

21       (g) LGUs:

- 22          i. Organize the multi-sectoral PFSDCs, headed by the local chief executive,
- 23          that will coordinate the implementation of an annual palaro at the barangay,
- 24          municipal, city and provincial levels, pursuant to the mandates under
- 25          Sections 389 (b) (13), 444 (b) (1) 27 (xix), 455 (b) (1) (xix), and 465 (b)
- 26          (1) (xix) of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended;
- 27          ii. Through the PFSDCs, in addition to their functions, implement the following:
- 28               (a) Encourage, promote and organize local sports competitions within their
- 29               respective jurisdictions; (b) Recruit, train, and select athletes who will

- 1 participate in the PNG; and (c) Develop and maintain a pool of local athletes  
2 and provide them with the necessary assistance;
- 3 iii. For provincial and city PFSDCs: (a) Register an athlete in sporting events of  
4 the PNG, including its regional and cluster qualifying competitions; and (b)  
5 Be responsible for the entire delegation registered in the PNG, and ensure  
6 their athletes' compliance with the PNG's eligibility rules.
- 7 (h) POC and PPC:
- 8 i. Supervise the NSAs involved in the PNG.
- 9 (i) NSAs:
- 10 ii. Set the qualifications for athletes and athletes with disabilities who will be  
11 participating in different sporting events, based on the international  
12 federations' rules and regulations;
- 13 iii. Provide technical assistance in the conduct of their respective sports  
14 competitions in the PNG, including the appointment of qualified officiating  
15 officials; and
- 16 iv. Allow the participation of all national athletes, registered by the PFSDCs,  
17 regardless of their membership status with their respective NSAs: Provided,  
18 That the athlete conforms and agrees to abide by the competition rules and  
19 regulations of their respective NSAs and PNG; and Provided, further, That  
20 the athlete is not under any disciplinary sanction, or is otherwise suspended  
21 by the concerned NSA or international federation, consistent with the rules  
22 of their respective sports; and
- 23 (j) National Youth Commission:
- 24 i. Promote and disseminate the program and activities of the PNG to all youth  
25 organizations and youth-serving organizations;
- 26 ii. Encourage the youth, especially the out-of-school youth and youth with  
27 special needs, to actively participate in the conduct of the PNG in various  
28 roles possible; and Coordinate with various agencies in the implementation  
29 of this Act.

1           SEC. 13. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the implementation of this  
2 Act shall be included in the budget of the Philippine Sports Commission in the annual  
3 general appropriations acts.

4           SEC. 14. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) days from the  
5 start of the effectivity of this Act, the PSC, in coordination with the DILG, DepEd, CHED,  
6 POC, the PPC, the LPP, the LCP, the LMP, the LnB, the NSAs, and the COCOPEA, shall  
7 promulgate the rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

8           SEC. 15. Separability Clause. – If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid or  
9 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

10          SEC. 16. Repealing Clause. – Section 2 of Executive Order No. 63, series of 1993,  
11 is hereby amended. All laws, executive orders, issuances, decrees, and rules and  
12 regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed  
13 amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

14          SEC. 17. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its  
15 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*