

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

7 JUL 31 1993

SENATE
S.B. 1803

RECEIVED BY: 14

Introduced by Senator Villar

Explanatory Note

“Go for glory.”

That simple statement is a summation of the competitive Filipino spirit in every quadrennial Olympic Games. More than a spectacle involving about 200 countries, the Olympics is a celebration of genuine heroes---the amateur women and men who play the games for the love of country, donning their national colours.

Competing in the Olympics is every sportsman's dream. Participating in the Games is essentially living to heart the maxim *Citius, Altius, Fortius*---faster, higher, stronger.

The Philippines has displayed triumphant streaks in the Olympics. The 1996 Atlanta Olympics was remarkable for Filipinos as we bear witness to the humble journey of Mansueto “Onyok” Velasco who scored records punching a silver in boxing. He replicated the second place strong finish of Anthony Villanueva who made the Filipinos proud in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

Teofilo Yldefonso ticked the clock for bronze in swimming in both 1928 Amsterdam and 1932 Los Angeles Olympics. Simeon Toribio showed might as he leaps with a third place- finish in high jump and Jose Villanueva combined wits and pugs to secure a bronze in boxing, both victories in the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics. Miguel White carried the Philippines' baton of honors for a bronze in the 1936 Berlin Olympiad.

In 1988, Leopoldo Serantes was swift as he claimed bronze in boxing, in the Seoul Olympics. The 1992 Barcelona Olympics was a celebration for Roel Velasco who won bronze in boxing, and showed the competitiveness of Bea Lucero and Stephen Fernandez who both delivered sterling third place honours in taekwando.

Contrary to common notion that the country has not registered first place win in the Olympics, it should be noted that Arianne Cerdeña collared the gold in bowling in the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, South Korea. However, bowling then was categorized as an exhibition sports.

The Filipino athletes who performed well have been provided with recognitions. There are two (2) laws at present which grant cash and other non-cash monetary benefits and incentives to national athletes, coaches and trainers including Filipino Olympians. These are:

1. Republic Act 7549, approved on May 22, 1992, which specified that all prizes and awards granted to athletes in local and international sports tournaments and competitions held in the Philippines or abroad and

- sanctioned by their respective national sports associations shall be exempt from income tax;
2. Republic Act 9084, enacted on April 5, 2001, lists cash and non-cash benefits and incentives including cash prizes; comprehensive discount privileges (mostly, 20 %) in among others retail, medical, leisure and entertainment establishments; and scholarships for the athlete himself or for his qualified dependents.

Recognizing that winning the Olympics has become the highest test of an athletes' agility, strength and sportsmanship, and winning it is a harder feat, it is just but appropriate that they should be honoured. And they should be honoured truly magnanimously. Thus, this bill.

This legislation will accord two significant privileges to winning Filipino Olympian/s:

- a. The privilege of being accorded as "tax-free citizen for life". The winning Filipino Olympian will have the distinction of being exempt to pay income tax and all other taxes that may be imposed relevant to sports he/she represented including the campaign to popularise it or make known the same;

- b. In essence, the privilege of being known as the "pambansang pensiyonado". A winning Filipino Olympian shall receive a monthly pension of ten thousand pesos (Php 10,000.00) to commence five years after winning the Olympics and shall continue for twenty years or until he reaches the age of sixty (60), at the option of the winning Filipino Olympian.

Immediate enactment is earnestly sought.



MANNY VILLAR

SECRETARY

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FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
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**AN ACT
EXPANDING THE CASH AND NON-MONETARY BENEFITS AND
INCENTIVES OF WINNING FILIPINO OLYMPIAN/S, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER 9064, "AN ACT GRANTING CASH AND
OTHER NON-MONETARY BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES TO NATIONAL
ATHLETES, COACHES AND TRAINERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"**

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Tax Free for Life Filipino
Olympian Act of 2007".

SECTION 2.. A new provision in Republic Act 9064 is hereby added to be
known as the new Section 12. The provision shall read:

"SEC. 12. THE FILIPINO OLYMPIAN TO ENJOY THE PRIVILEGE OF
BEING TAX FREE FOR LIFE AND OTHER INCENTIVES. IN ADDITION TO THE
TAX EXEMPTION FROM INCOME TAX OF PRIZES, WINNINGS AND AWARDS
GRANTED TO ATHLETES IN LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL SPORTS
TOURNAMENTS AND COMPETITIONS PROVIDED IN THIS ACT AND IN
REPUBLIC ACT 7549, A WINNING FILIPINO OLYMPIAN SHALL HAVE THE
PRIVILEGE OF BEING "TAX-FREE FOR LIFE" OR THE EXEMPTION TO PAY
INCOME TAX AND ALL OTHER TAXES THAT MAY BE IMPOSED RELEVANT
TO THE SPORTS HE /SHE REPRESENTED AND WON IN THE OLYMPICS
INCLUDING THE CAMPAIGN TO POPULARIZE IT OR MAKE KNOWN THE
SAME."

"A WINNING FILIPINO OLYMPIAN SHALL RECEIVE A MONTHLY
PENSION OF TEN THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 10,000.00) TO COMMENCE FIVE (5)
YEARS AFTER WINNING THE OLYMPICS AND SHALL CONTINUE FOR
TWENTY YEARS OR UNTIL THE AGE OF SIXTY (60), AT THE OPTION OF THE
WINNING FILIPINO OLYMPIAN."

FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS ACT, THE WINNING FILIPINO OLYMPIAN
COVERS BOTH INDIVIDUAL ATHLETE WHO REPRESENTED THE COUNTRY
AND PLAYED AS A FILIPINO OR THOSE THAT COMPETED AS TEAM
PHILIPPINES AND MERITED EITHER GOLD, SILVER OR BRONZE
DISTINCTION IN A COMPETITION SPORTS."

A WINNING FILIPINO OLYMPIAN WHO, PRIOR TO THE ENACTMENT OF THIS ACT, HAD WON IN THE OLYMPICS SHALL BE ENTITLED TO THE BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES PROVIDED UNDER THIS ACT.”

SECTION 3. The Philippine Olympics Committee in coordination with the Department of Finance, the Philippine Sports Committee, the Philippine Information Agency and other concerned agencies and relevant national association of athletes shall promulgate and issue the implementing rules and regulations within sixty (60) days upon approval of this Act.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation, whichever is earlier.

Approved,