

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
First Regular Session

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SENATE  
P.S. Res. 257

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Introduced by Senator Villar

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING AN IMMEDIATE CONVENING OF A TRI-PARTITE SPORTS CONGRESS OF ATHLETES AND SPORTS OFFICIALS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE GOVERNMENT TO MAP OUT PREPARATIONS AND STRATEGIES FOR THE PHILIPPINE PARTICIPATION IN THE 2008 OLYMPICS IN BEIJING AND TO FORMULATE A COMPREHENSIVE SPORTS PROGRAMS ON A SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM BASES CONSIDERING THE LACKLUSTER PERFORMANCE OF THE COUNTRY IN THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED 24<sup>TH</sup> SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES**

Whereas, the 1987 Philippine Constitution is instructive on the greatness of health and sports policies:

- “[t]he State shall 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.” (Article XIV, Section 19);
- “[t]he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.” (Article II, Sec. 15);

Whereas, the 24<sup>th</sup> edition of the Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand had just been concluded with the official medal tally indicating that the Philippines placed sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) in the field of eleven-nation regional sports competition;

Whereas, the great Philippine team garnered 228 medallions: of 41 golds, 91 silvers and 96 bronze medals and is highlighted with the magnanimous victory of four-gold medallist swimmer Miguel Molina as Most Valuable Player of the Games;

Whereas, the country’s sixth place finish is the nation’s worst performance since ending up second to the last in a field of seven during the SEA Games debut in 1977;

Whereas, the Philippines was the over-all champion and the defending champion of the biennial sports meet and the country’s performance as summarized is

as follows: second in 1983 and 1991; third place in 1981, 1985, 1987, 1993 and 1995; fourth and fifth places four and five times respectively in the other years of competition;

Whereas, “finger-pointing” and “blaming who and what went wrong” in Philippines sports must not be the orders of the day;

Whereas, the true sad state of Philippine sports is spelled in one word: “decaying”;

Whereas, the deterioration and dearth of the training facilities; the issues of turf and disunity amongst stakeholders: sports officials and associations; the lack of necessary recruitment programs for prospective athletes who will don the national colors; the absence of a continuous incentives program for sports aficionados and private sector partners; the allegations of favouritism, politics and corruption in the sports agencies, among others, are all strong indices that if indeed Philippine sports is not saved at this time, the country’s sports will be in the maelstrom of catastrophic death;

Whereas, the Philippines must look forward and beyond, and must strategize and fully prepare for the country’s participation in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing in which a gold plum remains an elusive goal to date (the Philippines’ Arianne Cerdeña scored a gold in the non-competition game bowling in the 1998 Seoul Olympics);

Whereas, for sustained development, a comprehensive sports program *must* be formulated: Now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To urge the immediate convening of a Tri-Partite Sports Congress of Athletes and Sports Officials, the Private Sector and the Government to map out preparations and strategies for Philippine participation in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China and to formulate a comprehensive sports program on a short-term and long-term bases considering the lackluster performance of the country in the recently concluded 24<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Games.

Adopted,

  
MANNY VILLAR