



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8626

BY REPRESENTATIVES BELARO, ESTRELLA, SY-ALVARADO, TAMBUNTING, NIETO, TEVES, BANAL, GOMEZ, PACQUIAO, MANGAOANG, ROA-PUNO, BERNOS, DIMAPORO (M.K.), VARGAS, PICHAY, ANDAYA, MARCOLETA, HOFER, ORTEGA (V.N.), PALMA, NOEL, ESPINA, PIMENTEL, ALONTE, SAVELLANO, VERGARA, NOGRALES (J.J.), HERRERA-DY, PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, SUAREZ, ATIENZA, PADUANO, BRAVO (A.), BERTIZ, CAMPOS, SALON, LOPEZ (B.), MATUGAS, GARCIA-ALBANO, HERNANDEZ (F.), LEACHON, DURANO, ALVAREZ (F.), DELOSO-MONTALLA, SACDALAN, RAMOS, SAHALI, LAOGAN, PAPANDAYAN, GONZAGA, RELAMPAGOS, UY (J.), SANDOVAL, BELMONTE (J.C.), UNICO, CARI, YAP (V.) AND LIMKAICHONG, PER COMMITTEE REPORT No. 936

AN ACT PRESERVING THE INDIGENOUS GAMES OF THE PHILIPPINES

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the
2 “Philippine Indigenous Games Preservation Act”.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Article II, Section 22 of the
4 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall recognize
5 and promote the rights of indigenous cultural communities within

1 the framework of national unity and development. Furthermore,
2 Article 31.1 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of
3 Indigenous Peoples enjoins all State signatories to take effective
4 measures to recognize and to protect the exercise of the indigenous
5 peoples' rights which include the maintenance, control, and
6 development of their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and
7 traditional expression, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports
8 and traditional games, among others.

9 Pursuant to the aforesaid mandates, it is therefore incumbent
10 upon the State to lay down specific policy directives to promote the
11 interests of our indigenous peoples, to strengthen our cultural
12 heritage and our historical roots. To further this policy, the State
13 shall take the necessary steps to preserve the indigenous peoples'
14 games which serve as the best avenue for self-expression, and for
15 promoting peace, harmony, goodwill and camaraderie among them.

16 SEC. 3. *Indigenous Games.* – Indigenous games refer to the
17 traditional sports and games or activities inherent to the different
18 indigenous cultural communities reflecting their rich cultural
19 heritage, traditions or customs handed down from generation to
20 generation such as, but not limited to, dug-out, canoe races,
21 precision-around obstacles or rapids, *supok* or *sumpit*, *sungka*,
22 *kadang-kadang*, *tumbang preso*, *piko*, and *sepak takraw* and such
23 other games distinct with the indigenous communities.

24 SEC. 4. *Preservation of Indigenous Games.* – The National
25 Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), in coordination with
26 the Department of Education (DepEd), shall initiate measures to
27 preserve indigenous games in the country, such as the inclusion of

1 games as part of the curriculum in the basic education system of our
2 schools, production of documentary or other useful means, and the
3 conduct of regular demonstration of such games in national events
4 and in appropriate school activities.

5 The NCCA shall likewise conduct research on the various
6 sports traditionally played by different indigenous groups within
7 the region to ensure the preservation and development of these
8 games.

9 *SEC. 5. Annual Regional and National Indigenous Games.* –
10 The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), in coordination with the
11 Philippine Olympic Committee (POC), and the local government
12 units (LGUs) shall conduct annual regional and national indigenous
13 sports competitions.

14 The host LGU shall have the prerogative to choose which
15 sports events shall be included in the regional and national
16 indigenous sports competitions.

17 *SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The NCCA
18 and the DepEd as the lead agencies, in coordination with the PSC,
19 POC and LGUs, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to
20 implement the provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days after its
21 effectivity.

22 *SEC. 7. Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this
23 Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not
24 affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

25 *SEC. 8. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders,
26 issuances, decrees, rules and regulations inconsistent with or

1 contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified
2 or repealed accordingly.

3 SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
4 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of
5 general circulation.

Approved,

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