



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6192

BY REPRESENTATIVES AGABAS, BARBA, MARTINEZ, PACQUIAO (A.),
YU, TUTOR, TEVES (J.), DY (F.M.C.), CRISOLOGO, ELAGO,
CARI, MARCOLETA, VILLANUEVA (E.), RIVERA, VARGAS AND
ROMUALDEZ (F.M.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 218

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 Constitution provides that the State shall recognize and promote
5 the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the framework
6 of national unity and development. Furthermore, Article 31.1 of the
7 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
8 enjoins all State signatories to take effective measures to recognize
9 and to protect the exercise of the indigenous peoples’ rights which
10 include the maintenance, control, and development of their cultural
11 heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional expression, oral
12 traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games, among
13 others.

1 Pursuant to the aforesaid mandates, it is incumbent upon the
2 State to lay down specific policy directives to promote the interest of
3 our indigenous peoples, and strengthen our cultural heritage and
4 historical roots. The State shall take the necessary steps to preserve
5 the indigenous peoples' games which serve as the best avenue for
6 their self-expression, and for promoting peace, harmony, goodwill
7 and camaraderie among them.

8 **SEC. 3. *Indigenous Games.*** – The term “indigenous games”
9 refer to the traditional sports and games or activities inherent to
10 the different indigenous cultural communities that reflect the rich
11 cultural heritage, traditions or customs handed down from
12 generation to generation such as tribal archery, blowpipe, sibat,
13 dug-out canoe race, rock balancing, *sumpit*, *sungka*, *kadang-kadang*
14 and other games distinct to the indigenous communities.

15 **SEC. 4. *Annual Regional and National Indigenous Games.*** –
16 The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), in coordination with the
17 Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) and the local government
18 units (LGUs), shall conduct annual regional and national
19 indigenous sports competitions.

20 The host LGU, in consultation with the concerned indigenous
21 cultural communities, shall have the prerogative to choose which
22 sports shall be included in the regional and national indigenous
23 sports competitions.

24 **SEC. 5. *Other Means of Preserving the Indigenous Games.*** –
25 The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the
26 National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), the National
27 Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF), in coordination with the
28 Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher
29 Education (CHED), and the Philippine Information Agency (PIA),
30 shall initiate measures to preserve indigenous games in the country,

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

6 The NCCA shall likewise conduct research on the various
7 sports traditionally played by different indigenous groups to ensure
8 their preservation and development.

9 *SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The PSC
10 and the POC as the lead agencies, in coordination with the NCCA,
11 NCIP, DepEd, CHED, PIA, and LGUs, shall promulgate the rules
12 and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within sixty
13 (60) days after its effectivity.

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

17 *SEC. 8. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders,
18 issuances, decrees, rules and regulations inconsistent with or
19 contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified
20 or repealed accordingly.

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

Approved,

O