



NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

22 JUL 28 PM 22

RECEIVED BY:

SENATE

S. B. NO. 932

Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

**AN ACT
GRANTING DISTINCTIVE HONORS AND PRIVILEGES
TO NATIONAL ATHLETES, CREATING A NATIONAL ENDOWMENT
FUND FOR SPORTS HEROES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The historic win of Hidilyn Diaz at the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo brought the Philippines its first-ever Olympic gold medal. But prior to this, she has consistently and continuously made the Philippines proud by being the youngest contender at the 2008 Beijing Olympics at the age of 17, bringing home the Philippines' first Olympic medal in 20 years at the 2016 Rio Olympics, and the first gold medal at the 2018 Asian Games held in Indonesia, among other accolades.

At present, the Philippines has won 14 medals in the Olympics:

- a) Hidilyn Diaz (weightlifting) - Gold (2020 Tokyo), Silver (2016 Rio);
- b) Carlo Paalam (boxing) – Silver (2020 Tokyo);
- c) Eumir Marcial (boxing) – Silver (2020 Tokyo);
- d) Nesthy Petecio (boxing) — Silver (2020 Tokyo);
- e) Mansueto “Onyok” Velasco (boxing) — Silver (1996 Atlanta);
- f) Roel Velasco (boxing) — Bronze (1992 Barcelona);
- g) Leopoldo Serantes (boxing) — Bronze (1988 Seoul);
- h) Anthony Villanueva (boxing) — Silver (1964 Tokyo);
- i) Miguel White (athletics) — Bronze (1936 Berlin);
- j) Jose Villanueva (boxing) — Bronze (1932 Los Angeles);
- k) Simeon Toribio (athletics) - Bronze (1932 Los Angeles); and
- l) Teodoro Yidefonso (swimming) — Bronze. (1932 Los Angeles), Bronze (1928 Amsterdam).


Recently, on July 17, 2022, the Philippine Women’s National Football Team

secured a spot at the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup, a first in Philippine football history. On July 24, pole vaulter EJ Obiena took home the bronze medal in the World Athletics Championship to become the first Filipino to win a medal in the world championships.¹

Behind their achievements are innumerable stories of hard work and perseverance. This is no less true with other sports heroes in various disciplines of athletics, who have devoted their lives to honing their craft and bringing honor to the country.

Thus, to recognize outstanding athletes who serve as inspiration to countless Filipinos in the field of sports, this bill seeks to grant distinctive honors and privileges to Filipino sports heroes. The bill also seeks to establish a Sports Endowment Fund, which shall be used to provide lifetime emoluments to National Athletes, as well as support for the needs of awardees so they can continue to participate in local as well as international sports competitions as Philippine delegates.

Thus, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

¹ July 25, 2022. EJ Obiena resets Asian record to claim historic bronze in World Athletics Championships. Rappler. Available at <https://www.rappler.com/sports/finals-results-ej-obiena-world-athletics-championships-july-24-2022/> (date last accessed: July 26, 2022).

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

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SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "*Bayaning Atletang Filipino Act.*"

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the declared policy of the State to promote excellence in the field of sports and foster the values of sportsmanship, patriotism, and nationalism in order to support nation-building and development.

SEC. 3. The Order of National Athletes. - There is hereby established the Order of National Athletes (Orden ng mga Pambansang Atleta) which shall be the highest honor the Government of the Philippines shall confer to its outstanding sports heroes who have brought immense pride and honor to the country and have dedicated their lives towards the advancement of their sports.

The Order shall be under the National Orders of Cultural and Scientific Merit pursuant to Executive Order No. 236, S. 2003. It shall be administered by the Komite ng Bayaning Atletang Filipino, otherwise known as the Komite, created under Section 6 of this Act, and conferred by the President of the Philippines upon recommendation by the Committee.

Awardees of the Order of National Athletes shall enjoy the following privileges:

- a) The rank and title of National Athlete, as proclaimed by the President of the Philippines;

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2 b) The National Athlete medallion and citation;
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4 c) Lifetime emolument and material benefits, such as:
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6 1) A cash award to be determined by the Committee, net of taxes for
7 living awardees;
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9 2) A cash award to be determined by the Committee, net of taxes for
10 posthumous awardees, payable to legal heir/s;
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12 3) A monthly life pension and medical and hospitalization benefits;
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14 4) Life insurance coverage for awardees who are still insurable;
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16 5) A place of honour in state functions, national commemoration
17 ceremonies, and all other sports and cultural events; and,
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19 6) A state funeral, the arrangements for and the expenses of which
20 shall be borne by the Government, upon the death of the National
21 Athlete.
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23 **SEC. 4. *The National Medal of Excellence in Sports.*** - There is hereby
24 established the National Medal of Excellence in Sports (Pambansang Medalya ng
25 Katangi-tanging Husay sa Isports) for outstanding individuals and team
26 achievements in international sports competitions. The President of the Philippines
27 shall confer the National Medal of Excellence in Sports upon recommendation by the
28 Committee.
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30 **SEC. 5. *The Balangay Medal for Sportsmanship.*** - There is hereby
31 established the Balangay Medal for Sportsmanship (Gawad Balangay) for heroic
32 sportsmanship shown by athletes during international and local competitions
33 exemplifying the values of honesty, fairness, selflessness, sacrifice, amity and good
34 will. The President of the Philippines shall confer the Balangay Medal for
35 Sportsmanship upon recommendation by the Committee.
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37 **SEC. 6. *Komite ng Bayaning Atletang Filipino.*** - The Komite ng Bayaning
38 Atletang Filipino shall be under the Office of the President, and shall be composed of
39 the following:
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- 41 a) Chairperson of the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), as Chairman;
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43 b) Secretary of the Department of Education or an authorized
44 representative, as Member;
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46 c) Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education or an authorized
47 representative, as Member;
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49 d) President of the Philippine Olympic Committee or an authorized
50 representative, as Member;

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2 e) Chairperson of the Athletes' Commission or an authorized
3 representative, as Member;
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5 f) Chairperson of the National Youth Commission or an authorized
6 representative, as Member; and
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8 g) Chairperson of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines or
9 an authorized representative, as Member.

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11 For the purposes of this Act, all authorized representatives shall have at least
12 the rank of Assistant Secretary.
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14 **SEC. 7. Role and Function of the Komite ng Bayaning Atletang Filipino. -**

15 The Komite shall approve the criteria, standards, nomination and selection
16 processes, and benefits and privileges of the recipients of the awards under this Act.
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18 **SEC. 8. National Endowment Fund for Sports Heroes. -** There is hereby
19 established a National Endowment Fund for Sports Heroes to exclusively fund the
20 benefits provided in this Act and to support the continuous trainings of all the
21 awardees and their participation or exposure in international competitions.
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- 23 a) The amount of One billion pesos (P1,000,000,000.00) is hereby
24 appropriated as seed money of the Endowment Fund: *Provided*, That
25 no grant shall be awarded by the Komite except from the interest drawn
26 from the Fund: *Provided, further*, That no grant shall be awarded until
27 after one (1) year from the organization of the Fund;
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29 b) Government corporations are hereby authorized to give grants to the
30 Fund at their discretion, but not to exceed fifteen percent (15%) of their
31 unimpaired surplus;
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33 c) The private portion of the Fund shall be raised from the donations and
34 other conveyances, including funds, materials, property, and services,
35 by gratuitous title;
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37 d) Contribution to the Fund shall be deductible for income tax purposes in
38 accordance with the provisions of Section 34 (h)(2)(a) of the National
39 Internal Revenue Code, as amended;
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41 e) For the sound and judicious management of the Fund, the Committee
42 shall appoint a reputable government-accredited investment institution
43 as Fund Manager, subject to the guidelines promulgated by the Komite;
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45 f) The Committee shall be the administrator of the Fund, and as such,
46 shall prepare the implementing guidelines and decision-making
47 mechanisms, subject to the following:
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49 1) Unless otherwise stipulated by the private donor, only earnings of
50 private contributions shall be used;

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- 2) No part of the seed capital of the Fund, including earnings thereof, shall be used to underwrite overhead expenses for administration;
 - 3) The Committee shall organize a separate staff to be headed by a comptroller appointed by and directly responsible and accountable to the Komite; and
 - 4) There shall be an external auditor that will perform an annual audit of the Fund's performance.

12 **SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days
13 from the effectivity of this Act, the Komite shall promulgate the rules and regulations
14 for the effective implementation of this Act.

15
16 **SEC. 10. *Appropriations.*** - The amount of One billion pesos
17 (P1,000,000,000.00) to serve as seed money of the National Endowment Fund for
18 Sports Heroes as provided in Section 8 of this Act is hereby appropriated. The
19 amount necessary for initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the
20 current year's appropriations of the Philippine Sports Commission. Thereafter, such
21 appropriations necessary for the continuation and enhancement of the program shall
22 be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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24 **SEC. 11. *Separability.*** - If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid
25 or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall continue to be
26 in full force and effect.

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28 **SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, executive orders, administrative
29 orders, and parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby
30 repealed or amended accordingly.

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32 **SEC. 13. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
33 its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
34 circulation.

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36 **Approved,**