

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

22 SEP 21 P5:20

SENATE

S. No. 1340

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

AN ACT
PRESERVING THE INDIGENOUS SPORTS AND GAMES OF THE
PHILIPPINES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recognizes traditional sports and games (TSG) as an intangible cultural heritage that must be protected and promoted for future generations.¹

Indigenous games refer to the traditional sports and games or activities inherent to the different indigenous cultural communities that reflect the rich cultural heritage, traditions, or customs handed down from generation to generation. These include Arnis, the Filipino version of martial arts; Sipa, Palo-Sebo, Sungka, Luksong Tinik, Patintero, Siato, Tumbang Preso, among others.

Indigenous sports and games are an intangible cultural heritage that has become part of our way of life. They played a developmental role in the formative years of Filipino youth in the way they instilled the virtues of teamwork, resilience, and camaraderie, helped build character and refine social skills, and created an avenue for enjoyment.

¹<https://en.unesco.org/themes/sport-and-anti-doping/traditional-sports-and-games>

Unfortunately, the healthy lifestyle and values induced by indigenous sports and games upon the youth are now challenged by the predominance of consoles and gadgets that consume the time and attention of children. It is high time to combat the growing trend of young people spending endless hours on devices and mobile games; remind them to be physically active, and encourage them to explore the world outside.

In this regard, this bill seeks to protect and promote indigenous sports and games. The proposed measure tasks the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and other concerned government bodies to initiate measures to preserve the traditional games in the country, among others. The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) shall also be mandated to hold an annual regional and national indigenous sports competition.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



LOREN LEGARDA

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

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

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - Article II, Section 22 of the 1987 Constitution
4 provides that the State shall recognize and promote the rights of indigenous cultural
5 communities within the framework of national unity and development. Furthermore,
6 Article 31.1 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
7 enjoins all State signatories to take effective measures to recognize and protect the
8 exercise of the indigenous peoples' rights, which include the maintenance and
9 development of their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional
10 expression, oral traditions, literature, designs, sports, and traditional games, among
11 others.

12 Pursuant to the aforesaid mandates, it is incumbent upon the State to lay down
13 specific policy directives to promote the interest of our indigenous peoples and
14 strengthen our cultural heritage and historical roots. The State shall take the necessary
15 steps to preserve the indigenous peoples' games which serve as an avenue of self-
16 expression and promote peace, harmony, goodwill, and camaraderie among them.

17 Sec. 3. *Indigenous Games.* - The term “indigenous games” refers to the
18 traditional sports and games or activities inherent to the different indigenous cultural

1 communities that reflect the rich cultural heritage, traditions, or customs handed
2 down from generation to generation, such as tribal archery, blowpipe, sibat, dug-out
3 canoe race, rock balancing, sumpit, sungka, patintero, tumbang preso, siato, and other
4 games distinct to the indigenous communities.

5 *Sec. 4. Annual Regional and National Indigenous Games.* - The Philippine Sports
6 Commission (PSC), in coordination with the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC)
7 and the local government units (LGUs), shall conduct annual regional and
8 national indigenous sports competitions.

9 The host LGU, in consultation with the concerned indigenous, shall have the
10 prerogative to choose which sports shall be included in the regional and national
11 indigenous sports competitions.

12 *Sec. 5. Other Means of Preserving the Indigenous Games* - The National
13 Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the National Commission on
14 Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF),
15 in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on
16 Higher Education (CHED), and the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), shall
17 initiate measures to preserve indigenous games in the country, such as the inclusion
18 of games as part of the curriculum in the basic and higher education system of schools,
19 the production of documentary or other similar means, and the conduct of regular
20 demonstration of such games in the Palarong Pambansa, and in other national sports
21 events and appropriate school activities.

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

24 *Sec. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The PSC and the POC, as the lead
25 agencies, in coordination with the NCCA, NCIP, DepEd, CHED, PIA, and LGUS, shall
26 promulgate the rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within
27 sixty (60) days after its effectivity.

28 *Sec. 7. Separability Clause.* - If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid
29 or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and
30 effect.

1 *Sec. 8. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, issuances, decrees, rules,
2 and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Art are deemed
3 amended, modified, or repealed accordingly.

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

Approved,