

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



23 JAN 12 P 6 :05

**SENATE**  
S. No. 1677

RECEIVED BY:

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Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Filipino athletes continued to succeed and shine in international arena. Like in previous year, a number of Filipino athletes competed under the national flag and won medals, which are undoubtedly a source of national pride.

Behind these successes and achievements are the hardships and dedication that every athlete exerted to bring honor to the country. Thus, in recognizing the contribution of these exceptional athletes, this bill seeks to grant distinctive honors and privileges to them. This bill likewise seeks to establish National Endowment Fund for Sports Heroes. Its mandate is to exclusively fund the benefits provided in this Act and to support the continuous trainings of all the awardees and their participation or exposure in international competitions.

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

**MARK A. VILLAR**



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*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 “ *Bayaning Atletang*  
2 *Filipino Act.*”

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

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

11           The Order shall be under the National Orders of Cultural and Scientific Merit  
12 pursuant to Executive Order No. 236, S. 2003. It shall be administered by the Komite  
13 ng Bayaning Atletang Filipino, otherwise known as the Komite, created under Section  
14 6 of this Act, and conferred by the President of the Philippines upon recommendation  
15 by the Committee.

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

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

4 b.) The National Athlete medallion and citation;

5 c.) Lifetime emolument and material benefits, such as:

6 1.) A cash award to be determined by the Committee, net of taxes for living  
7 awardees;

8 2.) A cash award to be determined by the Committee, net of taxes for  
9 posthumous awardees, payable to legal heir/s;

10 3.) A monthly life pension and medical and hospitalization benefits;

11 4.) Life insurance coverage for awardees who are still insurable;

12 5.) A place of honor in state functions, national commemoration  
13 ceremonies, and all other sports and cultural events; and,

14 6.) A state funeral, the arrangements for and the expense of which shall be  
15 borne by the Government, upon the death of the National Athlete.

16 Sec. 4. *The National Medal of Excellence in Sports.* – There is hereby  
17 established the National Medal Excellence in Sports (Pambansang Medalya ng Katangi-  
18 tanging Husay sa Isports) for outstanding individuals and team achievements in  
19 international sports competitions. The President of the Philippines shall confer the  
20 National Medal of Excellence in Sports upon recommendation by the Committee.

21 Sec. 5. *The Balangay Medal for Sportsmanship.* –There is hereby established the  
22 Balangay Medal for Sportsmanship (Gawad Balangay) for heroic sportsmanship shown  
23 by athletes during international and local competitions exemplifying the values of  
24 honesty, fairness, selflessness, sacrifice, amity and good will. The President of the  
25 Philippines shall confer the Balangay Medal for Sportsmanship upon recommendation  
26 by the Committee.

27 Sec. 6. *Komite ng Bayaning Atletang Filipino.* — The Komite ng Bayaning  
28 Atletang Filipino shall be under the Office of the President, and shall be composed of  
29 the following:

30 a.) Chairperson of the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), as Chairman;

- 1 b.) Secretary of the Department of Education or an authorized representative,  
2 as Member;
- 3 c.) Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education or an authorized  
4 representative, as Member;
- 5 d.) President of the Philippine Olympic Committee or an authorized  
6 representative, as Member;
- 7 e.) Chairperson of Athletes' Commission or an authorized representative, as  
8 Member;
- 9 f.) Chairperson of the National Youth Commission or an authorized  
10 representative, as Member;
- 11 g.) Chairperson of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines or an  
12 authorized representative, as Member.

13 For the purposes of this Act, all authorized representatives shall have at  
14 least a rank of Assistant Secretary.

15 *Sec. 7. Role and Function of the Komite ng Bayaning Atletang Filipino.* – The  
16 Komite shall approve the criteria, standards, nomination and selection processes, and  
17 benefits and privileges of the recipients of the awards under this Act.

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.

- 22 a.) The amount of One billion pesos (P1,000,000,000.00) is hereby  
23 appropriated as seed money of the Endowment Fund: *Provided, That no*  
24 *grant shall be awarded by the Komite except from the interest drawn from*  
25 *the Fund: Provided, further, That no grant shall be awarded until after one*  
26 *(1) year from the organization of the Fund;*
- 27 b.) Government corporations are hereby authorized to give grants to the Fund  
28 at their discretion, but not to exceed fifteen percent (15%) of their  
29 unimpaired surplus;

- 1 c.) The private portion of the Fund shall be raised from the donations and other  
2 conveyances, including funds, materials, property, and services, by  
3 gratuitous title;
- 4 d.) Contribution to the Fund shall be deductible for income tax purposes in  
5 accordance with the provisions of Section 34 (h)(2)(a) of the National  
6 Internal Revenue Code, as amended;
- 7 e.) For the sound and judicious management of the Fund, the Committee shall  
8 appoint a reputable government-accredited investment institution as Fund  
9 Manager, subject to the guidelines promulgated by the Komite;
- 10 f.) The Committee shall be the administrator of the Fund, the Committee shall  
11 appoint a reputable government-accredited investment institution as Fund  
12 Manager, subject to the guidelines promulgated by the Komite;
- 13 1.) Unless otherwise stipulated by the private donor, only earnings of  
14 private contributions shall be used;
- 15 2.) No part of the seed capital of the Fund, including earnings thereof,  
16 shall be used to underwrite overhead expenses for administration;
- 17 3.) The Committee shall organize a separate staff to be headed by a  
18 comptroller appointed by and directly responsible and accountable to  
19 the Komite; and
- 20 4.) There shall be an external auditor that will perform an annual audit  
21 of the Fund's performance.

22 *Sec. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations*— Within ninety (90) days from the  
23 effectivity of this Act, the Komite shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the  
24 effective implementation of this Act.

25 *Sec. 10. Appropriations.* – The amount of One billion pesos  
26 (P1,000,000,000.00) to serve as seed money of the National Endowment Fund for  
27 Sports Heroes as provided in Section 8 of this Act is hereby appropriated. The amount  
28 necessary for initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current  
29 year's appropriations of the Philippine Sports Commission. Thereafter, such  
30 appropriations necessary for the continuation and enhancement of the program shall  
31 be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

1           Sec. 11. *Separability.* – If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or  
2 unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall continue to be in  
3 full force and effect.

4           Sec. 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, administrative orders,  
5 and parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or  
6 amended accordingly.

7           Sec. 13. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days  
8 following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of  
9 general circulation.

10           *Approved,*