



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8468

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**AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL GAMES AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

*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 “Philippine National Games
2 Act”.

3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – Article XIV, Section 19 (1) of the Constitution provides
4 that the State shall promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league
5 competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-
6 discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry.
7 Pursuant thereto, it is incumbent upon the State to institutionalize a genuine comprehensive
8 national grassroots sports program.

9 **SEC. 3. *The Philippine National Games.*** – There is hereby created a national grassroots
10 sports program, hereinafter referred to as the Philippine National Games, which shall serve as the
11 country’s premier national sports competition and platform for the nationwide talent search in
12 identifying and developing outstanding athletes who have the potential to excel in various sports,
13 and place the country at the forefront of international sports competitions.

14 **SEC. 4. *Objectives.*** – The objectives of the Philippine National Games (PNG) are as
15 follows:

- 16 (a) To provide a framework and structure for a truly integrated and
17 comprehensive national sports program linking grassroots sports promotion to
18 elite sports development;
- 19 (b) To serve as the government’s premier national sports competition
20 to be held once every two years;
- 21 (c) To encourage all local government units (LGUs) to promote the
22 development of sports in the countryside covering all provinces, cities,
23 municipalities, and barangays;
- 24 (d) To serve as a venue for the National Sports Associations (NSAs) in

1 promoting their respective sports programs at the grassroots level providing the
2 necessary linkages with LGUs;

3 (e) To serve as a feeder program for the pool of student-athletes who shall be given
4 priority in the grant of full scholarship on secondary education program at the
5 National Academy of Sports; and

6 (f) To widen the base for talent identification, selection, and
7 recruitment of athletes who shall constitute the national pool to be trained for
8 international sports competitions.

9 **SEC. 5. Preparatory Sports Program.** – The *Palarong Pambansa* provided for under
10 Republic Act No.10588, otherwise known as the “Palarong Pambansa Act of 2013”, and other
11 local sports competitions organized by the LGUs or the private sector shall serve as the feeder
12 system for the recruitment of athletes in various sports and the preparatory sports program for the
13 PNG.

14 **SEC. 6. Establishment of the PNG Board.** – A PNG Board, hereinafter referred to as the
15 “Board”, is hereby created as the lead policy-making and coordinating body for the preparation
16 and conduct of the PNG.

17 The members of the Board shall be entitled to reimbursement of actual traveling and other
18 expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties as members thereof, subject to
19 pertinent laws, rules and regulations.

20 **SEC. 7. Membership of the Board.** – The Board shall have seven (7) members composed
21 of the following:

22	(a) Executive Secretary	Chairperson
23	(b) Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local 24 Government (DILG)	Vice Chairperson
25	(c) Chairperson of the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC)	Secretary General
26	(d) Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd)	Member
27	(e) Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED)	Member
28	(f) Secretary of the Department of National Defense (DND)	Member
29	(g) President of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC)	Member

1 **SEC. 8. *Functions and Duties of the Board.*** – The Board shall perform the following
2 functions and duties:

- 3 (a) To formulate policies and guidelines that shall govern the conduct of the PNG, and the
4 relationships among the organizations involved;
- 5 (b) To form an Executive Committee which shall be headed by a Secretary General in-charge
6 for the day-to-day operations of the PNG;
- 7 (c) To recognize the Local Sports Councils (LSCs) that shall be given authority to select the
8 athletes and teams qualified to join in the PNG;
- 9 (d) To assign the venue and set the schedule of the PNG;
- 10 (e) To determine the sports to be included in the PNG, in addition to the list of mandatory
11 sports enumerated under Section 10 of this Act;
- 12 (f) To establish an advisory council composed of public and private individuals, organizations
13 or entities necessary for the success of the PNG;
- 14 (g) To create the National Screening and Accreditation Committee;
- 15 (h) To identify the regional or cluster qualifying competitions, including the qualifying
16 standards, consistent with the rules of the respective NSAs;
- 17 (i) To develop and recommend programs and policies that shall promote the PNG and ensure
18 the support of the LGUs in the conduct of the PNG as the country's premier sports event;
- 19 (j) To establish a mediation body, including its rules and procedures, to resolve disputes
20 related to the conduct of the PNG;
- 21 (k) To provide incentives and rewards to host LGU and winning LSCs;
- 22 (l) To enter into contracts or obligations essential for the accomplishment of its purposes and
23 objectives;
- 24 (m) To assess the conduct of the PNG and submit an annual report to Congress; and
- 25 (n) To exercise such other functions as may be necessary for the effective implementation of
26 this Act.

27 **SEC. 9. *Secretary General.*** – The Chairperson of the PSC shall serve as the Secretary
28 General of the PNG.

29 The Secretary General shall recommend to the Board the composition of the PNG
30 Secretariat and all the activities undertaken by the latter, including the utilization of funds for the
31 preparation, organization and conduct of the PNG. The Secretariat, which shall come from the

1 existing personnel of the PSC, the DILG, the DepEd, and the POC shall directly manage the
2 conduct of the PNG.

3 **SEC. 10. *Sports Events.*** – The official sports in the PNG shall include the following:

- 4 (1) Aquatics
- 5 (2) Archery
- 6 (3) Arnis
- 7 (4) Athletics
- 8 (5) Badminton
- 9 (6) Baseball
- 10 (7) Basketball
- 11 (8) Billiard and Snookers
- 12 (9) Bowling
- 13 (10) Boxing
- 14 (11) Canoe-Kayak
- 15 (12) Chess
- 16 (13) Cycling
- 17 (14) Dancesport
- 18 (15) Esports
- 19 (16) Fencing
- 20 (17) Floorball
- 21 (18) Football
- 22 (19) Futsal
- 23 (20) Golf
- 24 (21) Gymnastics
- 25 (22) Handball
- 26 (23) Hockey
- 27 (24) Jiu-Jitsu
- 28 (25) Judo
- 29 (26) Karate
- 30 (27) Lawn Tennis
- 31 (28) Modern Pentathlon
- 32 (29) Muay Thai
- 33 (30) Pencak Silat
- 34 (31) Petanque
- 35 (32) Rowing
- 36 (33) Rugby
- 37 (34) Sailing
- 38 (35) Sambo
- 39 (36) Sepak Takraw
- 40 (37) Shooting
- 41 (38) Skateboarding
- 42 (39) Softball
- 43 (40) Soft Tennis
- 44 (41) Squash
- 45 (42) Surfing
- 46 (43) Swimming
- 47 (44) Table Tennis

- 1 (45) Taekwondo
- 2 (46) Tennis
- 3 (47) Triathlon
- 4 (48) Volleyball
- 5 (49) Weightlifting
- 6 (50) Wrestling
- 7 (51) Wushu

8 *Provided*, That the sports to be played in the PNG shall be aligned with the sports participated in
9 by the Philippines in the Southeast Asian Games, Asian Games, Olympics and other mandatory
10 international sports competitions, including para games: *Provided, further*, That mandatory sports
11 events in the Olympic and Paralympic Games shall, as far as practicable, be included in the PNG,
12 subject to the availability of sports facilities and venues of the host LGU: *Provided, finally*, That
13 the host LGU may recommend local sports to promote and showcase its socioeconomic and
14 cultural uniqueness through the PNG.

15 **SEC. 11. Roles of Concerned Agencies.** – The following government agencies,
16 instrumentalities and entities shall be tasked to perform the following roles and responsibilities:

17 (1) PSC- It shall:

- 18 (a) Carry out the overall management, coordination and implementation of the PNG;
- 19 (b) Provide manpower, technical resources and sports facilities; and
- 20 (c) Perform other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the Board.

21 (2) DILG- It shall:

- 22 (a) Mandate all LGUs to coordinate, cooperate and support the plans, programs and activities
23 of the PNG through the issuance of corresponding orders, circulars, and guidelines within
24 its jurisdiction to help carry out the objectives of the PNG;
- 25 (b) Direct the Philippine National Police to prepare and implement a comprehensive security
26 plan for the LGU venues where the PNG shall be held; and
- 27 (c) Perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be delegated by the Board.

28 (3) Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP)- It shall:

- 29 (a) Oversee and ensure the implementation of plans on the safe conduct of the PNG in their
30 respective localities;

- 1 (b) Assist in disseminating information on the PNG within their respective jurisdiction to
2 encourage the active participation of their constituents;
- 3 (c) Recommend to the Board the priority sports in their respective localities; and
- 4 (d) Perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be delegated by the Board.

5 (4) DepEd- It shall:

- 6 (a) Align the *Palarong Pambansa* calendar of activities, programs and policies to the
7 conduct of the PNG;
- 8 (b) Allow the use of school buildings and classrooms as billeting centers;
- 9 (c) Allow DepEd teachers, who are licensed or accredited technical officials of the NSAs to
10 officiate in the games;
- 11 (d) Issue appropriate orders, circulars, and guidelines within its jurisdiction to implement the
12 objectives of the PNG; and
- 13 (e) Perform other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the Board.

14 (5) CHED- It shall:

- 15 (a) Promote the program and activities of the PNG to all higher education institutions;
- 16 (b) Enjoin the state universities and colleges the use of their school buildings and classrooms
17 as billeting centers;
- 18 (c) Issue memorandum orders on the alignment of tertiary sports events and the calendar of
19 activities to the PNG; and
- 20 (d) Perform other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the Board.

21 (6) DND- It shall:

- 22 (a) Oversee and ensure the participation of military athletes in the PNG;
- 23 (b) Serve as the LSC which shall have the authority to accredit and allow qualified military
24 athletes to participate in the PNG;
- 25 (c) Issue appropriate orders, circulars, and guidelines within its jurisdiction to implement the
26 objectives of the PNG; and
- 27 (d) Perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be delegated by the Board.

28 (7) LGUs- They shall:

- 29 (a) Organize within their jurisdiction a multi-sectoral group to serve as their LSC which shall
30 have the authority to accredit and allow athletes to participate in the PNG;

- 1 (b) Assist the LSCs in the identification, recruitment, and training of gifted and talented
2 athletes within their respective localities;
3 (c) Organize local competitions within their respective jurisdictions to ensure a wide base for
4 the selection of national athletes who will compete in the PNG; and
5 (d) Perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be delegated by the Board.

6 (8) POC- It shall:

- 7 (a) Supervise all participating NSAs involved in the PNG; and
8 (b) Perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the Board.

9 (9) NSAs- They shall:

- 10 (a) Set the qualifications for athletes participating in different events based on their
11 international federations' rules and regulations;
12 (b) Provide technical assistance in the conduct of their respective sports competitions in the
13 PNG, including the appointment of qualified officiating officials;
14 (c) Conduct regional or cluster qualifying competitions, as may be required by any sports
15 association, in coordination with the PSC and the host LSC; and
16 (d) Allow the participation of all athletes, including national athletes, entered by the LSCs
17 regardless of their membership status with their respective NSAs: *Provided, That:*
18 (i) The athlete conforms and agrees to abide by the competition rules and regulations
19 of their respective NSAs and PNG; and
20 (ii) The athlete is not under any disciplinary sanction, or is otherwise suspended by the
21 concerned NSA or International Federation, consistent with the rules of their
22 respective sports.

23 **SEC. 12. *The LSCs.*** – The LSCs organized by their respective LGUs shall be headed by
24 the provincial governor, the city or municipal mayor, or the barangay chairperson. For purposes
25 of this Act, the LSC shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- 26 (a) To encourage, promote and organize local sports competitions within their respective
27 jurisdictions;
28 (b) To recruit, train, and select athletes who shall participate in the PNG and its
29 corresponding regional and cluster qualifying competitions;
30 (c) To develop and maintain a pool of local athletes and provide them with the necessary
31 assistance;

- 1 (d) To be responsible for the entire delegation entered in the PNG, and ensure the compliance
2 of their athletes with the eligibility rules of the PNG;
3 (e) To select an athlete in any sports event subject to PNG rules, provided said athlete is not
4 under any sanction by the concerned NSA or International Federation; and
5 (f) To give athletes the authority to represent their respective LSC in the PNG and
6 corresponding regional and cluster qualifying competitions.

7 **SEC. 13. *Participation Rules.*** – To participate in the PNG, all athletes shall be governed
8 and must comply with the following rules:

9 (a) Eligibility

- 10 (1) All Filipinos by birth, including those residing outside of the Philippines but
11 are of Filipino ancestry, shall be eligible to participate in the PNG;
12 (2) The qualifying age for different sports events shall be determined by the NSAs
13 based on their international federations' rules and regulations; and
14 (3) Compliance with other eligibility rules and regulations that may be prescribed
15 by the PNG, LSC and concerned NSA.

16 (b) Representation

- 17 (1) Athletes shall, at all times, represent or carry only the LSC that entered their
18 name in the PNG or in any regional or cluster qualifying competitions; and
19 (2) No athlete shall likewise be allowed to carry, represent or promote any public
20 or private organization, enterprise or sponsor in the PNG.

21 **SEC. 14. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this
22 Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the PSC. Thereafter, the funding
23 of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

24 The LGUs shall set aside from any available local revenue an amount deemed appropriate
25 for the preparation, training and participation of the athletes in the PNG.

26 **SEC. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The PSC shall, in coordination with
27 the DILG, DepEd, CHED, ULAP, POC, and NSAs, promulgate the rules and regulations to
28 implement the provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days after its effectivity.

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

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

6 **SEC. 18. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
7 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,