

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2352

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by Representative GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

AN ACT
TO INCLUDE TRADITIONAL GAMES AND SPORTS IN THE PHYSICAL
EDUCATION (P.E.) COURSES IN ALL LEVELS OF EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS AND SPORT ACTIVITIES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Prior to the declaration of *arnis* as the national sport in 2009 by virtue of Republic Act No. 9850, the country's national sport was *sipa*. What is truly disheartening, though, is that despite this change, our youth never knew the existence of the game of *sipa* much more now, that *arnis* has taken its place as the official Philippine national sport. Along with other traditional games and sports, these are now considered dying cultural legacies due to advancements in technology, the advent of games of the new information highway and the intrusion of western sports.

Filipino traditional games and sports have originated from different cultures, some of which have pre-Hispanic origin. These games and sports reflect every aspect of Filipino life and bring out our passion for play. We are proud to have inherited such games from past generations which they have developed and handed down from generation to generation. But such priceless ancestral heritage which includes *sungka*, *dama*, and *panintero*, hangs in the balance and no longer stay popular with our youth. Due to such an attitude towards these traditional games and sports, some of them like *sipa*, *yoyo* and *arnis*, which are authentically Filipino, have been adopted by other countries as their own.

We must ensure that these games remain relevant as they provide our people the opportunity to learn, appreciate and experience aspects of their own culture. They also provide essential training in social interaction and help develop camaraderie, sportsmanship and honesty. Encouraging their preservation will require a more meaningful understanding our culture values.

Provisions of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandate the State to conserve, promote and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources to preserve them for future generations of Filipinos and ensure continuity of Filipino identity and cultural belongingness. It is therefore imperative that a deeper appreciation and understanding of our traditional games and sports is established in the minds of all Filipinos especially the youth. And what better way to do this by making the study of traditional games and sports a part and parcel of physical education course in all levels of education institutions, both public and private.

In view of the proposed measure's importance, its early passage into law is earnestly requested.



GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
2nd District, Pampanga

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

SECTION 1. – *Short title.* – This Act shall known as the “Traditional Games and Sports Act of 2016.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to foster patriotism, nationalism and sportsmanship by giving priority to sports program that shall revive, promote and enhance the country’s traditional games and sports. Towards this end, the State shall endeavor to preserve and promote our cultural heritage and national identity among the people, especially the youth, by including traditional games and sports in the Physical Education (P.E.) courses in all levels of educational institutions.

SECTION 3. *Traditional Games and Sports.* – The traditional games and sports shall include the following: agawang sulok, araw-lilim, arnis, aso at pusa, bulong pari, bunong braso, dama, garter, hulaan, holen, iring-iring, istatwa, jack-en-poy, jackstone, kapit-bakod, laglag panyo, lawin at sisiw, luksong baka, luksong lubid, luksong tinik, palo sebo, patintero, piko, pitik-bulag, saranggola, sipa, siklot, siksik bulak, sungka, suot lungga, taguan, takip silim, tatsing, tumbang preso, turumpo, viola, yoyo, and such other traditional games played in the various localities in the country.

SECTION 4. *Inclusion of Traditional Games and Sports in the Physical Education (P.E.) Courses.* – The department of education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) are hereby directed to include the aforesaid traditional games in the Physical Education course in all levels of institutions, both private and public.

SECTION 5. *Traditional Games and Sports for School-Based Competition.* – The DepEd and the CHED shall jointly determine which among the aforementioned traditional games and sports shall be included in all school-based competitions.

SECTION 6. *Local Government Units and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and Private Sectors Participation in the Revival and Promotion of Traditional Games and Sports.* – The local Government units in partnership with the non- government organizations (NGOs) and the private sector shall undertake sports activities throughout the country through sports competitions participated in by the residents in their respective localities for the revival and promotion of traditional games and sports.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd and the CHED shall issue the necessary rules and continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree, executive order, or issuance, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity.* – This act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,