

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH (18TH) CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2594



Introduced by: Representative Jose L. Atienza, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The City of Manila has always played a major part in our country's history, from the time of the rajahs, up to the Second World War. It is a city rich in history and culture, without which the Philippines would not be what it is now.

Aside from a proud and brave people, Manila is replete with historical and cultural sites, none more significant perhaps than Intramuros and Luneta Park in the heart of the city. Intramuros is where crucial battles took place, and Bagumbayan in Luneta where our very own National Hero Dr. Jose Rizal was martyred and buried.

However, during martial law, ownership and management of Luneta Park were removed from the city government of Manila and transferred to a national agency-- the National Parks Development Committee (NPDC). Over the past decades, this important part of Philippine history and culture has deteriorated and become a highly-commercialized area. It is now full of informal settlers, fastfood restaurants, hotels and other activities totally unrelated to history and culture. The City Mayor sits merely as a member of the NPDC, which, in fact, is dependent on the very services that the city government renders, just like the rest of the city.

This bill seeks to return the ownership and management of this historical and cultural treasure to the City of Manila, where the Mayor should be given full control and supervision. The Mayor is in the best position to chart the course of his city, as well as these priceless parts of Manila and the nation's history. He should be given full rein to develop and preserve these treasures, together with the rest of the city. This is giving full meaning to the spirit of local autonomy. This is what local autonomy is all about – empowering all local governments to plan their own development and progress, as embodied in our Constitution and Local Government Code. No city would be able to fully develop and achieve progress if its treasures are lost and given away by the national government.


JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH (18th) CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2594

Introduced by: **Representative Jose L. Atienza, Jr.**

AN ACT
RETURNING THE ADMINISTRATION, CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT
OF LUNETA PARK TO THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF MANILA

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “ Act Returning the Administration, Control and Management of Luneta Park to the City Government of Manila”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State under Article II, Section 25, that Autonomy of the Local Government Units shall be ensured.

SECTION 3. The Administration, Control and Management of the Luneta Park shall be under the City Government of Manila

SECTION 4. . *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, otherwise provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved.