

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

18TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 920



Introduced by Honorable Michael L. Romero

EXPLANATORY NOTE

More than Twenty-Five (25) years ago, or on January 24, 1990, Congress enacted Republic Act No. 6847, otherwise known as the "Philippine Sports Commission Act" which created the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC). Unfortunately, the PSC seems to fail in living up to its mandate of providing leadership, formulating the policies and setting the priorities and direction of all national amateur sports promotion and development, particularly giving the emphasis on grass-roots participation; encouraging wide participation of all sectors, government and private, in amateur sports promotion and development; and supplement government appropriations for sports promotion and development.

Considering the lackluster state of Philippine sports, there is much to be desired for the betterment of the sports for the benefit of our athletes and coaches. The seeming deterioration of Philippine sports should be addressed. There was a time when our athletes are considered serious contenders in any sporting event we participate, unfortunately, those times has passed. Since Mansueto Velasco won a silver medal in boxing during the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, the Philippines has not won a single medal in the succeeding editions of the Summer Olympics. When the Philippines won its first ever overall championship in the Southeast Asian Games during the 2005 edition held in Manila, Philippine sports seemed to have reached its threshold. Unfortunately, the experiences and the lessons learned in earning that victory were not sustained.

The Philippines is rich in talent as can be proven by the many sports heroes that the country has produced in various sports disciplines. The success of the Honorable Senator Emmanuel D. Pacquiao in boxing, Gilas

Pilipinas in Basketball and Azkals in football have brought pride to the country. The Philippines have always impressed international and foreign sports personalities with our remarkable achievements. With our rich talent pool for any sporting event, we can be a perennial face in any sports competition we join.

This measure will address the various challenges that confront Philippine sports. This bill proposes the creation of a Department of Sports, a cabinet-level agency that will provide leadership in the promotion and development of sports in the country and set the parameters to address the needs of our athletes, coaches, trainers and sports officials. The Department of Sports will be responsible for promulgating policies that will help the country improve its performance in international competitions. Equally important is the role in finding solutions to the problems besetting Philippine sports including the lack of a comprehensive national sports program, the need to enhance the partnership with various sectors involved in sports, obsolete training methods, lack of modern and high quality training facilities, equipment, and sport venues.

It is now high time for the government to prioritize sports in the national agenda, and consider sports as an integral factor in nation building.

This House Bill seeks to create the Department of Sports, the government entity that shall lead the implementation of policies on the promotion and development of sports and health fitness programs in the country.



MICHAEL L. ROMERO Ph.D.

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AN ACT
CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1: SHORT TITLE – This Act shall be known as the “Department of Sports Act of 2019”.

SECTION 2: DECLARATION OF POLICY – It is the policy of the State to promote physical education, encourage and sustain the development of sports programs, league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for local and international competitions to foster physical fitness, self-discipline, teamwork and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry. The State recognizes the importance of sports to foster patriotism, nationalism, gallantry, accelerate social progress, and promote total human development.

The State recognizes the need to promote excellence in sports by looking after the welfare of Filipino athletes and coaches competing for the country

and by providing benefits and incentives for Filipino athletes and other athletes who win in international sports competitions and bring honor and recognition to the country. Toward this end, it is imperative to establish a single, integrated and unified national sports body for the promotion and development of sports program to incentivize Filipino athletes and ensure the wider participation of wider sectors of the society with the end view of helping Filipino athletes attain their fullest potential.

SECTION 3: DEFINITION OF TERMS –

A. International sports competitions shall refer to international sports competitions under the following categories:

1. Regular major competitions such as the Summer Olympic Games, Winter Olympic Games, Asian Games, Asian Winter Games, Southeast Asian (SEA) Games, Youth Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Asian Park Games, Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, Asian Beach Games and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Para Games;
2. World-level championships held at least every two (2) years with at least forty-five (45) countries participating by sport;
3. Asian-level competitions held at least every two (2) years with at least twenty-five (25) countries participating by sport; and
4. Qualifying competitions for World-level games with at least ten (10) countries participating.

Competitions granting prize money shall not be included.

B. National athletes shall refer to athletes including persons with disabilities who are Filipino citizens, members of the national training pool, recognized and accredited by the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) and the PSC, including athletes with disabilities (AWD) who are recognized and accredited by the NPC PHIL and the PSC and who have represented the country in international sports competitions. National athletes shall be synonymous with Filipino athletes; and

C. National coaches shall refer to coaches of national athletes, who are Filipino citizens, members of the national coaches training pool, recognized and accredited by the PSC and the POC, or the PSC and NPC PHIL in the case of AWD coaches who have represented the country as official coaches to national athletes in international sports competitions. National coaches.

SECTION 4: CREATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS – There is hereby created the Department of Sports hereinafter referred to as the Department.

SECTION 5: MANDATE – The Department shall be the primary policy, planning, coordinating, implementing, and administrative entity of the Executive Branch of the government that will plan, develop, and promote the national sports development agenda.

SECTION 6: POWERS AND FUNCTIONS – The Department shall exercise the following powers and functions:

I. Policy and Planning

- (a) Formulate, recommend and implement national policies, plans, programs and guidelines that will promote the development and harness the potential of Filipino athletes with due consideration for their welfare and success as national athletes competing locally and in international sports competitions;
- (b) Formulate policies and initiatives, in coordination with the Department of Education (DepED), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), to develop and promote sports education consistent with the national goals and objectives, and responsive to the needs of Filipino athletes and coaches competing locally and international sports competitions;
- (c) Provide an integrated framework and programs in order to optimize the potential of Filipino athletes;

- (d) Prescribe rules and regulations for the establishment, operation and maintenance of Philippine Sports Infrastructures;
- (e) Establish sports training facilities that will be accessible to the public and all Filipino athletes;

II. Resource-Sharing and Capacity-Building

- (f) Harmonize and coordinate all sports programs, plans and initiatives to ensure opportunities and maximum development of every Filipino athlete's potential;
- (g) Assist and provide technical expertise to government agencies in the development of guidelines in the enforcement and administration of laws, standards, rules, and regulations governing the Department;
- (h) Assess, review and support sports related research and development programs of the government in coordination with the appropriate government agencies and other institutions concerned;
- (i) Prescribe the personnel qualifications and other qualification standards essential to the effective development and operation of Department;
- (j) Develop programs that would enhance the career advancement opportunities of Department and other sports workers in government;
- (k) Assist in the dissemination of vital information essential to disaster risk reduction and preparedness through sports activities;
- (k) Represent and negotiate for Philippine interest on matters pertaining to sports in international bodies, in coordination with the appropriate government agencies and other institutions concerned;
- (l) Establish guidelines for public-private partnerships in the implementation of sports projects for the development of Filipino athletes and coaches; and
- (m) Promote strategic partnerships and alliances between and among local and international sports body and/or competitor, for the research and development, educational and training

institutions, to enhance competitiveness of Filipino athletes and workers.

SECTION 7: COMPOSITION – The Department shall be headed by the Secretary. The Department proper shall be composed of the Office of the Secretary, the Offices of the Undersecretary and the assistant secretaries.

SECTION 8: SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS – The Secretary shall be appointed by the President, subject to confirmation by the Commission on Appointments. The Secretary shall have the following functions:

- (a) Provide executive direction and supervision over the entire operations of the Department and its attached agencies,
- (b) Establish policies and standards for the effective, efficient and economical operation of the Department, in accordance with the programs of government;
- (c) Review and approve requests for financial and manpower resources of all operating offices of the Department;
- (d) Designate and appoint officers and employees of the Department, excluding the undersecretaries, assistant secretaries, and regional and assistant regional directors, in accordance with the civil service laws, rules, and regulations;
- (e) Exercise disciplinary powers over officers and employees of the Department in accordance with law, including their investigation and the designation of a committee or officer to conduct such investigations;
- (f) Coordinate with other agencies and public and private interest groups, including nongovernment organizations (NGOs) and people's organizations (Pos) on Department policies and initiatives;
- (g) Prepare and submit to the President through the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) an estimate of the necessary expenditures of the Department during the next fiscal year, on the basis of the reports submitted by bureaus and offices under him/her;
- (h) Serve as a member of the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) as established by Republic Act No. 9184;

- (i) Advise the President on the promulgation of executive and administrative orders and formulation of regulatory and legislative proposals on matters pertaining to sports development;
- (j) Formulate such rules and regulations and exercise such other powers as may be required to implement the objectives of this Act: and
- (k) Perform such other tasks as may be provided by law or assigned by the President.

SECTION 9: UNDERSECRETARIES – The Secretary shall be assisted by three (3) undersecretaries, who shall be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the Secretary: Provided, that two (2) of the undersecretaries shall be career officers.

SECTION 10: ASSISTANT SECRETARIES – the Secretary shall be assisted by four (4) assistant secretaries who shall be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the Secretary: Provided, that two (2) of the assistant secretaries shall be career officers: Provided, further, that at least one (1) of the assistant secretaries shall be a person publicly recognized in the field of Sports.

SECTION 11: QUALIFICATIONS – No person shall be appointed Secretary, Undersecretary, or Assistant Secretary of the Department unless he or she is a citizen and resident of the Philippines, of good moral character, of proven integrity and with at least seven (7) years of competence and expertise in the field of Sports and at least thirty (30) years of age.

SECTION 12: REGIONAL OFFICES – The department may establish, operate, and maintain a regional office in the different administrative regions of the country as the need arises.

Each regional office shall be headed by a Regional Director who may be assisted by one (1) Assistant Regional Director.

The Regional Director and Assistant Regional Director shall be appointed by the President.

The regional offices shall have, within their respective administrative regions, the following functions:

- (a) Implement laws, policies, plans, programs, projects, rules and regulations of the Department;
- (b) Provide efficient and effective service to the people;
- (c) Coordinate with regional offices of other departments, offices, and agencies;
- (d) Coordinate with the LGUs; and
- (e) Perform such other functions as may be provided by law or assigned by Secretary.

SECTION 13: SECTORAL AND INDUSTRY TASK FORCES – The Department may create sectoral and industry, task forces, technical working groups, advisory bodies or committees for the furtherance of its objectives. Additional private sector representatives, such as from the academe, civil society organizations (CSOs), and federation of private industries directly involved in sports, as well as representatives of other National Government Agencies (NGAs).

Local Government Units (LGUs) and Government Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs) may be appointed to these working groups. Government sports professionals may also be tapped to partake work in the Department through, these working groups.

SECTION 14: TRANSFER OF AGENCIES AND PERSONNEL – The Philippine Sports Commission is hereby abolished, and its powers and functions, applicable funds and appropriations, records, equipment, property, and personnel transferred to the Department.

SECTION 15: SEPARATION AND RETIREMENT OF SERVICE – Employees who are separated from service within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act as a result of the consolidation and/or reorganization

under the provisions of this Act shall receive separation benefits to which they may be entitled under Executive Order No. 366, s. 2004:

Provided, that those who are qualified to retire under existing requirement laws shall be allowed to retire and receive retirement benefits to which they may be entitled under applicable laws and issuances.

SECTION 16: STRUCTURE AND STAFFING PATTERN – Subject to the approval of the DBM, the Department shall determine its organizational structure and create new divisions or units as it may deem necessary, and shall appoint officers and employees of the Department in accordance with the civil service law, rules, and regulations.

SECTION 17: TRANSITION PERIOD – The transfer of functions, assets, funds, equipment, properties, transactions, and personnel of the affected agencies, and the formulation of the internal organic structure, staffing pattern, operating system, and revised budget of tin Department, shall be completed within six **(6)** months from the effectivity of the Act, during which time, the existing personnel shall continue to assume their posts in holdover capacities until new positions and appointments are issued:

Provided, that after the abolition of tie agencies as specified in section 14 of this Act, the Department, in coordination with the DBM, shall determine and create new positions, the funding requirements of which shall not exceed the equivalent cost of positions abolished.

SECTION 18: APPROPRIATION – The amount needed for the initial implementation of this Act shall be Five Hundred Million Pesos **(P500,000,000.00)** taken from the National Treasury.

Thereafter, the amount needed for the operation and maintenance of the Department shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 19: IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. – The Department shall issue within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act. the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 20: SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. — If any provision or part hereof is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 21: REPEALING CLAUSE. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 22: EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.