

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Sesison



House Bill No. 3440

Introduced by Representative Richard I. Gomez, DPA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates the State to “promote physical education and encourage sports programs, leagues competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry.” [Section 19 (1), Article XIV] The fundamental charter also includes sports among the priorities of the State “to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.” [Sec. 17, Art. II]

In line with the aforesaid principles and State policies, this bill aims to institutionalize an inclusive national sports competition that will promote awareness and interest in sports, particularly in the countryside, generate wide participation of the citizenry in sports through the active involvement of local government units (LGUs), and serve as the linkage between grassroots sports development and national amateur and elite sports development.

This latest version of the bill seeks to address the concerns raised in the Veto Message of His Excellency President Ferdinand “Bongbong” R. Marcos, Jr. dated December 23, 2024 primarily thru the revision of the appropriation clause so as to render the same consistent with the legislative function of the budget authorization process through the enactment of an appropriation.

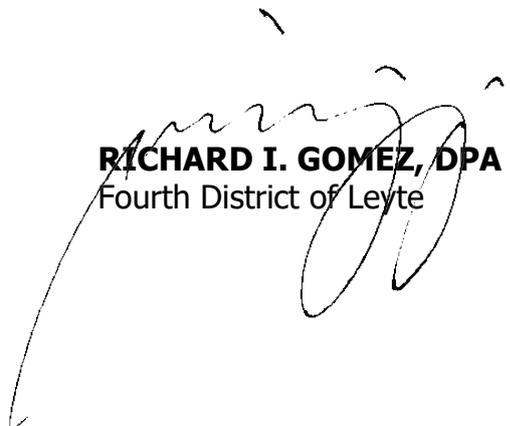
As for the other concern – on the possible duplication between the *Palarong Pambansa* and the *Philippine National Games (PNG)* – it bears restating that other than the ostensible similarity in meaning of the names, the two sports organizations are substantially separate and distinct from each other. A cursory reading of Republic Act No. 10588 would reveal that the Palarong Pambansa is a school-based sports program of the Department of Education, participated in by students 18 years old and below. Thus, it’s probably more accurate to refer to it or describe it as a “Palarong Pambansang Pampaaralan”, rather than conceive of it as a comprehensive or “national” sports competition in the country, as the PNG is. On the other hand, the Philippine National Games is a grassroots competition program

of the Philippine Sports Program participated in by athletes 18 years old and above, representing various local government units throughout the country. If there is any nexus or link between the two sports organizations, it is only that the Palarong Pambansa is one (among many, such as "Batang Pinoy", other local sports competitions, etc.) of the feeder sports program of the Philippine National Games.

To further highlight the difference between the two sports entities, it bears repeating that the participants of the Palarong Pambansa are student-athletes, whereas the demographics of the Philippine National Games are amateur and elite athletes, including athletes with disabilities, out-of-school youth, civilian, military, and other uniformed personnel of the national government agencies, et. al.

Given the clear and substantial distinctions between the said sports organizations, concerns about functional duplication, leadership confusion and inefficiency would be more apparent than real.

In view of these compelling reasons, the approval, at the earliest possible time, of this measure is earnestly sought.



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Fourth District of Leyte

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AN ACT
EXPANDING AND 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
2 National Games Act.”

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

8 Pursuant thereto, the State shall institutionalize an inclusive national sports
9 competition that will promote awareness and interest in sports, particularly in the
10 countryside, generate wide participation of the citizenry in sports through the active
11 involvement of local government units (LGUs), and serve as the linkage between
12 grassroots sports development and national amateur and elite sports development.

13 **SEC. 3. *Expansion and Institutionalization of the Philippine National***
14 ***Games.*** – The Philippine National Games (PNG), the national multi-sport
15 tournament organized by the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), is hereby

1 expanded and institutionalized.

2 The PNG shall serve as the country's premier national multi-sports
3 competition and venue for the discovery of potential national and elite athletes. It
4 shall be composed of sports competitions for athletes and athletes with disabilities.
5 It shall be held once every two years and shall be participated in by athletes,
6 including athletes with disabilities, from the different provinces, in collaboration
7 with municipalities under their jurisdiction, and cities of the country: *Provided*, That
8 the sports competition for athletes with disabilities shall be held after the conclusion
9 of the sports competition for athletes: *Provided, further*, That national sports
10 associations, in accordance with Republic Act No. 6847 or 'The Philippine Sports
11 Commission Act", shall continue to conduct separate competitions and determine
12 the athletes, coaches and other officials that will be part of the country's national
13 team.

14 **Sec. 4. Objectives.** – The PNG shall have the following objectives:

- 15 (a) To provide a framework and structure for a truly integrated and
16 comprehensive national sports program, linking grassroots sports
17 promotion to elite sports development, including sporting events
18 applicable to athletes with disabilities;
- 19 (b) To encourage all LGUs to promote the development of sports in all
20 provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays;
- 21 (c) To serve as a venue for the National Sports Associations (NSAs) in
22 promoting their respective sports programs at the grassroots level and
23 providing the necessary linkages with LGUs;
- 24 (d) To serve as one of the feeder programs for the pool of student-athletes
25 who shall be given priority in the grant of full scholarship on secondary
26 education program at the National Academy of Sports (NAS), subject to
27 the rules and regulations of the NAS; and
- 28 (e) To widen the base for talent identification, selection, and recruitment of
29 athletes, including athletes with disabilities, who shall constitute the
30 national pool to be trained for international sports competitions.

31 **SEC. 5. Participation in the PNG.** – To generate awareness and ensure
32 the wide participation of athletes, including athletes with disabilities, with the

1 potential to become national amateur and elite athletes, LGUs, through their
2 barangay, municipal, city, and provincial Physical Fitness and Sports Development
3 Councils (PFSDCs), shall encourage, promote or organize local sports competitions
4 within their respective jurisdictions as well as recruit, train and select athletes,
5 including athletes with disabilities, for sporting events competed at the PNG.

6 Provinces, in collaboration with municipalities under their jurisdiction, and
7 cities shall form and send their delegations to the qualifying competitions and,
8 thereafter, to the national championship competition of the PNG.

9 National government agencies, government-owned or controlled
10 corporations, state universities and colleges, and constitutional commissions shall
11 support and allow the participation of civilian, military, and other uniformed
12 personnel to the PNG through the provinces and cities where their personnel are
13 residents.

14 Athletes, including athletes with disabilities, who will form part of the
15 delegation of the participating provinces and cities to the PNG must be Filipino
16 citizens who comply with the minimum age requirement of the concerned NSA for
17 the particular sport.

18 No athlete who participated in a local sports competition organized by a
19 PFSDC and subsequently represented the provincial or city sports delegation in the
20 qualifying competitions of the PNG for a particular edition shall be permitted to
21 transfer and represent another provincial or city sports delegation in the national
22 championship competition of the PNG.

23 The PNG shall take into consideration the activities and programs of the
24 *Palarong Pambansa* and other local and international competitions to ensure that
25 the welfare of the athletes is given paramount importance: *Provided*, That in case
26 of overlapping competition schedules, the PSC, in coordination with concerned
27 NSAs, shall issue guidelines on the prioritization of competitions: *Provided, further*,
28 That international competitions where the Philippines is represented shall be
29 prioritized.

30 **SEC. 6. Feeder Sports Programs.** – The *Palarong Pambansa* provided for
31 under Republic Act No. 10588, otherwise known as the “*Palarong Pambansa* Act of
32 2013”, the *Batang Pinoy* Program of the PSC, and other local sports competitions

1 organized by the LGUs or the private sector, shall serve as the feeder system for
2 the recruitment of athletes by the LGUs for their participation in the various sporting
3 events in the PNG.

4 **SEC. 7. *Sporting Events.*** – The official sports of the PNG shall include the
5 following:

- 6 1) Aquatics
- 7 2) Archery
- 8 3) Arnis
- 9 4) Athletics
- 10 5) Badminton
- 11 6) Baseball
- 12 7) Basketball
- 13 8) Billiard and Snookers
- 14 9) Bowling
- 15 10) Boxing
- 16 11) Canoe-Kayak
- 17 12) Chess
- 18 13) Cycling
- 19 14) Dancesport
- 20 15) Esports
- 21 16) Fencing
- 22 17) Floorball
- 23 18) Football
- 24 19) Futsal
- 25 20) Golf
- 26 21) Gymnastics
- 27 22) Handball
- 28 23) Hockey
- 29 24) Jiu-Jitsu
- 30 25) Judo
- 31 26) Karate
- 32 27) Lawn Tennis

- 1 28) Modern Pentathlon
- 2 29) Muay Thai
- 3 30) Pencak Silat
- 4 31) Petanque
- 5 32) Rowing
- 6 33) Rugby
- 7 34) Sailing
- 8 35) Sambo
- 9 36) Sepak Takraw
- 10 37) Shooting
- 11 38) Skateboarding
- 12 39) Softball
- 13 40) Soft Tennis
- 14 41) Squash
- 15 42) Surfing
- 16 43) Swimming
- 17 44) Table Tennis
- 18 45) Taekwondo
- 19 46) Tennis
- 20 47) Triathlon/Duathlon
- 21 48) Volleyball
- 22 49) Weightlifting
- 23 50) Wrestling
- 24 51) Wushu

25 The sports to be competed in the PNG shall be aligned with the sports
26 participated in by the Philippines in the Southeast Asian Games, ASEAN Para
27 Games, Asian Games, Asian Para Games, Olympics, Paralympic Games, and other
28 international sports competitions: *Provided*, That the mandatory sporting events in
29 the Olympic and Paralympic Games shall, as far as practicable, be included in the
30 PNG, subject to the availability of sports facilities and venues in the LGU where the
31 PNG will be held: *Provided, further*, That the PNG Board may include new and
32 emerging sports to be competed in the PNG: *Provided, finally*, That the host LGU

1 may recommend the inclusion of local sports to promote and showcase its
2 socioeconomic and cultural uniqueness through the PNG.

3 **SEC. 8. Creation of the Philippine National Games Board.** – To ensure
4 the attainment of the purposes and objectives of this Act, there is hereby created
5 the Philippine National Games Board, hereinafter referred to as the PNG Board. It
6 shall be the policy-making and coordinating body for the preparation and conduct
7 of the PNG.

8 The PNG Board shall be the proprietary owner of the phrase “Philippine
9 National Games” and its related symbols, logos, and concepts.

10 **SEC. 9. Powers and Functions of the PNG Board.** – The PNG Board shall
11 have the following powers and functions:

- 12 (a) Formulate and approve plans, programs, policies, and guidelines that
13 shall govern the conduct of the PNG, and the relationships among the
14 organizations involved;
- 15 (b) Form an inter-agency Executive Committee, which shall be headed by a
16 Secretary-General, and working committees on screening, registration,
17 accreditation, billeting, and appeals, among others, as may be
18 necessary;
- 19 (c) Recognize the provincial and city PFSDCs that will be given authority to
20 register athletes and teams in the PNG;
- 21 (d) Determine the host and schedule of the PNG;
- 22 (e) Determine the use of sports facilities, school buildings, and classrooms
23 as may be necessary for the conduct of the PNG: *Provided*, That the PNG
24 Board shall use the Department of Education (DepEd) classrooms only
25 after all other facilities have been utilized;
- 26 (f) Coordinate with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and
27 other government agencies on the needed funding and technical
28 assistance in the implementation of this Act;
- 29 (g) Determine the sports to be competed in the PNG, subject to the
30 conditions set in Section 7 hereof;
- 31 (h) Provide incentives and rewards to host LGUs and winning LGUs;

- 1 (i) Develop programs and policies that shall promote the PNG and ensure
2 multi-sectoral support to the PNG;
3 (j) Assess the conduct of the PNG and submit an annual report to Congress;
4 and
5 (k) Exercise such other functions as may be necessary for the effective
6 implementation of this Act.

7 **SEC. 10. *Composition of the PNG Board.*** – The PNG Board shall be
8 composed of the following:

9 (a) Chair:

10 Chairperson of the PSC

11 (b) Vice-Chair:

12 Undersecretary of the DILG, in charge of Sports Development at the local
13 levels

14 (c) Members:

- 15 i. Undersecretary of the DepEd, in charge of the *Palarong*
16 *Pambansa*
17 ii. Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED)
18 iii. President of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC)
19 iv. President of the Philippine Paralympic Committee (PPC)
20 v. President of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP)
21 vi. President of the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP)
22 vii. President of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP)
23 viii. President of the Liga ng mga Barangay (LnB)
24 ix. Chairperson, Coordinating Council of Private Educational
25 Associations of the Philippines (COCOPEA)

26 The Members of the PNG Board, except the Chair and Vice-Chair, may be
27 represented by the next-in-rank officers of their agencies or organizations, as the
28 case may be.

29 The Members of the PNG Board shall be entitled to reimbursement of actual
30 traveling and other expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties as
31 Members thereof, subject to pertinent laws, rules and regulations.

1 **SEC. 11. Secretary-General of the PNG.** – The Secretary-General shall
2 be appointed by the Chairperson of the PNG Board from among the officials of the
3 PSC.

4 The Secretary-General shall submit to the PNG Board all plans, programs,
5 and activities for the preparation, organization, and conduct of the PNG.

6 The Secretary-General shall be assisted by a Secretariat, which shall be
7 composed of existing personnel of the PSC, the DILG, the DepEd, and the POC.

8 **SEC. 12. Roles of Government Agencies and Private Associations.** –
9 In addition to the duties and responsibilities that may be assigned to them by the
10 PNG Board, the following government agencies and private associations shall
11 perform the following:

12 (a) PSC:

- 13 i. Carry out the overall management, coordination, and
14 implementation of the PNG;
15 ii. Coordinate with the DBM and other government agencies to secure
16 the needed funding and technical assistance in the implementation
17 of this Act; and
18 iii. Enter into contracts or obligations essential for the accomplishment
19 of plans, programs, and activities for the PNG that were approved
20 by the PNG Board.

21 (b) DILG:

- 22 i. Mandate all LGUs to coordinate, cooperate, and support the plans,
23 programs, and activities of the PNG through the issuance of
24 corresponding memorandum circulars or department orders and
25 guidelines within its jurisdiction to help carry out the objectives of
26 the PNG; and
27 ii. Direct the Philippine National Police to prepare and implement a
28 comprehensive security plan for the LGU venues where the PNG
29 shall be held.

30 (c) LPP, LCP, LMP, and LnB:

- 31 i. Encourage the implementation of the PNG in their respective
32 member LGUs; and

- 1 ii. Assist in disseminating information on the PNG within their
2 respective jurisdictions to encourage the active participation of
3 their members.

4 (d) DepEd:

- 5 i. Align the *Palarong Pambansa* calendar of activities, programs, and
6 policies to the conduct of the PNG;
7 ii. Allow the use of its sports facilities, school buildings, and
8 classrooms as may be necessary for the conduct of the PNG;
9 iii. Allow DepEd teachers, who are licensed or accredited technical
10 officials of the NSAs, to officiate in the PNG; and
11 iv. Issue memorandum circulars or department orders and guidelines
12 within its jurisdiction to implement the objectives of the PNG.

13 (e) CHED:

- 14 i. Promote the program and activities of the PNG to all higher
15 educational institutions;
16 ii. Enjoin the state universities and colleges to allow the use of their
17 sports facilities, school buildings, and classrooms as may be
18 necessary for the conduct of the PNG; and
19 iii. Issue memorandum circulars or orders on the alignment of tertiary
20 sports events and calendar of activities to the PNG.

21 (f) COCOPEA:

- 22 i. Promote the program and activities of the PNG to all private
23 educational institutions;
24 ii. Take into consideration, in its calendar of activities, programs, and
25 policies the conduct of the PNG; and
26 iii. Encourage private educational institutions to allow the use of their
27 sports facilities, school buildings, and classrooms as may be
28 necessary for the conduct of the PNG.

29 (g) LGUs:

- 30 i. Organize the multi-sectoral PFSDCs, headed by the local chief
31 executive, that will coordinate the implementation of an annual
32 *palaro* at the barangay, municipal, city, and provincial levels,

1 pursuant to the mandates under Sections 389 (b) (13), 444 (b) (1)
2 (xix), 455 (b) (1) (xix), and 465 (b) (1) (xix) of the Local
3 Government Code of 1991, as amended;

4 ii. Through the PFSDCs, in addition to their functions, implement the
5 following:

6 (a) Encourage, promote and organize local sports competitions
7 within their respective jurisdictions;

8 (b) Recruit, train, and select athletes who will participate in the
9 PNG; and

10 (c) Develop and maintain a pool of local athletes and provide them
11 with the necessary assistance;

12 iii. For provincial and city PFSDCs:

13 (a) Register an athlete in sporting events of the PNG, including its
14 regional and cluster qualifying competitions; and

15 (b) Be responsible for the entire delegation registered in the PNG,
16 and ensure their athletes' compliance with the PNG's eligibility
17 rules.

18 (h) POC and PPC:

19 i. Supervise the NSAs involved in the PNG.

20 (i) NSAs:

21 i. Set the qualifications for athletes and athletes with disabilities who
22 will be participating in different sporting events, based on the
23 international federations' rules and regulations;

24 ii. Provide technical assistance in the conduct of their respective
25 sports competitions in the PNG, including the appointment of
26 qualified officiating officials; and

27 iii. Allow the participation of all national athletes, registered by the
28 PFSDCs, regardless of their membership status with their
29 respective NSAs: *Provided*, That the athlete conforms and agrees
30 to abide by the competition rules and regulations of their respective
31 NSAs and PNG; and *Provided, further*, That the athlete is not under
32 any disciplinary sanction, or is otherwise suspended by the

1 concerned NSA or international federation, consistent with the rules
2 of their respective sports; and

3 (j) National Youth Commission:

4 i. Promote and disseminate the program and activities of the PNG to
5 all youth organizations and youth-serving organizations;

6 ii. Encourage the youth, especially the out-of-school youth and youth
7 with special needs, to actively participate in the conduct of the PNG
8 in various roles possible; and

9 iii. Coordinate with various agencies in the implementation of this Act.

10 **SEC. 13. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the implementation
11 of this Act shall be included in the budget of the PSC in the annual General
12 Appropriations Act.

13
14 The LGUs shall set aside from any available local revenue an amount deemed
15 appropriate for the preparation, training, and participation of the athletes in the
16 PNG.

17 **SEC. 14. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days
18 from the start of the effectivity of this Act, the PSC, in coordination with the DILG,
19 DepEd, CHED, POC, the PPC, the LPP, the LCP, the LMP, the LnB, the NSAs, and
20 the COCOPEA, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to implement the
21 provisions of this Act.

22 **SEC. 15. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act is held
23 invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force
24 and effect.

25 **SEC. 16. Repealing Clause.** – Section 2 of Executive Order No. 63, series
26 of 1993, is hereby amended.

27 All laws, executive orders, issuances, decrees, and rules and regulations
28 inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended,
29 modified, or repealed accordingly.

30 **SEC. 17. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from
31 its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

