Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City  
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
Third Regular Session  
House Resolution No. 2380

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE  
ROLANDO M. VALERIANO

A RESOLUTION
FOR THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT, TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED HARASSMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE ATHLETIC TRACK AND FIELD ASSOCIATION (PATAFA) AGAINST OLYMPIAN AND POLE VAULTER EJ OBIENA, AND TO REVIEW THE RULES AND RELATIONSHIPS OF THE NATIONAL SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS, ATHLETES AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6847 OR THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION LAW

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

1 WHEREAS, Ernest John “EJ” Obiena, a Manileno born and raised in Tondo, is an Asian Games gold medalist and is the holder of the Asian record for pole vault;
2 WHEREAS, Obiena was a finalist in the recently concluded Tokyo Olympics;
3 WHEREAS, in September 2021, Obiena secured the World No. 5 rank as he earned a silver medal in the in the Paris Diamond League after clearing 5.91 meters;
WHEREAS, the Philippine Athletics Track and Field Association (PATAFA), the National Sports Association (NSA) to which Obiena supposedly belongs, accused him of falsifying liquidation documents, and ordered him to return 85,000 Euros (or over 4.8 Million Pesos) for failure to pay the salary of his Ukrainian coach Vitaliy Petrov;

WHEREAS, after Obiena appeared in a press conference with Petrov and denied the allegations against him, PATAFA changed its accusation from embezzlement to failure to pay the coach’s salary on time;

WHEREAS, such actuations of PATAFA are tantamount to harassment, an indication of this NSA’s failure promote his welfare, or worse, even a sabotage of the career of a distinguished national athlete;

WHEREAS, our national athletes have long complained of Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) accredited NSAs, engaging in endless politicking; not having sustainable development programs; being heavily dependent on government funding and failing to generate private sector support; lacking communications with and support for athletes; among other issues.

WHEREAS, there may be a need to review the rules and the relationships between the POC, NSAs, the athletes, the Philippine Sport Commission and other stakeholders, under Republic Act No. 6847 or the Philippine Sport Commission Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives Committee on Youth and Sports Development to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the alleged harassment of the Philippine Athletic Track and Field Association (PATAFA) against Olympian EJ Obiena, to review the rules and the
relationships between the Philippine Olympic Committee, National Sports Associations, the athletes, the Philippine Sport Commission and other stakeholders, under Republic Act No. 6847 or the Philippine Sport Commission Law.

ADOPTED.

ROLANDO M. VALERIANO
Representative