

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1651



Introduced by Representative **MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS**

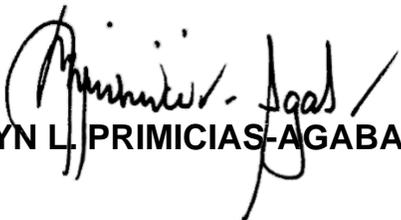
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill which seeks to preserve the indigenous games in the Philippines has already been approved by the House of Representatives on its 3rd and final reading in the 17th and 18th Congress. However, it has not yet ripened into a law. Hence, the re-filing of this bill to ensure the preservation of indigenous games in the Philippines which already form as integral part of our history and heritage.

Since time immemorial, before the inception of various foreign sports games in the country, Filipinos have lived, enjoyed, and mastered our home grown indigenous games. These games successfully thrived as part of our way of life. They have, in one way or the other, identified us traditionally, culturally, geographically, and ethnically in the various regions of the country.

So as to effectively treasure these indigenous games, it is but just fitting to preserve them to identify and define us as part of our cultural heritage. In the same vein, to store these games for the next generations to come.

Approval of this bill is thus earnestly sought.


MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS

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AN ACT

PRESERVING THE INDIGENOUS GAMES OF THE PHILIPPINES

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 Indigenous Games Preservation Act”.

3 SEC.2. *Declaration of policy* – [Article II, Section 22 of the 1987 Philippine
4 Constitution provides that the [State shall recognize and promote the rights
5 of indigenous cultural communities within the frame work of national unity
6 and development. Furthermore, Article 31.1 of the United Nations
7 Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous People enjoins all State
8 signatories to take effective measures to recognize and to protect the
9 exercise of the indigenous peoples’ rights which include the maintenance,
10 control, and development of their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge
11 and traditional expression, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and
12 traditional games, among others.

13 Pursuant to the aforesaid mandates, it is therefore incumbent upon
14 the state to lay down specific policy directives to promote the interests of
15 our indigenous peoples, to strengthen our cultural heritage and our
16 historical roots. To further this policy, the State shall take the necessary
17 steps to preserve the indigenous peoples' games which serve as the best
18 avenue for self – expression, and for promoting peace, harmony, goodwill
19 and camaraderie among them.]

20 *Sec. 3. Indigenous Games.* – Indigenous games refer to the traditional
21 sports and games or activities inherent to the different indigenous cultural
22 communities reflecting their rich cultural heritage, traditions or customs
23 handed down from generation to generation such as, but not limited to, dug
24 out, canoe races, precision- around obstacles or rapids, supok or sampit,
25 sungka, kadang-kadang, tumbangpreso, piko, and sepak takraw and such
26 other games distinct with the indigenous communities.

27 *Sec. 4. Preservation of Indigenous Games.* – the National Commission for
28 Culture and the Arts (NCAA), in coordination with the Department of
29 Education (DepEd), shall initiate measures to preserve indigenous games
30 in the country, such as the inclusion of games as part of the curriculum in
31 the basic education system of our schools, production of documentary or
32 other useful means, and the conduct of regular demonstration of such
33 games in national events and in appropriate school activities.

34 The NCAA shall likewise conduct research on the various sports
35 traditionally played by different indigenous groups within the region to
36 ensure the preservation and development of these games.

37 *Sec. 5. Annual Regional and National Indigenous Games.* The Philippine
38 Sports Commission (PSC), in coordination with the Philippine Olympic
39 Committee (POC), and the local government Units (LGUs) shall conduct
40 annual regional and national indigenous sports competitions.

41 The host LGU shall have the prerogative to choose which sport
42 events shall be included in the national and regional Indigenous games
43 competitions.

44 *Sec. 6 implementing Rules and Regulations.* – the NCAA and the DepEd
45 as the lead agencies in coordination with the PSC,POC and LGUs, shall
46 promulgate the rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this act
47 within 60 days after its effectivity.

48 *Sec. 7. Separability Clause.* – if any part or provision of this Act is held
49 invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall
50 remain in full force and effect.

51 *Sec. 8. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, issuances, decrees,
52 rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this
53 Act are deemed, amended, modified, or replaced accordingly.

54 *Sec. 9 Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect 15days after its publication in
55 the official gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

56 Approved.