

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



NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5691

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
HON. EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA

**AN ACT
GRANTING DISTINCTIVE HONORS AND PRIVILEGES TO
NATIONAL ATHLETES, CREATING A NATIONAL ENDOWMENT
FUND FOR SPORTS HEROES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The historic win of Hidilyn Diaz at the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo brought the Philippines its first-ever Olympic gold medal. But prior to this, she has consistently and continuously made the Philippines proud by being the youngest contender at the 2008 Beijing Olympics at the age of 17, bringing home the Philippines' first Olympic medal in 20 years at the 2016 Rio Olympics, and the first gold medal at the 2018 Asian Games held in Indonesia, among other accolades.

At present, the Philippines has won 14 medals in the Olympics:

- a. Hidilyn Diaz (weightlifting) – Gold (2020 Tokyo), Silver (2016 Rio);
- b. Nesthy Petecio (boxing) – Silver (2020 Tokyo)
- c. Carlo Paalam (boxing) – Silver (2020 Tokyo)
- d. Eumir Marcial (boxing) – Bronze (2020 Tokyo)
- e. Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco (boxing) – Silver (1996 Atlanta);
- f. Roel Velasco (boxing) – Bronze (1992 Barcelona);
- g. Leopoldo Serantes (boxing) – Bronze (1988 Seoul);

- h. Anthony Villanueva (boxing) – Silver (1964 Tokyo);
- i. Miguel White (athletics) – Bronze (1936 Berlin);
- j. Jose Villanueva (boxing) – Bronze (1932 Los Angeles);
- k. Simeon Toribio (athletics) – Bronze (1932 Los Angeles); and
- l. Teodoro Yldefonso (swimming) – Bronze (1932 Los Angeles),
Bronze (1928 Amsterdam).

Behind their achievements are innumerable stories of hard work and perseverance. This is no less true with other sports heroes in various disciplines of athletics, who have devoted their lives to honing their craft and bringing honor to the country.

Thus, to recognize outstanding athletes who serve as inspiration to countless Filipinos in the field of sports, this bill seeks to grant distinctive honors and privileges to Filipino sports heroes. The bill also seeks to establish the Hidilyn Diaz Endowment Fund, which shall be used to provide lifetime emoluments to National Athletes, as well as to support the needs of awardees so they can continue to participate in local as well as international sports competitions as Philippine delegates.

Thus, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. EDUARDO “BRO. EDDIE” C. VILLANUEVA

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

3
4 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the "*Bayaning*
5 *Atletang Filipino Act.*"

6
7 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is the declared policy of the State
8 to promote excellence in the field of sports and foster the values of
9 sportsmanship, patriotism, and nationalism in order to support nation-
10 building and development.

11
12 **SEC. 3. *The Order of National Athletes.*** - There is hereby
13 established the Order of National Athletes (Orden ng mga Pambansang
14 Atleta) which shall be the highest honor the Government of the Philippines
15 shall confer to its outstanding sports heroes who have brought immense
16 pride and honor to the country and have dedicated their lives towards the
17 advancement of their sports.

18
19 The Order shall be under the National Orders of Cultural and
20 Scientific Merit pursuant to Executive Order No. 236, S. 2003. It shall be
21 administered by the Komite ng Bayaning Atletang Filipino, otherwise

1 known as the Komite, created under Section 6 of this Act, and conferred
2 by the President of the Philippines upon recommendation by the
3 Committee.

4
5 Awardees of the Order of National Athletes shall enjoy the following
6 privileges:

- 7
- 8 a. The rank and title of National Athlete, as proclaimed by the
9 President of the Philippines;
 - 10
11 b. The National Athlete medallion and citation;
 - 12
13 c. Lifetime emolument and material benefits, such as:
 - 14
15 1. A cash award to be determined by the Committee, net of
16 taxes for living awardees;
 - 17
18 2. A cash award to be determined by the Committee, net of
19 taxes for posthumous awardees, payable to legal heir/s;
 - 20
21 3. A monthly life pension and medical and hospitalization
22 benefits;
 - 23
24 4. Life insurance coverage for awardees who are still
25 insurable;
 - 26
27 5. A place of honour in state functions, national
28 commemoration ceremonies, and all other sports and
29 cultural events; and,
 - 30
31 6. A state funeral, the arrangements for and the expenses of
32 which shall be borne by the Government, upon the death
33 of the National Athlete.
- 34

35 **SEC. 4. *The National Medal of Excellence in Sports.*** - There is
36 hereby established the National Medal of Excellence in Sports
37 (Pambansang Medalya ng Katangi-tanging Husay sa Isports) for
38 outstanding individuals and team achievements in international sports
39 competitions. The President of the Philippines shall confer the National
40 Medal of Excellence in Sports upon recommendation by the Committee.

41
42 **SEC. 5. *The Balangay Medal for Sportsmanship.*** - There is
43 hereby established the Balangay Medal for Sportsmanship (Gawad

1 Balangay) for heroic sportsmanship shown by athletes during
2 international and local competitions exemplifying the values of honesty,
3 fairness, selflessness, sacrifice, amity and good will. The President of the
4 Philippines shall confer the Balangay Medal for Sportsmanship upon
5 recommendation by the Committee.
6

7 **SEC. 6. Komite ng Bayaning Atletang Filipino.** - The Komite ng
8 Bayaning Atletang Filipino shall be under the Office of the President, and
9 shall be composed of the following:
10

- 11 a) Chairperson of the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), as
12 Chairman;
- 13
- 14 b) Secretary of the Department of Education or an authorized
15 representative, as Member;
- 16
- 17 c) Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education or an
18 authorized representative, as Member;
- 19
- 20 d) President of the Philippine Olympic Committee or an
21 authorized representative, as Member;
- 22
- 23 e) Chairperson of the Athletes' Commission or an authorized
24 representative, as Member;
- 25
- 26 f) Chairperson of the National Youth Commission or an
27 authorized representative, as Member; and
- 28
- 29 g) Chairperson of the National Historical Commission of the
30 Philippines or an authorized representative, as Member.
31

32 For the purposes of this Act, all authorized representatives shall
33 have at least the rank of Assistant Secretary.
34

35 **SEC. 7. Role and Function of the Komite ng Bayaning Atletang**
36 **Filipino.** - The Komite shall approve the criteria, standards, nomination
37 and selection processes, and benefits and privileges of the recipients of
38 the awards under this Act.
39

40 **SEC. 8. National Endowment Fund for Sports Heroes.** - There is
41 hereby established a National Endowment Fund for Sports Heroes to
42 exclusively fund the benefits provided in this Act and to support the

1 continuous trainings of all the awardees and their participation or
2 exposure in international competitions.

- 3
- 4 a. The amount of One billion pesos (P1,000,000,000.00) is
5 hereby appropriated as seed money of the Endowment Fund:
6 *Provided*, That no grant shall be awarded by the Komite except
7 from the interest drawn from the Fund: *Provided, further*, That
8 no grant shall be awarded until after one (1) year from the
9 organization of the Fund;
- 10
- 11 b. Government corporations are hereby authorized to give grants
12 to the Fund at their discretion, but not to exceed fifteen percent
13 (15%) of their unimpaired surplus;
- 14
- 15 c. The private portion of the Fund shall be raised from the
16 donations and other conveyances, including funds, materials,
17 property, and services, by gratuitous title;
- 18
- 19 d. Contribution to the Fund shall be deductible for income tax
20 purposes in accordance with the provisions of Section 34
21 (h)(2)(a) of the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended;
- 22
- 23 e. For the sound and judicious management of the Fund, the
24 Committee shall appoint a reputable government-accredited
25 investment institution as Fund Manager, subject to the
26 guidelines promulgated by the Komite;
- 27
- 28 f. The Committee shall be the administrator of the Fund, and as
29 such, shall prepare the implementing guidelines and decision-
30 making mechanisms, subject to the following:
- 31
- 32 1. Unless otherwise stipulated by the private donor, only
33 earnings of private contributions shall be used;
- 34
- 35 2. No part of the seed capital of the Fund, including earnings
36 thereof, shall be used to underwrite overhead expenses
37 for administration;
- 38
- 39 3. The Committee shall organize a separate staff to be
40 headed by a comptroller appointed by and directly
41 responsible and accountable to the Komite; and
- 42

1 4. There shall be an external auditor that will perform an
2 annual audit of the Fund's performance.
3

4 **SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety
5 (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Komite shall promulgate the
6 rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.
7

8 **SEC. 10. *Appropriations.*** - The amount of One billion pesos
9 (P1,000,000,000.00) to serve as seed money of the National Endowment
10 Fund for Sports Heroes as provided in Section 8 of this Act is hereby
11 appropriated. The amount necessary for initial implementation of this Act
12 shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Philippine
13 Sports Commission. Thereafter, such appropriations necessary for the
14 continuation and enhancement of the program shall be included in the
15 annual General Appropriations Act.
16

17 **SEC. 11. *Separability.*** - If any provision or part of this Act is
18 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not
19 affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.
20

21 **SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, executive orders,
22 administrative orders, and parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of
23 this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.
24

25 **SEC. 13. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
26 days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2)
27 newspapers of general circulation.
28

29 **Approved,**
30