

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **6209**



Introduced by **HON. ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

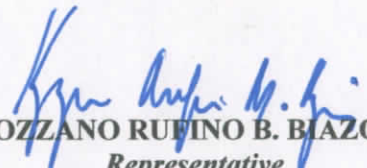
This bill proposes to appropriate the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex (RMSC) and its lands to the National Museum (NM) in order to ensure the perpetuity of the RMSC as a cultural heritage. It also authorizes the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the NM to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Philippine Sports Commission for the management and day to day operations of the complex, bearing in mind the preservation and conservation of the facility.

The Rizal Memorial Sports Complex (RMSC) located in Malate, Manila is one of the last surviving pre-war structures in Metro Manila. It was originally conceived in 1921 for the purpose of promoting athletics in the Philippines. The idea was to create a large-scale sports complex capable of hosting not only local, but international sporting events. The plan was put into action and was completed in 1934, in time for the country's hosting of the 10th Far Eastern Games.

There is no doubt that the RMSC indeed bears historical significance not only in the City of Manila where it is located, but to the entire Philippines as well. It has borne witness to both the desolation of war and the triumph of the Filipino spirit in some of the grandest events in our history. For thousands of Filipino athletes across generations, the RMSC is not just an important landmark, it was their home where poignant memories remain. It deserves to be preserved as a historical sports facility and a heritage landmark dedicated to the Filipino people.

The National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) already declared the RMSC as a National Historical Landmark while the National Museum (NM) likewise declared it as an Important Cultural Property. While these two declarations are indeed very laudable and are steps in the right direction towards the preservation and conservation of the RMSC, further action should be done to ensure that such declarations would bear fruition. Thus, the introduction of this bill.

With the premises being considered, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON
Representative
Lone District of Muntinlupa City

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AN ACT

TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF RIZAL MEMORIAL SPORTS COMPLEX IN THE DISTRICT OF MALATE OF THE CITY OF MANILA AS AN IMPORTANT CULTURAL PROPERTY AND A NATIONAL HISTORICAL LANDMARK

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 “*Rizal Memorial Sports Complex Protection and Conservation Act*”.

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Sections 14, 15, 16 and 17, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution declare that the State shall foster the preservation, enrichment and dynamic evolution of a Filipino culture based on the principle of unity in diversity in a climate of free artistic and intellectual expression. The Constitution likewise mandates the State to conserve, develop, promote and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations. It further provides that all the country's artistic and historic wealth constitutes the cultural treasure of the nation and shall be under the protection of the State, which may regulate its disposition.

Sec. 3. *Conversion of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.* – To implement the above-declared State policies, and to ensure its protection and conservation, the present Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, hereinafter referred to as RMSC, is hereby converted into a trust of the government. It shall be placed solely for budgetary purposes under the Office of the President.

The RMSC shall be a venue for sports, athletic events, cultural gatherings and other such congregations in the service of the community and its development, accessible to the public, and for the promotion of the people's general welfare. The RMSC management shall inform the general public about these activities for the purpose of sports, recreation, education and entertainment.

Sec. 4. *Permanent Home; Evidence of Title to Site and Buildings; Management.* – The site and lands of the RMSC shall be deemed appropriated to the National Museum, and the record of the description of such site and lands, or a copy thereof, certified by the Chairman and Secretary of the Board of Trustees, shall be received as evidence in all courts of the extent and boundaries of the lands appropriated to the Museum.

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Museum is hereby authorized to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) for the management and day to day operations of the RMSC. Such memorandum of agreement shall be governed by the principle of preserving and conserving the RMSC as an Important Cultural Property.

Sec. 5. *Separability Clause.* – If for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other sections or provisions hereof, unaffected thereby, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sec. 6. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Sec. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,