



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6192

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BY REPRESENTATIVES AGABAS, BARBA, MARTINEZ, PACQUIAO (A.),  
YU, TUTOR, TEVES (J.), DY (F.M.C.), CRISOLOGO, ELAGO, CARL,  
MARCOLETA, VILLANUEVA (E.), RIVERA AND BARBA, PER  
COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 218

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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  
2 “Philippine Indigenous Games Preservation Act”.

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

1 Pursuant to the aforesaid mandates, it is incumbent upon the  
2 State to lay down specific policy directives to promote the interest of  
3 our indigenous peoples, and strengthen our cultural heritage and  
4 historical roots. The State shall take the necessary steps to preserve  
5 the indigenous peoples’ games which serve as the best avenue for  
6 their self-expression, and for promoting peace, harmony, goodwill  
7 and camaraderie among them.

8 SEC. 3. *Indigenous Games.* – The term “indigenous games”  
9 refer to the traditional sports and games or activities inherent to  
10 the different indigenous cultural communities that reflect the rich  
11 cultural heritage, traditions or customs handed down from  
12 generation to generation such as tribal archery, blowpipe, sibat,  
13 dug-out canoe race, rock balancing, *sumpit*, *sungka*, *kadang-kadang*  
14 and other games distinct to the indigenous communities.

15 SEC. 4. *Annual Regional and National Indigenous Games.* –  
16 The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), in coordination with the  
17 Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) and the local government  
18 units (LGUs), shall conduct annual regional and national  
19 indigenous sports competitions.

20 The host LGU, in consultation with the concerned indigenous  
21 cultural communities, shall have the prerogative to choose which  
22 sports shall be included in the regional and national indigenous  
23 sports competitions.

24 SEC. 5. *Other Means of Preserving the Indigenous Games.* –  
25 The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the  
26 National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), the National  
27 Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF), in coordination with the  
28 Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher  
29 Education (CHED), and the Philippine Information Agency (PIA),  
30 shall initiate measures to preserve indigenous games in the country,

1 such as the inclusion of games as part of the curriculum in the basic  
2 and higher education system of schools, the production of  
3 documentary or other useful means, and the conduct of regular  
4 demonstration of such games in the *Palarong Pambansa* and in  
5 other national sports events, and in appropriate school activities.

6 The NCCA shall likewise conduct research on the various  
7 sports traditionally played by different indigenous groups to ensure  
8 their preservation and development.

9 SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The PSC  
10 and the POC as the lead agencies, in coordination with the NCCA,  
11 NCIP, DepEd, CHED, PIA, and LGUs, shall promulgate the rules  
12 and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within sixty  
13 (60) days after its effectivity.

14 SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this  
15 Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not  
16 affected shall remain in full force and effect.

17 SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders,  
18 issuances, decrees, rules and regulations inconsistent with or  
19 contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified  
20 or repealed accordingly.

21 SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)  
22 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of  
23 general circulation.

Approved,