

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10588, May 27, 2013]

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE CONDUCT OF THE PALARONG PAMBANSA AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

ARTICLE I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Palarong Pambansa Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions and amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry through the institutionalization of the Palarong Pambansa as the country's premier national sporting event.

Hence, it shall be a declared policy of the State to support programs that will improve and promote the Palarong Pambansa as the primary avenue for providing in-school sports opportunities to improve the physical, intellectual and social well-being of the youth. All educational institutions are therefore directed to promote physical education and undertake regular sports activities as well as support the local meets and the Palarong Pambansa.

SEC. 3. *Objectives.* – The objectives of this Act are the following:

(a) To institutionalize the Palarong Pambansa as the premier national sporting event of the country under the Department of Education (DepED) as a venue for talent identification, selection and recruitment of student athletes;

(b) To improve the DepED's national school sports program and give more prestige to the annual sports event by encouraging better participation of schools through incentives and rewards; and

(c) To encourage the local government units (LGUs) to take a proactive role in the promotion of the Palarong Pambansa locally and nationally by providing incentives and rewards.

ARTICLE II

ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE
PALARONG PAMBANSA

SEC. 4. *Palarong Pambansa Board.* – A Palarong Pambansa Board, hereinafter referred to as the “Board”, is hereby created as the lead policy-making and coordinating body for the preparation and conduct of the Palarong Pambansa. The Board shall be attached to the DepED and shall be the proprietary owner of the phrase “Palarong Pambansa” and its related symbols, logos and concept.

The members of the Board shall be entitled to reimbursement of actual traveling and other expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties as members of the Board, subject to pertinent laws, rules and regulations.

SEC. 5. *Membership of the Board.* – The Board shall have ten (10) members composed of the following:

- (a) Secretary of the Department of Education (DepED) – Chairperson;
- (b) Four (4) Undersecretaries of the DepED;
- (c) Three (3) Assistant Secretaries of the DepED;
- (d) Chairman of the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC); and
- (e) Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

SEC. 6. *Functions and Duties of the Board.* – The Board shall perform the following functions and duties:

- (a) To formulate policies and guidelines that shall govern the conduct of the Palarong Pambansa and other related school-based sports activities leading to the Palarong Pambansa;
- (b) To review and update regularly the rules and regulations of the sports included in the Palarong Pambansa in accordance with international standards;
- (c) To develop and recommend programs and policies that will promote the Palarong Pambansa and increase public awareness of the event, persuade schools to participate and improve their performance in sports and physical education, and encourage the LGUs to support and promote the Palarong Pambansa as the country’s premier sports event;
- (d) To provide incentives and rewards to participating schools and LGUs, including medal winners;
- (e) To formulate and issue policies and guidelines on the accreditation of athletes, coaches and chaperones;
- (f) To create the Palarong Pambansa Communications Task Force;
- (g) To create the National Screening and Accreditation Committee (NSAC);
- (h) To develop marketing strategies to generate funds and promote the Palarong Pambansa including, but not limited to, royalties, merchandising and advertisements;
- (i) To allocate funds for the conduct of school sports activities leading to the Palarong Pambansa;

- (j) To formulate and issue the criteria for the selection of host LGU and approve bids to host the Palarong Pambansa;
- (k) To set the date of the staging of the Palarong Pambansa;
- (l) To identify the sports events to be included in the Palarong Pambansa;
- (m) To appoint a Secretary General of the Palarong Pambansa;
- (n) To enter into contracts or obligations essential for the proper accomplishment of its purposes and objectives;
- (o) To conduct regular inventory of existing sports facilities, venues and equipment throughout the country;
- (p) To formulate guidelines for the conduct of sports events for students with disability;
- (q) To assess the conduct of the Palarong Pambansa and submit an annual report to Congress; and
- (r) To exercise such other acts as may be necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Secretary General.* – A Secretary General shall be appointed by the Board from among the members of the Board representing the DepED.

The Secretary General shall recommend to the Board the composition of the Secretariat and all the activities undertaken by the latter requiring the utilization of funds. The Secretariat, which shall come from the existing personnel of the DepED, the PSC and the DILG, shall manage the conduct of the Palarong Pambansa and other activities leading to the Palarong Pambansa.

SEC. 8. *Regional Athletics Associations.* – The DepED Regional Offices shall organize the Regional Athletics Associations (RAAs) which shall supervise the conduct of the regional meets and organize their respective regional delegations to the Palarong Pambansa.

ARTICLE III

HOSTING OF THE PALARONG PAMBANSA

SEC. 9. *Hosting of the Palarong Pambansa.* – The hosting of the Palarong Pambansa shall be determined by bidding and guided by the principle of rotation among the following geographical clusters: Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Two (2) adjoining LGUs may host the Palarong Pambansa: *Provided*, That one of the host LGUs does not have available venues and facilities to accommodate all the sports events.

The host LGU may constitute a local Palarong Pambansa Board to coordinate the preparation and conduct of the Palaro.

SEC. 10. *Criteria for the Selection of the Palarong Pambansa Host LGU.* – The Board shall formulate the criteria for the selection of the host LGU and shall take into consideration the existing sports facilities, their capacity to accommodate participants and guests, the security and peace and order situation of the area, and

the need of the LGU for an opportunity to promote and showcase its socioeconomic and cultural uniqueness through the Palarong Pambansa: *Provided*, That existing sports facilities shall be given the highest weight among the criteria to be formulated.

ARTICLE IV

PROMOTION OF THE PALARONG PAMBANSA

SEC. 11. *Incentives to Host LGU and Participating Schools.* –

(a) Host LGU – The Board shall provide incentives to the winning LGUs to encourage them to participate in the bidding for the hosting of the Palarong Pambansa.

(b) Schools Whose Students are Participating in the Palarong Pambansa – The Board shall provide incentives to schools that will field students/athletes to represent their respective regions in the Palarong Pambansa. Incentives shall include, but not be limited to, financial support for additional scholarships and improvement of sports and physical education programs.

SEC. 12. *Promotion of the Palarong Pambansa.* – The Board shall create the Palarong Pambansa Communications Group which shall perform the following duties and responsibilities:

(a) Formulate the marketing and communications plan to ensure the promotion of the Palarong Pambansa and encourage the LGUs to bid in the hosting of the event and the schools to improve their sports and physical education programs with the aim of sending representative athletes to the Palarong Pambansa;

(b) Ensure the coverage of the Palarong Pambansa by both the national and local media; and

(c) Enter into sponsorship, merchandising and royalty agreements with private entities as additional source of funds for the Palarong Pambansa.

The Palarong Pambansa Communications Group shall be composed of representatives from the following government agencies:

(1) DepED;

(2) Philippine Information Agency (PIA);

(3) PSC; and

(4) DepED Regional Offices.

ARTICLE V

ELIGIBILITY AND ACCREDITATION

SEC. 13. *The National Screening and Accreditation Committee (NSAC).* – The Board shall constitute the NSAC that will evaluate and verify the authenticity of the documents submitted by the athletes, coaches and chaperones applying for accreditation. The NSAC shall accredit qualified athletes, coaches and chaperones and shall submit a masterlist to the Board at least two (2) months before the Palarong Pambansa.