EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 17 of the 1987 Constitution affirms the State’s commitment to prioritize sports as an integral part of fostering patriotism and nationalism, accelerating social progress, and promoting total human liberation and development.

Without a shred of doubt, Filipinos are among the most sports-minded people in the world. From a very young age, Filipinos have been taught how to play, not only basketball, which could be argued as the most popular sport in the country, but also volleyball, badminton, and football among others. Boxing, cycling, taekwondo, martial arts, and other sports disciplines have also found significant support among multitudes of Filipinos. More importantly, Filipinos don’t just appreciate sports; some of our countrymen have excelled at it, effectively elevating the status of Filipinos in the international arena.

However, despite our undying passion and a diverse pool of potential talents, the country continues to struggle in competing on the international level; many of our aspiring athletes have had their full potential unrealized; and the government still lacks a well-funded and holistic grassroots sports program to address our more often than not, lacklustre performance. Simply put, we continue to underperform because we have not sufficiently prepared our athletes for such high-level competitions.

Considering these realities, this bill is proposed. Under this Act, this representation seeks to establish the Philippine School for Sports Excellence, which shall be the premier sports educational institution in the country. It shall be furnished with state-of-the-art sports facilities and amenities and provide not only excellent training for our aspiring athletes, but more importantly, offer degree courses on the academic disciplines related to sports science with an end goal of producing both internationally competitive athletes and sports professionals who have mastered the science of human kinetics and athletics.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

Rep. Ramon V. Guico III
AN ACT
CREATING AND ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE SCHOOL FOR SPORTS
EXCELLENCE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine School for Sports Excellence Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – Article II, Section 13 of the 1987 Constitution affirms its recognition of “the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. In pursuance of this, the State shall provide for the youth excellent physical education, including the promotion of sports education and adequate government support for sports programs, amateur sports, local and international sports competition, and the necessary training programs for the youth to excel on the same.

SEC. 3. Establishing the Philippine School for Sports Excellence. – There is hereby established a Philippine School for Sports Excellence (PSSE) that shall provide quality sports education in the tertiary level and prepare students for careers in the sports industry. The PSSE shall be under the supervision of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and shall coordinate with the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) for policy and program formulation and implementation with regard to sports education. Specifically, the PSSE shall aim to produce sports professionals able to:

a. Apply critical and independent thinking to real world issues;
b. Demonstrate the ability to clearly articulate ideas in writing;
c. Demonstrate problem-solving capabilities through an expanded vision of the sport discipline;
d. Analyze and illustrate with conviction issues of significance in their chosen disciplines;
e. Identify ethical principles applied in the world of sport and life in general;
f. Synthesize learned theories and relate those theories in practical environments; and
g. Evaluate issues and trends pertaining to the sports discipline.

SEC. 4. Purpose of the Philippine School for Sports Excellence. – The PSSE shall train aspiring athletes and provide scholarships, on a full or partial basis, for degree courses in sports science, which includes, but is not limited to:

a. Bachelor of Sports Science in Sports Management;
b. Bachelor of Sports Science in Sports Coaching;
c. Bachelor of Sports Science in Sports Studies; and

With an end view of producing internationally competitive athletes and sports professionals, such as coaches, trainers, and sports managers without compromise to a holistic tertiary-level education.

The Board, as created under Section 8 of this Act, may agree to accept paying students based on criteria established by the Board.

**SEC. 5. Construction of the Philippine School for Sports Excellence.** – After a period of planning not exceeding one (1) year upon the effectivity of this Act, the necessary sports facilities and amenities on par with international standards, shall be constructed at New Clark City, Capas, Tarlac.

**SEC. 6. Director of the PSSE.** – The NLHS shall be headed by a Director. He shall be appointed by the Chairperson of Board as hereinafter provided. The Board shall also fix his compensation and the term of his office. His functions, powers and duties, in addition to those specifically pertaining to in this Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the office of the principal of any tertiary educational institution in the Philippine educational system.

**SEC. 7. Assistant Director of the PSSE.** – There shall be an Assistant Director who shall assist the Director. In the absence of the Director, the Assistant Director shall assume the administrative and supervisory functions of the Director. He/she shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Board, subject to the approval of the same Board, which shall also fix his compensation.

**SEC. 8. Board of Trustees.** - There shall be a Board of Trustees composed of the Chairperson of the CHED as ex-officio Chairman, the Chairperson of the PSC as ex-officio Vice Chairman, and the following members: one (1) representative each from both houses of Congress, and four (4) representatives from accredited national sports associations to be nominated by their respective sports associations and appointed by the Chairperson of the Board; *Provided*, That there should always be a representative from track and field and aquatic sports.

All members who are not receiving regular compensation from the government shall receive per diem for every meeting of the Board.

**SEC. 9. Powers and Functions of the Board.** – The exercise of the corporate powers of the PSSE is hereby vested exclusively in the Board of Trustees.

The Board shall have the following specific powers and duties in addition to its general powers of administration and the exercise of all the powers granted to the Board of Directors under Section 35 of Republic Act No. 11232, otherwise known as the Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines:

a) To identify the satellite branches of the PSSE;
b) To approve the curricula, course of study, and rules of discipline drawn up by the Executive Council as hereinafter provided;
c) To receive and appropriate for the ends herein specified such sums as may be provided by law for the support of the PSSE;
d) To approve appointments made and contracts entered into by the Director in connection with the employment of lecturers and other employees of the school, to
fix their compensation and other conditions of employment, and to remove them for cause after proper investigation;
e) To provide and approve fellowships and training for faculty members;
f) To fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges, as the Board may deem proper to impose, after due and comprehensive consultation with the students concerned. Such fees and charges, including government subsidies and other income generated by the PSSE shall constitute the Sports Excellence Fund, as created in Section ___ of this Act and shall be deposited in any authorize government depository bank, and all interests shall be retained by the PSSE, and may be disbursed by the Board of Trustees for instruction, research, extension, or other programs and projects of the PSSE. Provided, That, all fiduciary fees shall be disbursed for the specific purposes for which they are collected.
g) To approve the grant of scholarship, stipends, and such other allowances to deserving students;
h) To establish the criteria for the selection and admission of students which shall include, among others, national competitive trials and examinations;
i) To develop the athletic potential of every student together with a sound and strong academic base;
j) To provide a training program for students with the end goal of producing athletes who are competitive in national, Southeast Asian, Asian, and Olympics level;
k) To approve the issuance of certificates or diplomas to successful candidates for graduation;
l) To receive in trust, legacies, gifts, and donations of real and personal property of all kinds and to administer the same for the benefit of the PSSE or for aid to any of its students;
m) To enact rules and regulations not contrary to law as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and functions of the PSSE; and
n) To perform any and all other acts incident to or required by virtue of its creation.

SEC. 10. Meetings of the Board of Trustees. – The Board of Trustees shall regularly convene at least once every quarter. The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees may call a special meeting whenever necessary: Provided, That members are notified in writing at least five (5) days prior to said meeting.

SEC. 11. Executive Council. – There shall be an Executive Council comprised of the Director, the Assistant Director, the heads of the departments of the PSSE and such other ranking faculty members or officials of the PSSE, as may be determined by the Board.

The Council shall have the power to screen and select the students subject for admission, to select students who shall be recipients of scholarships, stipends, and other allowances, and to develop the curricula, course of study, and rules of discipline. The Council shall implement and execute the policies laid down by the Board and exercise such other functions, powers, and duties as the Board may prescribe.

SEC. 12. Annual Progress Report. - On or before the first of April of each year the Board shall submit to the President of the Philippines a detailed report on the progress, condition and needs of the PSSE.
SEC. 13. Tax-Exemption on Gifts, Donations and Other Contributions. - All legacies, gifts and donations for the benefit of the High School or for its support and maintenance or for aid to any of its students shall be tax-exempt and shall be an allowable deduction from the gross-income of the donors. For the purpose of the income tax, the PSSE shall be exempt from payment of all taxes, fees, assessments and other charges of the Government, its branches and subdivisions. It shall likewise be exempt from taxes and duties on any sportswear, equipment, books, articles, goods or services it may import from abroad, including withholding taxes; Provided, That these are of international standards and are not available from local manufacturers: Provided, further, That the importation shall only be in such numbers as may be required in the development of various sports and/or training of students.

The PSSE shall also be exempt from withholding taxes on the Honoraria or fees paid by the PSSE to visiting lecturers or professors from abroad.

SEC. 14. Sports Excellence Fund. - All incomes and donations to the PSSE created under this Act shall be formed into a fund, to be known as the Sports Excellence Fund. This fund shall be expended as authorized by the Board exclusively for the purpose of this Act.

SEC. 15. Appropriations. - To carry out the purposes of this Act an initial fund of two hundred and fifty million Pesos (P250,000,000) is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter, the expenses of the PSSE, for the purposes above-described, shall be provided in the annual General Appropriation Act.

SEC. 16. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The CHEd and the PSC, in consultation and coordination with the Department of Budget and Management, the Department of Public Works and Highways, and the Bases Conversion and Development Authority shall promulgate not later than sixty (60) days upon the effectivity of this Act, the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 17. Separability Clause. – Any provision of this Act declared as unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 18. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or portions thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 19. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,