

[PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 810, October 16, 1975]

AN ACT GRANTING THE PHILIPPINE JAI-ALAI AND AMUSEMENT CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO OPERATE, CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN A FRONTON FOR BASQUE PELOTA AND SIMILAR GAMES OF SKILL IN THE GREATER MANILA AREA.

WHEREAS, by virtue of the provisions of Commonwealth Act numbered 485 the franchise to operate and maintain a fronton for the Basque pelota and similar games of skill in the City of Manila, shall expire on October, 1975 whereupon the ownership of the land, buildings and improvements used in the said game will be transferred without payment to the government by operation of law;

WHEREAS, there is a pressing need not only to further develop the game as a sport and amusement for the general public but. also to exploit its full potential in support of the government's objectives and development programs;

WHEREAS, Basque pelota is a game of international renown, the maintenance and promotion of which will surely assist the tourism industry of the country;

WHEREAS, the tourism appeal of the game will be enhanced only with the government's support and inducement in developing the sport to a level at par with international standards;

WHEREAS, once such tourism appeal is developed, the same will serve as a stable and expanding base for revenue generation for the government's development projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, hereby decree as follows:

SECTION 1. Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, there is hereby granted to the Philippine Jai-Alai and Amusement Corporation, a corporation duly organized and registered under the laws of the Philippines, hereinafter called the grantee or its successors, for a period of twenty-five years from the approval of this Act, extendable for another twenty-five years without the necessity of another franchise, the right, privilege and authority to construct, operate and maintain a court for Basque Pelota (including the games of *pala*, *raqueta*, *cestapunta*, *remonte* and *mano*) within the greater Manila area, establish branches thereof for booking purposes and hold or conduct Basque pelota games therein with bettings either directly or by means of electric and/or computerized totalizator.

The games to be conducted by the grantee shall be under the supervision of the Games and Amusements Board, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall enforce the laws, rules and regulations governing Basque pelota as provided in Commonwealth Act numbered four hundred and eighty-five, as amended, and all the officials of the game and pelotaris therein shall be duly licensed as such by the Board.

SEC. 2. The grantee or its duly authorized agent may offer, take or arrange bets within or outside the place, enclosure or court where the Basque pelota games are held: *Provided*, That bets offered, taken or arranged outside the place, enclosure or