


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

7 JUN 30 P3:50

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

S. B. No. 207

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The history of "Arnis de Mano" also known as "Kali or Escrima" in the Philippines can be traced way before the arrival of the first Galleon ships in the Archipelago. The first recorded account of the practice of "Arnis" reveals that it is primarily used by natives for tribal combats. It has been called by different names during the time such as *kali* or *kabaroan* in Ilocos, *pagkalikali* in Cagayan, *kalirongan* in Pangasinan, *kaliradman* in Samar and Leyte, and in Bicol as *estocado* or *esgrima*.

During the Spanish occupation, "Arnis" evolved as a sport coming in three variations: *espada y daga* (sword and dagger), which uses a long and short stick *solobaton*, or single stick; and *sinawali*, which uses two sticks and employing movements similar to sawali weave. Some of our national heroes like Jose Rizal, Andres Bonifacio, Antonio Luna, Gregorio del Pilar, and Gregorio Aglipay were known to be practitioners of "Arnis".

Because of the intricate use and danger of "Arnis" which is one of the main weapons of our forefathers in the battle of Mactan, where Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan was killed, Spanish authorities in 1596 discouraged its practice.

All these historical accounts imply that "Arnis" really originated in the Philippines. Renowned encyclopedias refer to "Arnis" as Filipino Martial Arts. Similar native sports in other Asian countries like Korea's Taekwondo, Thailand's Muay Thai, and Japan's Judo to name a few have become internationally accepted sports.

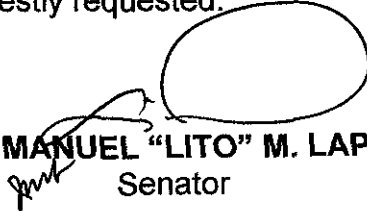
This bill simply seeks to make "Arnis" as the Philippines' National Sport. The game of "Sipa" also known as "Sepak Takraw" and recognized as the national sport of our country, originated in Malaysia dating back to the 15th century.

"Arnis" as competitive sports is now starting to make waves internationally as more and more countries are starting to practice it. This native sport in fact made its debut in the international sports competition after it was included as one of the regular medal sports in the recently concluded 23rd Southeast Asian Games held in the Philippines.

Its goal of penetrating a higher level in international sports competitions like the Asian Games and hopefully the world Olympics will be a milestone in

Philippine Sports since our expertise in the craft of "Arnis de Mano" will elevate our standing as among the world's best.

The favorable passage of this bill is earnestly requested.



MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

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AN ACT
DECLARING ARNIS AS THE NATIONAL SPORT OF THE PHILIPPINES

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

SECTION 1. **Declaration.** – Arnis is hereby declared as the National Sport of the Philippines.

Sec. 2. **Integration in the Physical Education Curriculum.** – In order to help propagate the practice as well as popularize Arnis in the country, all primary, secondary, and tertiary public and private educational institutions are mandated to include Arnis as a required subject in its Physical Education (PE) curriculum.

Sec.3. **Observance.** - In order to make the declaration of Arnis as a national sport meaningful and momentous, the month of April of every year shall be observed as "Arnis and Kali Month" to coincide with the commemoration of the "Battle of Mactan". All educational institutions and public offices throughout the country are hereby enjoined to give their support to the celebration by conducting their respective activities with remarkable participation from all their students and workers, respectively. The Philippine Sports Commission in coordination with the Department of Education and the Civil Service Commission shall spearhead, as far as practicable, the conduct of simultaneous festive celebration in all Provinces anytime during the month long celebration.

Sec. 3. Repealing Clause. - Any law, Presidential Decree, Issuance, Executive Order, Letter of Instruction, rules or regulations or portions thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 4. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,