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## ARNIS DECLARED AS THE NATIONAL MARTIAL ART AND SPORTS OF THE PHILIPPINES

Philippines. Congress (2007-10). "Republic Act No. 9850: An Act declaring Arnis as the national martial art and sport of the Philippines." Metro Manila: 14th Congress of the Philippines, Third regular session, 2009.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** Republic Act No. 9850, approved on 11 December 2009, defines the indigenous Filipino martial art of Arnis and declares it as the "Philippine National Martial Art and Sport." The Act then orders the Department of Education, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and the Philippine Sports Commission to promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to carry out its provisions.

(Quoted from an article by James U. Sy Jr.)

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo officially signed into law Senate Bill 1424, authored by Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri, as Republic Act No. 9850 "An Act declaring Arnis as the National Martial Art and Sport of the Philippines" on December 11, 2009.

RA 9850 makes Arnis as a requirement for the Physical Education (PE) course of the Department of Education, Culture, and Sports (DECS). The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) is the lead agency tasked to implement RA 9850. The PSC will be inscribing the symbol of Arnis, that of the fighting sticks, in its official seal.

It has been taught in schools that Sepak Takraw is the national sport of the Philippines and Dr. Jose P. Rizal is the national hero, alongside the national flower (Sampaguita), national tree (Nara), national bird (Philippine Eagle), etc. However, contrary to popular belief, no law or proclamation had named a national sport or national hero. Sepak Takraw is a Thai-Malay sport which many believe is Filipino.

Previously, there was HB030.64 "Act declaring Sikaran as the National Martial Art of the Philippines" filed by Cong. Isidro S. Rodriguez Jr. of the 2nd District of Rizal with co-authors Cong. Michael John R. Duavit, Cong. Ronaldo V. Puno and Cong. Victor R. Sumulong. It was filed on September 30, 2004 and was read on October 26, 2004.

If you are interested in learning martial arts, check out the class schedule offered by Doce Pares below.

# DOCE PARES

original multi style system  
National Martial Art and Sport of the Philippines  
eskrima kali arnis

Lancaster Gate (Thu 8pm)  
Fitness First Chatham, Kent (Fri 6.30pm)  
Fitness First Shepherd's Bush (Sat 6pm)  
Fitness First Leyton (Sun 6pm)  
Gymbox Covent Garden (Mon 8pm)

Solo Olisi (Single stick), Doble Olisi (Double stick), Baraw (Knife defense), Espada y Daga (Sword & Dagger), Bangkaw (Spear/Staff), Long Sword  
Mano-Mano (Empty Hand): Sumbag-Patid (Punch & Kick), Lubag-Torsi (Locks & Immobilisation), Lambos-Labay (Throws & Takedowns), Layog-Dumog (Grappling and Groundwork)

**Instructor:** Ermar 'Alex' Alexander

5th degree black belt

3x world champion

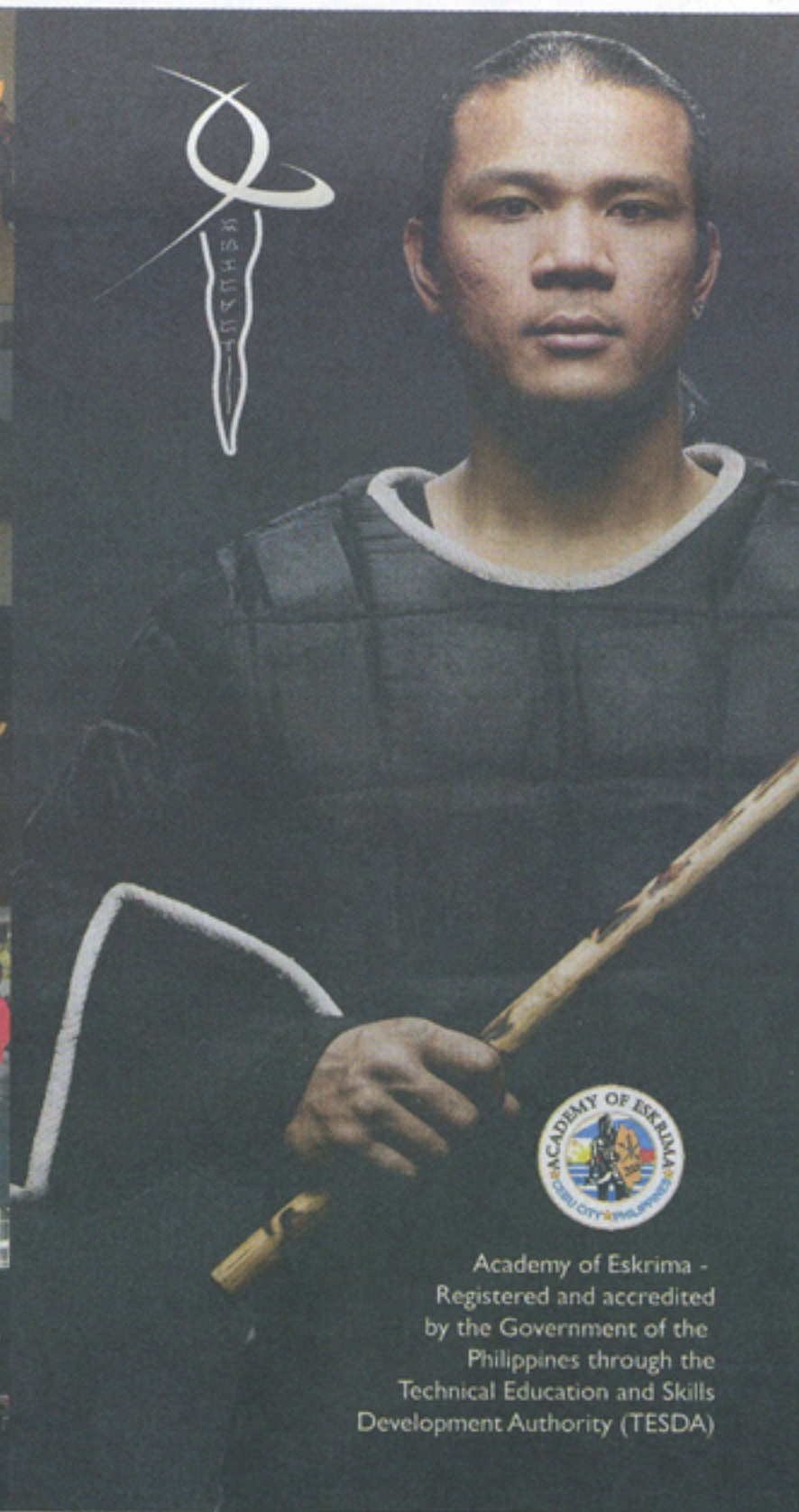
4x british low armour champion

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