

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9850, December 11, 2009]

**AN ACT DECLARING ARNIS AS THE NATIONAL MARTIAL ART
AND SPORT OF THE PHILIPPINES**

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

SECTION 1. It is the policy of the State to inculcate patriotism, nationalism and appreciation of the role of national heroes and symbols in the historical development of the country. Furthermore, the State must give priority to education, science and technology, arts and culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.

SEC. 2. *Definition of Arnis.* — Arnis, also known as Eskrima, Kali, Garrote and other names in various regional languages, such as *Pananandata* in Tagalog; *Pagkalikali*, Ibanag; *Kabaraon* and *Kalirongan*, Pangasinan; *Kaliradman*, Bisaya; and *Didja*, Ilokano, is an indigenous Filipino martial art and sport characterized by the use of swinging and twirling movements, accompanied by striking, thrusting and parrying techniques for defense and offense. This is usually done with the use of one (1) or two (2) sticks or any similar implements or with bare hands and feet also used for striking, blocking, locking and grappling, with the use of the same principle as that with the canes.

SEC. 3. Arnis is hereby declared as the Philippine National Martial Art and Sport. The official adoption of arnis as the national martial art and sport shall be promulgated by inscribing the symbol of arnis in the official seal of the Philippine Sports Commission and by making it as the first sport competition to be played by the participating teams on the first day in the annual Palarong Pambansa. The Philippine Sports Commission shall be the lead agency to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 4. The Department of Education, the National Commission for Culture and Arts, and the Philippine Sports Commission shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. Any provision of law, decree, executive order, rule or regulation in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions and/or purposes of this Act is hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

(Sgd.) JUAN PONCE ENRILE
President of Senate

(Sgd.) PROSPERO C. NOGRALES
Speaker of the House of