

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

First Regular Session
THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

House Bill No. **1173**

Introduced by Representative Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Though not yet officially recognized, Arnis has been widely accepted as the *de facto* Philippine National Sport in many regional as well as national athletic competitions. Modern Arnis is now also recognized as a distinct focus of martial arts, side by side with Karate, Judo, Taekwondo and the like, here and abroad.

In the same manner that we have a National Anthem, a National Flag, a National Fruit and other national symbols that give the Filipinos an identity distinct from other people from different countries, it is only sound and logical that we also have a national sport that would set our athletes apart from other competing teams in International Sports Competitions.

Not only will a declaration of a national sport give our athletes a national identity, it will also instill in our people a sense of nationalism, patriotism and national unity. Subsequently, this will give a recognition to a sport that has always been a part of the Philippine sports scene and an appreciation of the significance of this national symbol.

Arnis is a sport that is indigenous and uniquely Filipino. Among the many games in the country, it can be considered as one of our national cultural gems that completely originated from the Philippines.

This art was practiced primarily for self-defense by the Filipinos during the pre-Spanish period. While during the Spanish period, Arnis was used to fight against the Spanish invaders. The Filipinos stand against the superiorly armed adversaries in mortal combat in the areas of battle is now held in immortal inviolability by history. It would not be far-fetched to surmise that one of the earliest Filipino heroes, Lapu-Lapu, was an Arnis expert.

The timing for the passage of this bill could never be more opportune, for this is the time when asserting our national identity is a collective sentiment of the Filipino.

Thus, ~~urgent approval of~~ this bill is requested.



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

3rd District, Bukidnon

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

House Bill No. 1173

Introduced by Representative Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

AN ACT DECLARING ARNIS AS THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL SPORT

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

SECTION 1. Arnis is hereby declared as the Philippine National Sport.

SECTION 2. **Declaration of Policy.** 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, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.

SECTION 3. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** The Department of Education, Culture and Sports and the Philippine Sports Commission shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 4. **Provisions.** The official adoption of Arnis as The National Sport shall be promulgated by inscribing the symbol of Arnis in the Official Seal of the Philippine Sports Commission.

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

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

Approved.