

Pasuguan ng Pilipinas



Embassy of the Philippines

London

PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN LONDON JOINS OPENING OF UK ESKRIMA CENTRE

London, 4 August – Philippine Ambassador to the Court of St. James's' Antonio M. Lagdameo (far right) led the ribbon-cutting ceremony formally opening the UK Headquarters of the EA Doce Pares Gym in London that will teach the Philippine martial art *Eskrima*. The event featured guests from the UK Filipino community, live demonstrations from EA Doce Pares instructors and students, and a screening of the documentary "Eskrimadors" that chronicled the history of the Philippine discipline.



According to EA Doce Pares' Chief Instructor Ermar Alexander (second from right), *Eskrima* - also known as *Arnis* or *Kali* - has been in the UK for 40 years



with the British public showing increasing interest in the sport. EA Doce Pares first established a club in the UK in 2007, and since formed three other clubs around the London area. Its new headquarters is envisioned to be a centre for the promotion of Philippine culture and martial arts within the UK.

Eskrima is an indigenous Filipino martial art which utilizes weapons such as *olisi* (stick), *baraw/daga* (knife/dagger), *espada y daga* (sword and dagger) and *bangkaw* (staff/spear), as well as *mano-mano* (empty-hands) and *dumog* (grappling) techniques.



In 2009, Republic Act No. 9850 was passed declaring *Arnis* / *Eskrima* as the National Martial Art and Sport of the Philippines.
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