

OFFICIAL EVENT REPORT: 2026 JKA PHILIPPINES FRIENDSHIP GAME

Executive Overview: Unity in Motion

On March 29, 2026, the spirit of traditional Shotokan Karate resonated across the Philippines during the **2026 JKA Philippines Friendship Game**. This was not merely a tournament; it was a powerful demonstration of *Kime* (focus) and *Zanshin* (awareness), bringing together the heart and soul of the Philippine karate community in a vibrant display of technical excellence and mutual respect.

A Milestone Celebration of Leadership

The atmosphere was charged with profound gratitude as the event served as a grand tribute to the **79th Birthday of Shihan Ruperto Torres**, the esteemed Owner and Chairman of JKA Lipa City. Shihan Torres's lifelong commitment to the JKA way has been the bedrock of growth for countless practitioners. His presence served as a living reminder that karate is a lifelong journey of character refinement.

Strength in Numbers: Technical Impact

The event saw a massive turnout, signaling the strengthening grip of JKA standards in the region:

- **Massive Participation:** Nearly **300 elite competitors** took to the tatami, representing the future of the art.
- **United Front:** **19 JKA-affiliated dojos** participated, creating a unified platform that bridged local talent with international standards.
- **The Pursuit of Excellence:** Guided by the rigorous principles of the JKA World Federation HQ in Tokyo, the games focused on elevating the technical standard of every participant, ensuring the "One Strike, One Kill" (*Ikken Hissatsu*) philosophy remains the gold standard of our practice.

The Path to Mastery: Dan Examinations

Under the expert guidance of **Shihan Lito Luague (6th Dan)**, Chairman of JKA Philippines, the event concluded with high-stakes Dan Examinations. His unwavering leadership and technical scrutiny resulted in the promotion of **four new Shodans for JKA Lipa City**. These new black belts represent a fresh wave of leadership dedicated to preserving the JKA legacy.

Closing Reflection & The Road to 2027

The success of this gathering belongs to the collective effort of the parents, officials, coaches, and senseis who form the backbone of our community.

Looking Forward: The momentum is already building for this year's 3rd JKA Philippines International Gasshuku and Tournament in August 2026. The 2027 Friendship Game will mark a historic milestone—the **80th Birthday of Shihan Ruperto Torres**. We anticipate an even larger international presence as we continue to train hard, stay humble, and keep the flame of Budo burning bright.





