



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

REGION IV- A CALABARZON
CITY SCHOOLS DIVISION OF THE CITY OF TAYABAS

Advisory No. **326**, s. 2025
October 28, 2025

In compliance with DepEd Order (DO) No. 8, s. 2013
this advisory is issued not for endorsement per DO 28, s. 2001
but only for the information of DepEd officials,
personnel/staff, as well as the concerned public.
(Visit www.deped.gov.ph)

27TH WORD CUP PHILIPPINES – NATIONAL JOURNALISM CONFERENCE AND CONTEST

Word Cup Associated Editors Co. invites school paper advisers, administrators, and publication staff to the **27th Word Cup Philippines – National Journalism Conference and Contest** at the **National Press Club, Intramuros, Manila** on **December 5 – 7, 2025**.

Participants may join through this link: <https://bit.ly/27thWordCupPH>
Participation fee for early birds is **P 5,000 (on or before October 31, 2025)**.
Regular payment is P 6,500 (November 1, 2025 onwards).

For more details, please contact:

EUGENIO SONNY O. CALAPIT, Ed.D., En.P.

Executive Director

Word Cup Associated Editors Co.

No. 25 Kalayaan Avenue, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

Facebook: [facebook.com/associatededitorsco](https://www.facebook.com/associatededitorsco)

Telephone Number: 09541902247

Email Address: wordcup.philippines@gmail.com

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CID – 27th word cup philippines – national journalism conference and contest
REC7K1K8-006736/October 28, 2025

REQUEST TO CASCADE EARLY BIRD Sweet Deal to Elevate your Campus Journalism Skills at Word Cup, Dec 5-7, 2025, Intramuros, Manila

1 message

Masterclass Word Cup <masterclasswordcup@gmail.com>
To: Masterclass Word Cup <masterclasswordcup@gmail.com>
Bcc: tayabas.city@deped.gov.ph

Mon, Oct 20, 2025 at 8:00 AM

Dear Superintendent:

We are thrilled to invite you to the **27th Word Cup Philippines** happening **December 5–7, 2025** at the **National Press Club, Intramuros, Manila**.

Word Cup is the country's premier campus journalism training platform—bringing together **students, teachers, and school paper advisers** from across the Philippines for contests, press conferences, and practitioner-led workshops.

Highlights include:

- **Hands-on coverage of live press briefings**
- **Contests across multiple journalism categories** (writing, photojournalism, mobile journalism, editorial cartooning, and more)
- **Publication opportunities** for select outputs in national dailies
- **Recognition of schools and advisers** through the *Word Cup Ambassadors Award*

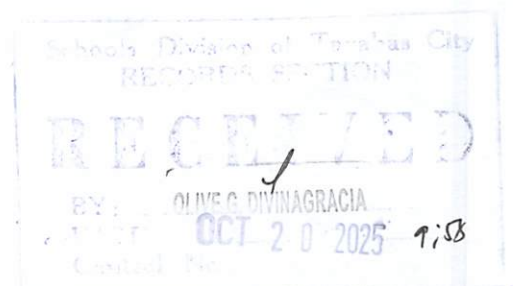
We would be most grateful if your office could circulate the attached information through your official channels and networks. We have attached the program and mechanics of participation. You may join through this link: <https://bit.ly/27thWordCupPH>. For inquiries, we may be reached through wordcup.philippines@gmail.com and 0954 190 2247 or visit our Facebook: Word Cup Associated Editors Co.

We look forward to welcoming your delegation in Manila. Together, let us empower the next generation of storytellers, truth-seekers, and nation-builders.

Warm regards,

Eugenio Sonny O. Calapit, Ed.D., En.P.
Executive Director
+63954 190 2247

 **27th-Word-Cup-Memo-Request.pdf**
7238K





19 Oct 2025

THE SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT

Through: The Division Journalism Supervisor

Dear Superintendent:

Warm greetings!

On behalf of NextNarrative, Inc. and our partners, we are honored to invite your school paper advisers, administrators, and publication staff to the **27th Word Cup Philippines**, to be held in the historic Intramuros, Manila on Dec. 5-7, 2025.

Word Cup has been a premier platform for campus journalists, advisers, and student leaders nationwide to sharpen their skills, showcase their talents, and engage in meaningful exchanges on the practice of journalism. Over the years, Word Cup has produced alumni who have gone on to excel in media, education, and leadership—testament to its impact in shaping young communicators.


The most recent event brought together around **600 participants** from across the country. This milestone gathering featured intensive training sessions, contests across multiple journalism categories, and a press conference with industry leaders. Schools that participated not only gained recognition through their students' achievements but also strengthened their reputation for nurturing excellence in communication, critical thinking, and creativity. Some of them even got published in major newspapers. We believe that the 27th Word Cup Philippines will bring added value to your school in the following ways:

- **Capacity Building for Campus Journalists and Advisers** – participants gain hands-on training and updated knowledge in journalism, media literacy, and digital communication from award-winning journalists, editors, and media professionals
- **Industry-standard national exposure** – students compete and collaborate with peers from other regions, broadening their perspectives and honing their competitive edge in covering live press briefings and simulations, just like real media practitioners
- **Publication Opportunities** – selected outstanding works are published in national dailies, giving participants the rare chance to see their voices amplified on a wider stage.
- **Institutional Prestige** – active participation positions your school as a strong supporter of youth development, freedom of expression, and responsible journalism in our **Word Cup Ambassador Award**
- **Community Impact** – student outputs and learnings can cascade to your school paper, broadcasting teams, and student councils, enriching the campus as a whole.

We would be most grateful if your office could circulate the attached information through your official channels and networks. We have attached the program and mechanics of participation. You may join through this link: <https://bit.ly/27thWordCupPH>. For inquiries, we may be reached through wordcup.philippines@gmail.com and 0954 190 2247 or visit our Facebook: Word Cup Associated Editors Co.

We look forward to welcoming your delegation in the historic National Press Club, Intramuros, Manila for the 27th Word Cup Philippines. Together, let us empower the next generation of storytellers, truth-seekers, and nation-builders.

With sincere regards,


EUGENIO SONNY O. CALAPIT, Ed.D., En.P.
Executive Director



SAMPLE MEMORANDUM

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region _____
Schools Division of _____
DIVISION MEMORANDUM
No. _____, s. 2025

TO: All Public and Private Elementary and Secondary Schools
FROM: Schools Division Superintendent
SUBJECT: Participation in the 27th Word Cup Philippines – National Journalism Conference and Contest
DATE: _____

1. The 27th Word Cup Philippines – National Journalism Conference and Contest will be conducted on December 5–7, 2025 at the National Press Club, Intramuros, Manila.
2. This national event is recognized as one of the country's longest-running and practitioner-led journalism programs, offering immersive training, press simulations, competitions, and recognition opportunities for student journalists and teacher-advisers.
3. Participation in this activity is aligned with the Department of Education's commitment to strengthening journalism, media literacy, critical thinking, and communication skills among learners.
4. Schools are hereby encouraged to send their School Publication Advisers (SPAs), campus journalists, and interested faculty to the said event. Expenses may be charged against school/division MOOE or local INSET funds, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.
5. For registration and other details, participants may visit the following link and contact the organizers directly:
 - Registration: <https://bit.ly/27thWordCupPH>
 - Email: wordcup.philippines@gmail.com
 - Mobile: 0954 190 2247
 - Facebook: Word Cup Associated Editors Co.
6. Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

[Name of Superintendent]
Schools Division Superintendent

27th Word Cup Philippines

Indicative Matrix of Activities*

5 December 2025 (Friday)			
2:00-5:00 PM	Distribution of IDs, kits and t-shirts (optional but encouraged)		
6 December 2025 (Saturday)			
7:00-8:00 AM	Distribution of IDs, kits and t-shirts		
8:00-11:30 AM	Opening Program & Press Conference		
11:30 AM – 12:45 PM	Lunch		
1:00-3:00 PM	News Writing (NW) <i>Pagsulat ng Balita</i>	Feature Writing (FW) <i>Pagsulat ng Lathalain</i>	Editorial Writing (EDW) <i>Pagsulat ng Pang-ulong Tudling</i>
3:00 PM	Output deadline for NW, FW and EDW participants		
3:15-4:00 PM	Mobile Journalism (MJ)	Photojournalism (PJ)	Sports Writing (SP) <i>Pagsulat ng Balitang Isports</i>
4:00 – 5:00 PM	Coverage of Sports event		
5:00 – 6:00 PM	Workshop (MJ, PJ, SP)		
6:00 PM	Output deadline for MJ, PJ and SP participants		
7 December 2025 (Sunday)			
8:00-10:00 AM	Science & Technology Writing (STW) <i>Pagsulat ng Agham at Teknolohiya</i>	Copyreading & Headline Writing (CHW) <i>Pag-uulo at Pagwawasto ng Balita</i>	Editorial Cartooning (EC) <i>Paglalarawang Tudling</i>
10:00 AM	Output deadline for STW, CHW and EC participants		
10:15- 12:00 NN	Watercolor Wellness		
12:00-1:30 PM	Lunch		
1:45-5:00 PM	Awarding Ceremony <i>Word Cup Ambassador Award (School Paper Advisers)</i> <i>Word Cup Institutional Ambassador Award</i> <i>Recognition of Exemplary Work</i>		

* SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Please note that the actual program starts on 6 December 2025. Participants arriving in Manila on 5 December 2025 can opt to claim their IDs, kits and shirts from 2:00 to 5:00 PM at the venue (TBA).

DETAILS OF REGISTRATION

Objectives of the press coverage and national contest:

1. Enhance skills in writing, photography, and mobile journalism.
2. Cover live press briefings.
3. Recognize and award exemplary work.
4. Publish quality outputs in national media.

Contests are **optional** and open to:

- Elementary, junior, and senior high school students
- Tertiary students
- School paper advisers, language and communication arts teachers, department heads, school heads, and public information officers

What to bring:

- *Mobile Journalism participants* – cellphone, lapel/mic, and/or laptop with video editing applications
- *Photojournalism participants* – cameras or cellphones



WORD CUP AMBASSADORS AWARD

- Aspirants must submit a **2 to 3-minute video message/testimonial** on how Word Cup workshops have benefited students, teachers, or schools. These will be posted on our social media pages.
- To qualify as an **Institutional Ambassador Awardee**:
 - Bronze: minimum of 10 participants
 - Silver: minimum of 15 participants
 - Gold: minimum of 20 participants

ACCOMMODATION AND LOGISTICS

Accommodation and transportation for activities outside the venue are **not included** and must be shouldered separately by participants.

T-SHIRT CUTOFF DATE

- Official Word Cup t-shirts are available at **₱400/shirt**.
- **Order deadline: 15 November 2025** (to allow time for production)



27th Word Cup Philippines Participation Fee per person	
Early bird <i>Payment made on or before 31 October 2025</i>	₱5,000
Regular <i>Payment made from 1 November 2025 onwards</i>	₱5,500
Meals 6 December – AM snacks, Lunch and PM snacks 7 December – AM snacks, Lunch and PM snacks	
Accommodation and transportation NOT included	
Participation fees may be deposited to: BDO Account Number 012330 081983 Account Name: Word Cup Associated Editors Co.	

No Word Cup event has ever been rescheduled or cancelled. For own cancellation in case of force majeure and government pronouncement, fees paid may be applied to the next Word Cup event.

Published Articles, 26th Word Cup Philippines

MANILA BULLETIN

Lifestyle YOUTH

B-S | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2025

EDITORS: REY ROBES ILADAN AND KRIZETTE CHU
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: JOHN ROLAND LEGASPI

lifestyle@mb.com.ph
manilabulletinlifestyle

VOICES

Leave my pen under the rubble

Student journalist reminds us of the vital role of truth-tellers

By **LETICIA PLANTILLA S. BATA, 16**
Grade 11, Kiligapan City National High School
Illustration by **ALTHEA NOLAN, 17**
Grade 12, Kiligapan City National High School

There is an ancient truth that could be made to shatter water from the summit of each person's mind, or their tongues could scratch the roof of their mouths with not a single drop of saliva left to spit out. But as long as their pens are filled with ink, journalists will carve their bones and assemble their truths to be laid among all the walls of the world.

With over 7,000 islands and a million reasons to go, the country full of rich people who give in every way to say "no." You can stand it from the way streets look of a faulty stretch and see it from the way two Filipinos could go to the same neighborhood, but only one has a home. For those to



The author

they are the ones who treat Filipinos as if they are not — something to be feared for. Because a hero is not some one you see on TV claiming they did something to change the day state that the Philippines has become, but someone who does not feel the need to be recognized.

Journalists — the silent truth, the state society, the silent truth,

not of its rage. There is truth to know, the world could end right now, and the last thing you would hear before going out to news that the world is ending, with a picture of the sun exploding in high definition.

Between the weight of stories and silence, the pen remains sharper than the heart. It is not just a tool, it is a lifeline, a rebellion raised against erasure. Each word written is a seed planted, one that will grow long after the hand that planted it has turned cold. For every attempt to bury truth, it resurfaces like a stubborn root breaking through cracked concrete, reminding those to power that silence is never permanent — that ink seeps even into the deepest fractures of history.

For every headline-crowd in rage, for every photo framed in peril, there lies a sacrifice too heavy to ignore. They know that the stories they tell may cost them their tomorrow,

yet they continue — because to abandon the truth is to abandon the people. Their ink is more than words on paper, it is blood. It is memory, it is a map toward a future where the rubble no longer buries the pen but lifts it higher, unshaken.

Write, I suppose. Publish. That is the goal and the cycle our journalists have to live. When another journalist, simply working inside their house, is silenced by those who literally live when all it takes is crumbling down right beneath their feet, with an unforgotten pen — you will find their pen under all the rubble.

Althea Nolan, 17, Grade 12, is an English student at Kiligapan City National High School. She is the editor-in-chief of The Fracture, the English publication. She has been a student journalist for seven years, specializing in feature writing.

The illustration is created by Althea Nolan, a Grade 12 STEM student from KCMHS, who is chief editorial cartoonist of The Fracture.

"Voices" is Manila Bulletin Lifestyle's dedicated space for young writers and future journalists as they talk about the topics that matter to their generation — from pop culture and social trends to mental health, education, and everything in between. If you have an idea you want to publish, send your submissions to wordcup@mb.com.ph with the subject line "Voices." (Article Title) — and as a DM @manilabulletinlifestyle on Instagram. We can't wait to read your stories!

Their ink is more than words on paper — it is blood, it is memory, it is a map toward a future where the rubble no longer buries the pen but lifts it higher, unshaken.

higher poetry, Filipino lives could be something as white noise is to sleeping, as a tall building is to Manila — it is just there.

Through those who carry a camera, those who would rather choose their lives over if there were a gun to their head.

With a brave face, they are able to offer the words that ordinary people could not offer to those with higher power. They down to deconstruct — record, document and the blood of their pens, too, would rather let themselves get buried before setting the world on fire.

EXPLORE MORE



Our brand, our style, our moment



Mapia launches first AI engineering degree to prepare future-ready students



Young innovators shine at the 2025 FedEx/IA International Trade Challenge in Singapore

Unlocking your full potential

L'Oréal Philippines, TESDA, PBSP come together to level-up the local hair dressing industry and open opportunities to the youth sector



JISELA MAC-FRUTOS

It may be a person's crown of glory, but in the Philippines, it can also be the key to a brighter future. This is why many young beauty glitz L'Oréal Philippines, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) have come together to transform hairdressing from a simple trade into a world-class profession, and empower young Filipinos to reach their creativity into a sustainable livelihood.

These organizations had officially sealed their partnership in an event held last Sept. 11, 2025, at L'Oréal Academy, The Palms West Tower, Ortigas Center in Mandaluyong City.

Elevating hairdressing to global standards

Under the agreement, L'Oréal will share its global expertise and resources with TESDA to update and elevate the Hairdressing NC II Certification, ensuring that Filipino learners master the latest trends, tools, and techniques. Participants will gain access to L'Oréal Color Certification, an internationally recognized program that trains stylists to use color professionally and creatively, equipping them to compete on a global stage.

To support students, L'Oréal will

also provide professional-grade product sets for hands-on learning and open its L'Oréal Academy in Mandaluyong City as an accredited training center. This means graduates will not only receive updated training but also a nationally recognized TESDA certification, giving them confidence to build careers in salons, spas, resorts, or even the booming digital creator economy.

"At L'Oréal, we believe that beauty has the power to transform lives," said Leticia Bata, L'Oréal Philippines country managing director. "By equipping Filipino stylists with world-class skills, we are creating livelihood opportunities and strengthening the future of Philippine hairdressing."

A path to dignity and opportunity

TESDA Secretary Jose Francisco Reyes emphasized that hairdressing is more than styling and coloring. "It is a craft that carries cultural meaning and offers dignity and independence."

"Hairdressing is not just about styling — it is culture, livelihood, and dignity," he said. "Through this partnership, we are empowering women,



out of school youth, and underemployed communities to turn their skills into sustainable careers."

This effort comes at a crucial time. With 27.76 million registered voters, the Philippine hairdressing sector continues to grow, creating immense demand for skilled professionals. Advanced training and certification are more important than ever to help Filipino stylists meet international standards and seize these opportunities.

Why youth should grab this opportunity

For today's Filipino youth — especially those seeking alternatives to a traditional four-year college course — TESDA's updated Hairdressing NC II program offers a compelling path. Hairdressing is a profession that rewards creativity, flexibility, and entrepreneurship. It allows graduates to start their own salons, work abroad, or build a following as freelance stylists and digital creators.

In an interview with Manila Bulletin Lifestyle, Reyes stressed that the course is open to everyone, particularly out-of-school youth, emphasizing that there are no prior education requirements to

'By equipping Filipino stylists with world-class skills, we are creating livelihood opportunities and strengthening the future of Philippine hairdressing.'

enroll, and best of all, the training is completely tuition-free.

Through the L'Oréal partnership, graduates will benefit from free or affordable training, access to world-class tools, and internationally aligned certifications that can open doors both locally and abroad. At least 10 aspiring hairdressers will be trained in 2025 alone, with many more to follow in the coming years.

For more information on enrollment and schedules for the Hairdressing NC II program, visit teda.gov.ph or contact your nearest TESDA training center.



LETICIA PLANTILLA S. BATA, 16, Grade 11, Kiligapan City National High School; ALTHEA NOLAN, 17, Grade 12, Kiligapan City National High School; JISELA MAC-FRUTOS, L'Oréal Philippines country managing director; JOSE FRANCISCO REYES, TESDA Secretary; JOSE FRANCISCO REYES, TESDA Secretary; JOSE FRANCISCO REYES, TESDA Secretary.

Published Articles, 25th Word Cup Philippines Ninth Masterclass

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16fQ42s8pV/>

MANILA BULLETIN

Lifestyle

YOUTH



B-8 | TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025

EDITORS: REY ROBES ILAGAN AND KRIZETTE CHU
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: JOHN ROLAND LEGASPI

lifestyle@mb.com.ph
manilabulletinlifestyle

VOICES

The youth must practice digital discernment

Scroll, think, decide

By MA. VINCE M. CABRERA
Hills District College
Basic Education Department



"Do you agree?" "Why yes?" "Why not?" "What do you mean?" "Why did they side with this?" These are the questions lingering in our ears and minds whenever we are asked about a hot topic. Now, mind if you share yours?

In a world where technology is rapidly evolving, the youth are most likely to be influenced. Growing up surrounded by gadgets and devices, this is bound to happen.

Everyone carries gadgets loaded with social media apps like Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, X, TikTok, Threads, and more, drawn to the endless "fun" they provide. Spending time on these apps, "doom scrolling," must seem enjoyable, as you're entertained without paying a cent.

Social media is a platform where not only can you connect and converse with friends and loved ones, but also access boundless and unfettered entertainment. You can share various information, interact with people, and build relationships. It can even be educational through free tutorials and lessons, "how-to" guides, and crash courses on YouTube. As long as you have



The author

internet access, the possibilities are endless. It can be a helpful tool to unwind and relax after a long, hectic day. Being on these social media platforms also allows users to follow people they admire for any reason—and that's where the sinkhole starts to widen. People are easily influenced, especially those who are quick to let their guard down. With the "right" structure of opinion and the presence of "right" data, anyone can be swayed. This fuels the spread of misinformation and the misuse of popularity because the internet is a wild place.

In any topic—beauty, travel, art, showbiz, and more—everyone is entitled to their own opinion. But once someone sees a post that contradicts their views, and it has massive engagement, something inside them may start to shift. Picture this: A teen is clueless about a certain debate and stumbles upon a post with 500,000 likes and 403 comments. What do you think they'll do? Of course, they'll read it. But the catch is: They're hearing only one side of the story. That's why having your own opinion matters. Hear it and own it, only after knowing and understanding the full story.

A post may offer facts, but that doesn't mean it's 100 percent accurate.

Artwork by Neilmond
Rayson Carman



According to Pew Research Center, 95 percent of teens worldwide use social media apps. That means 95 percent can scroll through TikTok, with a 50 percent chance of being influenced. Through engagements, this industry is fueled by influence, thanks to algorithms that tailor content for each user. It's like a mind game you face every day where you ask yourself, "For real?"—then end up agreeing with the post simply because it uses facts to sound "valid" and "favorable."

People are easily influenced, especially those who are quick to let their guard down.

Social media, especially in the age of artificial intelligence, is growing more powerful with time. Let's not underestimate, nor disregard, our ability to think critically and form our own opinions. We are all entitled, and we are powerful in our own right, and that's something no one can take away. We, the youth, must not let a single

post define what our hearts and minds truly stand for. To my fellow youth, I offer this reminder: Understand, reflect, and discern wisely, drawing from verified information and credible sources. Let truth guide your voice, not just what's trending.

Ma. Vince M. Cabrera is a student journalist for *The Horizon*, the official student publication of Hills District College - Basic Education Department. Her love for journalism blossomed at an early age, beginning in elementary when she joined various writing competitions. Her commitment deepened when she became part of *The Horizon*, where she continues to grow as a campus writer, recently participating in journalism seminars such as the 25th Word Cup held in Boracay.

"Voices" is Manila Bulletin Lifestyle's dedicated space for young writers and future journalists as they talk about the topics that matter to their generation—from pop culture and social trends to mental health, education, and everything in between.

If you have an article you want to publish, send your submissions to lifestyle@mb.com.ph with the subject line: "Voices (Article Title)" or send it to a DM @manilabulletinlifestyle on Instagram. We can't wait to read your stories!



Artwork by Ian
Catalanog

EXPLORE MORE

Published Articles, 25th Word Cup Philippines Ninth Masterclass

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16hTy8sMN1/>



Text by JESSTONY B. ANGEL

Cartoon by ALNICO FERNANDEZ JR.

With the rapid rise of artificial intelligence (AI), now capable of generating realistic videos, we must ask ourselves: are we embracing a revolutionary breakthrough, or have we just unlocked a powerful new channel for the spread of fake news?

AI is no longer a futuristic concept—it's here, woven into our daily routines. From drafting essays to generating images and automating paperwork, AI has become a convenient tool for many Filipinos. It's undeniable; AI makes life easier. But as with any powerful tool, there are downsides, especially when it's used to mislead, manipulate, or misinform.

Take, for instance, the AI-generated video involving the impeachment of the Vice President. In the video, "AI students" were shown responding to the issue. But if the goal was to gather genuine youth opinion, why rely on computer-generated personas? Why not amplify real voices?

The truth is, every AI-generated output is based on prompts and commands from a human operator. It reflects the intent, bias, and perspective of its creator. And when such content is framed as public opinion, it risks becoming a sophisticated form of disinformation.

Thankfully, some viewers were quick to notice: the visuals looked off, the settings unfamiliar, and the quality inconsistent. But not every Filipino has the awareness and ability to distinguish real from fabricated. In fact, AI-generated content is becoming so lifelike that even seasoned politicians and netizens have failed to spot that the video wasn't real.

That's alarming. If our public officials can be fooled, how much harder is it for the average Filipino, many of whom are still adjusting to this new digital reality? According to a study, majority of Filipinos either fall victim to fake news or face challenges navigating media and information online.

Social media, the most common source of disinformation, is particularly vulnerable. Unlike messaging apps or search engines, social platforms amplify content quickly and widely. This is why tech companies must step up: strengthen moderation, fact-check rigorously, and prevent false content from spreading unchecked.

Yet, platform moderation remains inadequate. While a third of Filipinos believe current efforts are enough, there are those who feel platforms are falling short in removing harmful or misleading posts. The message is clear: Filipinos want more accountability from these tech giants.

But we, the users, also bear responsibility. We cannot wait for platforms to fix everything. We must take proactive steps. So, what do we do?

Let's think of information like food. Before eating, you check for ingredients, inspect its freshness, and observe how it's presented. The same logic should apply online. Before believing a post or sharing a video, ask: Is it credible? Does it come from a reliable source? Is there anything suspicious about it?

This mindset of careful, critical consumption is our best defense in a digital world polluted by misinformation. If we can cultivate this skill, if we can tell the difference between truth and manipulation, between human-made and AI-generated, then we stand a chance of preserving the integrity of public discourse.

As AI continues to shape our digital future, we must remember: it is a double-edged sword. It can power progress, and at the flip side, propagate lies. At its core, AI is just a tool. Whether it builds a better society or breaks it apart depends on how we decide to use it.

Jesstony B. Angel, 20, from Solano, is a second-year Bachelor of Secondary Education student at Nueva Vizcaya State University (NVSU). He currently serves as the assistant managing editor of Varsity Courier, official student publication of NVSU. He was a participant of the 25th Word Cup held in Boracay.

'Voices' is Manila Bulletin Lifestyle's dedicated space for young writers and future journalists as they talk about the topics that matter to their generation—from pop culture and social trends to mental health, education, and everything in between.

If you have an article you want to publish, send your submissions to lifestyle@mb.com.ph with the subject line—Voices: (Article Title)—or send us a DM @manilabulletinlifestyle on Instagram. We can't wait to read your stories!



Published Articles on the 25th Word Cup Philippines

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/07/16/truth-and-trend>

Truth and trend

The digital war for the youth's opinion

By MICHAEL JAY DEMINGOY
 Illustration by LEONAR D. FOMA

Digital footprints are now louder than street protests. Social media has become the battleground of thoughts, opinions, and ideologies, especially among the youth. Platforms like Facebook, TikTok, X, and Instagram have grown into spaces where conversations unfold, sometimes even faster than traditional news can catch up. But with this access comes a challenge: How do we ensure that what shapes our youth is rooted in truth—and not just in trends?

Social media has empowered the voice of the youth like never before. It has enabled them to engage in social issues, speak out against injustice, and influence conversations that once seemed beyond their reach. With just one click, they can create movements, organize protests, or advocate for change. This digital empowerment is vital, but so is the need to complement it with accountability and awareness.

In this digital age, however, the spread of misinformation, disinformation, and fake news remains a

growing and glaring threat. Opinions are often formed not solely through facts, but also through edited content, misleading headlines, and viral posts designed to provoke emotion rather than encourage understanding. It becomes increasingly difficult to distinguish verified knowledge from manipulated narratives.

In this digital war, campus journalists are among the most affected. Many still struggle to distinguish truthful information from falsehoods. They trust the sources they see until they realize they have unknowingly become messengers of misinformation. While these campus journalists are expected to be the watchdogs in their respective schools, they are bombarded with so much unfiltered content that separating fake from real information becomes a challenge.

Therefore, campus journalists must be equipped with the tools to verify sources, fact-check claims, and report issues that matter. But they cannot do this alone. For example, school paper advisers (SPAs) are not only mentors as they are also the frontline defenders of truth. Tasked with guiding the youth to become vanguards



CARTOON BY LEONAR D. FOMA

of ethical journalism and responsible digital citizenship. The SPAs are responsible for nurturing a generation that can resist misinformation and rise above digital manipulation.

When emotions are weaponized and misinformation is left unchecked, critical thinking becomes more crucial than ever. Algorithms—systems that rank user-provided signals to determine what type of content to display—often trap users within echo chambers,

exposing them only to opinions that reinforce what they already believe. This narrow perspective threatens healthy discourse.

To maximize social media's potential, the government, schools, and communities must work hand-in-hand to promote digital literacy and access to truthful information. Although social media shapes opinions, it must not be left unchecked. In the hands of informed and conscientious



THE AUTHOR, Michael Jay Demingoy

youth, it becomes not just a platform, but a powerful instrument for change.

As critical thinkers, now is the time for us to advocate for truth in the name of transparency and good governance through access to accurate and verified information. For in this ongoing digital war, social media is shaping opinions and, ultimately, the direction of our nation.

The author is the school paper adviser of *The Hillside Echo*, the official student publication of Filamer Christian University in Roxas City, Capiz.

Published Articles on the 25th Word Cup Philippines

6 **Abante TONITE**

EDITORIAL

BALIK-ESKUWELA



Abante TONITE
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Ang anumang opinyon, mga isulat at mga pahayag ng mga manunulat dito ay sariling pananaw ng mga may-akda. Ang patnugutan at ang pahayagan sa kabuuan ay walang anumang pananagutan.



ANG SA AKIN LANG
Julius Revilla
Masalan ang parawan sa malalang buhay ng bansa nitong nagdaang weekend. Pero pagdating ko sa lila ng Boracay—naka-isa ang kumitang. Masilwalat ang dapat, at duma pa rin ang silindog ng puting buhangin. Kaya matapos ang seremonyang buhay ng akong buhay—ang magdagay ng lecture—nakaligtas pa ako! Nakapagtaposaw sa dapat.
Tila walang ulan sa siglang hard ng Boracay. Buhay na buhay ang negosyo kumitang sa simula ng klase. Paka ang mga kumitang, tuloy ang mga island hopping tour, at nag-unang buhay na rin sa panahon ang mga trike at e trike sa giling ng kalidad.
Ngunit sa likod ng ganda ng sila, may agam-agam akong nararamdaman mula sa ilang lokal na residente. Kanunod ito ng buhatang may mung kabung stapo ang 2.54 kilometer Boracay Bridge na mag-ugay mula Caticlan Airport hanggang mimitong sila. Bagama't malaking tulog ang

Panagutin nagpapakalat ng kasinungalingan



TILAMSIK NI IGAN
Arnold Clavio
"The lowest form of popular culture—lack of information, misinformation, disinformation and a contempt for the truth or the reality of most people's lives—has overrun real journalism."
—Carl Bernstein
Sa halip na umakso ng pananagutin matapos magdagay na pake ang video, ang nagging tugon ni Sen. Bato Dela Rosa sa publiko ay murhin pa ang mga nagdagay ng babala: "Lolos n'yo! Mga ulol kayo!"
Bukod sa ang kanyang ginawa ay nakakahiya

ito rin ay lubos na nakakabahala—ang nagpakalat ng maling impormasyon sa publiko.
Posible lang may nalabag etika na tungkulin sa katulad niya na halal na opisyal?
Bakit ito ay mapanganib sa isang demokrata? Kung hindi—ang pagpapakalat ng isang AI-generated deepfake ay may maraming epekto sa karapatan ng mamamayan sa tamang impormasyon.
Bilang isang Senador, inasahan mula sa kanya ang pagiging totoo at tapat sa kailanman ay hindi magiging maaliwalan ng maaliwalan sa mamamayang Pilipino.
Sa ngayon, wala pang batas sa Pilipinas na tutukoy sa pagpapakalat ng maling impormasyon gamit ang AI.
Pero may mga umiiral naman na batas para ito ay matugunan tulad ng Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012 (RA 10175)—sakop ng batas na ito ang online libel at false information dissemination. Pero maari naman itong ayondahan sa 20th Congress at nama ang AI at deepfake.

Nandyan din ang Article 19, Civil Code of the Philippines na nagasaad na "Every person must, in the exercise of his rights and in the performance of his duties, act with justice, give everyone his due, and observe honesty and good faith."
Kung isang halal na opisyal ang inidagay nagpakalat ng kasinungalingan, ito'y malinaw na paglabag sa naturang code.
Puwede rin nating tularan ang Singapore's Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act (POFMA). Sa polisiya nito, ang mga government officials ay ipwedeng mangatagap nagpapakalat ng disinformation.
Halimbawa, kung isang public official ang nagpapakalat ng kasinungalingan, ito'y malinaw na paglabag sa naturang code.
Sa ngayon, may ginawa ng akoyon ang Facebook para di na kumalat ang maling impormasyon ni Sen. Dela Rosa.
Walang personalan.

Sara impeachment pilot tinotokhang, pero humihinga pa rin



YARI KA
Ronald Llamas
Sa isang tunay na demokrasya, ang impeachment ay hindi lang legal na proseso, ito ay isang makapangyarihang sandata ng mamamayan laban sa mga pinakamatatagan na lider na lumabag sa tiwala ng taumbayan. Pero paano kung ang mga "buses" na dapat maghugay sa sila ring tagapagtanggol ng inakusahan? Paano kung ang Senado ay hindi na hukuman ng katotohanan, kundi pagod na ng sabwatan?
Gusto ang mala telebisyonang itaywagong kinacaulikan natin ngayon sa impeachment ni Vice President Sara Duterte.
Hindi pa man nagsisimula ang aktuwal na impeachment trial ni Vice President Sara Duterte, ang apat na senador—Sara Dela Rosa, Christopher "Bong" Go, Imee Marcos, at Robin Padilla—ay nagpuot ng tobes hindi bilang mga impartial senator judges kundi mga abogado ng impeached na buse presidente. Kiting kita ng mamamayan kung paano sila akibong kumilos upang harapin, pahinan, at tuldukan ang impeachment, bago pa ito humantong sa katarungan at katotohanan.
Una na ryan si Bato, na walang paligay-igay sa kanyang mga pahayag na gusto niyang patayin

ang impeachment. Parang EJK lang. Mabilis, brutal, at walang due process. Pero ano pa ba ang asahan natin sa maimong utak at tagapagpatupad ng Oplan Tokhang? Kung mimitong mga mamamayan ay walang habas na pinatapat noon, impeachment pa kaya, lalo na't ang nakakalang ay ang anak ng kanilang ama?
Sumunod naman si Bong Go, ang eternal sidekick ng mga Duterte. Tahanin man sa pananalita, malibanang saan ang pagkiling. Siya ang isang sumunog sa maimong ni Bato na ibabaw agad ang reklamo. Inuam din ni Bato noong kampanya na kapag hindi sila nakalusot sa eleksiyon, mar labaki ang posibilidad na umunad ang impeachment process.
Hindi rin magpapahuli si Imee. Habang umiiral ang isang impeachment, nandoon siya, hindi na Senado, kundi sa Malaysia kasama si Sara. Sa halip na magpakita ng distansya sa akusado, pinili niyang sumama ito sa mga "official functions." Tila ba sinasabi niyang hindi lang siya kasabay kundi kakampi, kabigyan, at travel buddy pa. At noong tanungin tungkol sa impeachment, ang sagot niya ay akanya lamang daw ito ng ora.
At syempre, si Robin Padilla, ang bida ng sarili niyang Duterte Forever teleserye. Sumama sa Malaysia, sumama sa The Hague, at sa harap ng kamayay biglang sumagay ng loya. "Bakit sumagay ako, Duterte pa rin ako?" Kailan kaya ang bonfire sa Senado? Kailan kaya siya magpa-pasaway? O baka naman kukaha siya ng stunt double? Kung hindi pa yan bae, ewan ko na lang.

Habang ang apat ay hayagan sa kanilang pagkiling, si Senate President Chito Esguerra naman ay may sariling diskarte. Hindi raw siya tumututol, pero halatang pinapabagal, pinapaligay, at pinapaligay ang proseso sa pamamagitan ng technicalities at procedural gymnastics. Kung bago sa basketball, siya ang player na dribble lang ng dribble, pero ayaw i-shoot ang bola.
At ngayon, ito ang nakakalangitok: para sa mga ito, ang impeachment ay laro lang ng mga makapangyarihang. Wala sa kanila ang tunay na interes sa makamtan ang hustiya. Para sa kanila, sapat na ang loyalty sa kapareho at kanilang political agenda kaya loyalty sa taumbayan.
Pero may pag-asa pa. Sa kabila ng labat ng ito, buhay pa ang impeachment. Naghuhugay, at baguh, pero humihinga pa rin. Pilit nilang tinotokhang, pero buhay pa rin. Sa kabila ng kalawa't kanang pagharang, na convene na ang Senado bago impeachment court. Nansunsa na rin ang mga senador bilang hukon. At napatagaw na si VP Sara Duterte. Hindi nila tuluyang napatay ang proseso.
Hindi pa tapos ang laban.
Ngayon, ang bola ay nasa kamay na ng mamamayan. Ang impeachment ay hindi lang laban ng ilang senador, ito ay laban ng sambayan. At kung ang Senado ay papikit, pipit at bingi, kailangan ng mga mamamulan at kumilos.
Gisingin natin ang proseso ng simula ng pagpapahuli. Palakasin natin ang sigla ng hustiya. At dapat ito: ang pagpapahuli ng mga nagpapakalat ng kasinungalingan.
Dapat bigyan ng bagong buhay at sigla ng mamamayan ang impeachment. Dahil kung hindi tayo kailan, walang paninindigan ang Senado. Pero kung tayo'y sabay sabay na tumindig, walang makakapig sa pagpapahuli natin ng katotohanan at katarungan.

Agam-agam ng mga taga-Bora

proyekto para sa logines at daloy ng mga turista, isa ang tingin ng mga taga sila.
"Paano na kamo?" harang ng isang bangkero. Kung dati'y araw-araw ang byahing ng bangka, baka sa tulog ng tubig, malawacan na ito—at karama ang kita nito. Ganoon din ang tanong ng ilang van, jeep, at trike drivers.
May hangkop sa loob nito habang kinakausap ang maraming epekto ng tubig sa kanilang kabuhatan.
Hindi ito haka haka lamang. Isa ito sa mga aktuwal na kinuwentong tinatagay sa experiential journalism training workshop ng 25th Word Cup PH. Disalukan ito ng mga higit 70 campus journalists at school paper advisers mula Luzon, Visayas at Mindanao.
Ang kagandahan ng workshop na ito? Hindi ito nanatili sa loob ng session hall. Hindi lang betura ang natanggap ng mga estudyante—na nanatili din nila kung paano magdagay tunay na mamamahayag. May on the spot interviews, actual coverage, field story hunt, at hands-on news

production tasks.
Isa ito sa mga namamahayag speaker. Itinuro ko ang News Writing at Mobile Journalism—kung paano gumagana ng bulita gamit ang cellphone lang, paano magdagay mapanuri sa impormasyon, at paano sulayin ang kinuwentong malabaga sa mga tao.
At habang tinutugon ko ang mga butang mamamahayag na sinasapit kaharap ang loob ng komunidad, nung ko ito ang tunay na sayaw ng panamahayag—ang dapat ang mga isyung malalapit sa puso ng tao, at pag-uapang ito sa liwanag ng katotohanan.
Kaya isang malaking kiado sa managmagan at organizing team ng Word Cup PH, sa mga guro't tagapagpatay na campus journalists na kailan maulan, sumagay sa aral at karanawan.
Ang sa akin lang—sa kabila ng ulan, nang maawa na kinakausap ang nilalabo nito—isa ang bayang may malayang panamahayag at may puso ng hangad ng maging

DWSD naglaan ng halos P5.1B para sa feeding program ngayong Hunyo

Simulan na ng Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) ngayong buwan ng Hunyo ang supplemental feeding program para sa mga naka-enroll sa child development centers na tatagal ng 120 araw.
Sa press briefing sa Malacañang, sinabi ni DSWD Secretary Rex Gatchalian na makikilahang dito ang 1.5 na kindergarten students at araw-araw ay magkakaroon ng hot meals ang mga ito na nagkalahaga ng P25 pesos mula sa dating kinepes noong nakalipas na taon.
Bukod sa hot meals, makakatanggap din ng fresh milk ang mga batang undernourished na nagkalahaga ng P22.
"This will ensure na sapat iyong nutritional value na natatagagap ng mga kabataan na maging kalalabok nitong supplemental feeding program sa ating mga child development centers," ani Gatchalian.
Ang hot meals ng mga bata ay nakapagprograma sa "Pingang Pinyo" ng National Nutrition Council at ang mga local government unit unit ang bibili sa mga magrarak, alin sunod sa alituntunin ng NNC kung ano ang dapat na ipakin sa mga bata.
Ang hot meals ay lulutuin sa community kitchens o central kitchens sa day care centers. (Aileen Talipog)

Published Articles on the 21st Word Cup Philippines

Inquirer: Uptrend in science museums investment to benefit DepEd learners

bit.ly/InquirerOn21stWordCup



REGIONS

Uptrend in science museums investment to benefit DepEd learners

INQUIRER.net / 02:27 PM May 10, 2024



Dr. Eugenio Sonny O. Calapit, executive director of Word Cup Associated Editors Co., welcomes some 250 campus journalists to the 21st Word Cup National Journalism Conference and Contests at Angels Hill, Tagaytay.

MANILA, Philippines—A young campus journalist struggled to free a rope trapped inside a one-meter tall, square-shaped metal device. A puzzle master quickly intervened, demonstrating how to navigate the tubular labyrinth.

This "rope puzzle" was among the many interactive exhibits that captivated the 250 campus journalists and school publication advisers attending the 21st Word Cup National Journalism Conference and Contests held in Tagaytay City on May 4-5.

May Pagsinohin, executive director of the Philippine Science and Technology Foundation (PSTF), explained that science museums like these are designed to pique children's curiosity and interest in science.

While the PSTF-operated Science Centrum in Marikina remains closed to the public despite the lifting of health restrictions, Pagsinohin acknowledges that investment in science museums in the Philippines falls short compared to ASEAN neighbors.

EDITORS' PICK

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Manila Times: Campus journalism can boost interest in science

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B12 **Campus Press** THURSDAY May 9, 2024

The Manila Times
www.manilatimes.net



Word Cup Associated Editors Co. Executive Director Eugenio Soruy Calapit welcomes participants to the 21st Word Cup National Journalism Conference and Contests at Angeles Hill, Tagaytay City, on May 4 and 5, 2024. Campus journalists take videos and photos of the event as a reference for their outputs. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

'Campus journalism can boost interest in science'

SOME 263 campus journalists and school paper advisers from across the country can help "improve public understanding and appreciation of the value of science in everyday life," Science Communicators Philippines Inc. (SciCommPh) head Ruby Roan-Cristobal said during the 21st Word Cup National Campus Journalism Press Conference and Contests.

Roan-Cristobal, senior lecturer at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) College of Development Communication, saw the need for scientists and those in the applied sciences to speak more publicly while challenging campus journalists to serve as "microphones" to hype interest in the field.

"Science communication and education help inform policymakers and provide sound bases for decision-making," she said.

The Word Cup, held at Angeles Hill in Tagaytay City on May 4 and 5, carried the theme "The Role of

Science Museums in Promoting A Science Nation: Fostering Interests in Science, Math and STEM-Related Courses and Careers."

Roan-Cristobal also hosts the Sunday radio program "Radio Hemo" on DZRH and has been the chief science research specialist at the Department of Science and Technology (DoST) for 46 years.

She said, "NGOs are more vocal" when many scientists who generate actual knowledge through research are often out of the picture.

Roan-Cristobal was with co-presenter May Paginohin, who

manages the Philippines' first museum dedicated to science, during the conference.

Paginohin, executive director of the Philippine Foundation for Science and Technology, who oversees Science Centrum, shared the views of Roan-Cristobal that scientists need to do more to help promote interests in the field, which in turn may prod public officials to fund science education.

She observed that public and private investments in science museums remain low.

While Science Centrum, a privately operated museum dedicated to promoting interests in the sciences, has served over a hundred thousand visitors over the years, the proportion remains low compared to around 26 million learners nationwide.

Paginohin said a financial investment of about P5 million is needed to create a regional science centrum. The organization currently has eight regional hubs in partnership with local governments.

Eugenio Calapit, organizer of the 21st Word Cup, said the event featured two of the country's experts "as a necessary first step in voluntarily assisting the Department of Education (DepEd) in promoting science and math education in view of the very low Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) ranking of 15-year-old learners in the country."

"They say that it takes a community to raise a child, and we add, properly communicating with them the issues and challenges can help address these concerns," Calapit, a former media professional with a doctorate and advanced degrees in education and management, added.

He added that the participants will submit their contest entries based on the information gathered from the press conference and their follow-up interviews with the presenters. After that, the evaluation will be done by invited Word Cup fellows, who are media practitioners. THE MANILA TIMES

UST summit advances church heritage conservation

THE University of Santo Tomas (UST) is hosting the National Summit of Church Archives and Heritage Workers starting May 8, to May 11, 2024, at the Multi-Function Room, 2nd Floor, Buenavista Garcia Paredes OP Building.

The summit has invited diocesan and religious archivists, parish secretaries, diocesan chancellors, and religious congregation secretaries, those appointed and directly involved in archiving roles, to participate in an academic and professional capacity-building event aimed toward the conservation of church archival heritage.

It will recognize the Society of Ecclesiastical Archivists of the Philippines (SEAP) membership from around the nation; reinforce the involvement of the archdiocese, dioceses, religious archivists, parish secretaries and records custodians in the implementation and fulfillment of the Church records preservation; discuss existing practices and explore the pivotal role of archivists and heritage workers; and provide knowledge and skills in managing the Church's cultural heritage records.

National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) Chairman Victorino Manalo graced the event and delivered a special message.

On the first day of the summit on Wednesday, UST Faculty of Civil Law Dean Nilo Divina delivered the keynote address on "Intellectual Property Law - Applicable to Ecclesiastical and Archival Record and Domain," Prof. Regalado Irota Jose discussed "The Status Quo of the Catholic Church Heritage in the Philippines," and Commission on Cultural Heritage Executive Secretary Fr. Milan Ted Torralba tackled "Archives and Canon Law."

Archdiocese of Manila Chancellor Fr. Isidro Manay spoke on "The Interplay of the Work of Diocesan Chancellors, Parish Secretaries and Archivists," while NCCA National Committee on Archives head Emma Muñoz Rey led the "Panel Discussion on Government Archives." Jacklyn Joyce Delgado from the National Archives of the Philippines and Vilma Rodriguez from the Senate of the Philippines, Archives.

Also included were lectures from Fr. Jonas Ayanan of the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro, who headed the discussion on Diocesan Archives.

Meanwhile, Sr. Wilma Bumbagabang, OP from the St. Catherine of Siena Archives, Fr. Mervin Lomague, OP from the Dominican Archives, and Fr. Nestor Impelido from the Salesian Archives jointly discussed the topic of Religious Archives and Family Search Philippines.

Archives@ust.edu.ph for more information. TMT

BulSU hosts intl education summit in Malolos

BULACAN State University (BulSU) will host the 1st International Education Summit (IES) 2024 at the Malolos Sports and Convention Center in Malolos, Bulacan, from May 14 to 16, 2024, said BulSU President Teddy San Andres.

With the theme "Sustainability for Quality and Excellence Through Transformational Outcomes-Based Education (OBE)," the summit aims to advance sustainability and excellence in education.

Guests of honor and keynote speakers are Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Chairman J. Prospero de Vera III and Sen. Joel Villanueva. De Vera, represented by CHED Region 3 Director Lora Yusi, will speak about "Key Higher Education Trends and Issues to Know."

Speakers during the plenary sessions include CHED OIC-Deputy Executive Director Lily Freida Milla to talk on "HEI Internationalization: Meeting the Global Set-up

— Graduates' Employability and Capability" and "Father of OBE" William Spady to speak on "Quality Education Through OBE."

Mapua University Institute for Digital Learning Dean Jonathan Macayan will talk on "Transformational OBE: Challenges and Benefits" and "Designing OBE Framework, Instructional Materials and Methods and Strategies."

Mapua University professor and Association of Education Researchers and Trainers President Jaime Pinaga will talk on "Assessing Outcomes: Skills and Competencies and Providing Feedback," and Philippine Normal University professor Felice Yeban will speak on "Empowering Leaders and Faculty Toward a Sustainable Quality Education."

The IES 2024 is expected to gather participants across the academic, particularly members of the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges, government sector and nongovernment organizations to discuss the crucial



MMSU prof wins Swiss Invention silver

1. FORTITUDE members of the Manila Times... 2. ... 3. ... 4. ...

Sample Workshop Output of Previous Word Cup Masterclass (14th Word Cup)

Environment News Thursday, May 30, 2019 8-7
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Boracay RENAISSANCE

A year after its closure, what now?

Text by JOHANNES L. CHUA

There is always an opportunity when it comes to Boracay. No doubt, it is the country's most famous island, consistently ranking as one of the top 10 most beautiful islands in the world. Therefore, it came as a shock to many in the island that the six-month closure and rehabilitation was implemented. Visiting Boracay once again after a year of its closure, one can see a stark difference. The island is much cleaner. There is a sense of community that there are also the occasional volunteers.

During the 14th Word Cup held in Boracay, we invited local journalists, students and advisers - to share their photos and words on how they see the new Boracay. They saw hope but they also felt that the task ahead to fully heal Boracay is not yet finished.

MAKING SENSE - Tourists enjoy relaxing on the beach, viewed from the White Beach which has expanded from up to 25 meters from the shoreline. The photo was taken by 14th Word Cup Philippines Journalism participants, mostly school paper advisers and campus journalists from around the country under the theme "Prospects of a Restored Ecology and Tourism: Opportunities and Challenges in Boracay and Beyond." (Photo by Esther Lander S. Meligona/Capitool Hill Elementary School)

BE HUMANS, NOT PLASTIC

Text by MARK JULIUS D. FUENTES

Malay's Municipal Ordinance No. 188 prohibiting the use of disposable plastic items among hotels, resorts, restaurants and business establishments is proof that the local government of Malay, Aklan has learned its lesson. Nevertheless, despite the six-month-long "nightmare" of business during the island's rehabilitation, plastics are still freely accessible in some souvenir stores, convenience stores and food stalls.

Nobody knows when single-use plastic bags became so pervasive and prevalent. They are accessible everywhere because they are cheap, useful and convenient. We find them - not just in Boracay - but in various places where people purchase goods especially in the markets because of convenience. But at what expense?

Ben campaigns identify the harm plastic bags can cause, including how it affects aquatic animals through "ingestion and entanglement." Even when plastic products break down, the plastic that goes into the ecosystem with long-term negative effects.

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the plastic ban implemented by Malay is correct but tourists admit that the ban is just a form of "suggestion" as single-use plastics are still visible.

Tourist or not, we have to understand that in order to help Boracay fully heal, we must be disciplined. If the government has prohibited smoking, drinking and eating on the beach to minimize trash with "pollution control officers" to notify and capture litterbugs, then all of us have to follow. This is the law of the land and not merely a suggestion.

Our plastic bag habit causes environmental pollution, and so it only makes sense to start taking common sense measures to transition to more degradable or reusable items.

Climate change and ecological degradation are global problems for which there are no single nor simple solutions. It is our "sustainable" with plastic will again transform Boracay Island into a dump, then we are bound to fail - wasting money, resources, effort and time.

Let us all become humans. No to plastic!

The author is a teacher at Magsaysay Elementary School in Malay City, Cebu. A school paper adviser for 12 years, he is president of the Association of School Paper Advisers of School Division Office 12, Division Office of DepEd Region 6.

CHALLENGING ENHANCEMENT

Text by ANNA MARIE D. PUENGA

A few months of being placed under rehabilitation, Boracay opened its doors in October of 2018. That October was indeed historic and momentous for it was considered as the rebirth of a better Boracay. The repairs of the sewerage system and the roads together with the standardization of how hotels and resorts should manage their waste are part of the things that the government has done that has temporarily disrupted the business in the area.

After the six-month rehabilitation, there is a general feeling that it is just the start. The people need to ensure the sustainability of environmental efforts in order to prevent recurrence of what caused the closure of the island.

Dr. Al Orloff, the Deputy Ground Commander of the DENR National Task Force Boracay, said that the sustainability of the rehabilitation should not fall wholly on the shoulders of the government.

Sustaining the positive effects of the cleanup of Boracay entails a joint effort with the residents and even tourists and businessmen. This can be done by following the set of rules, by being a responsible tourist and by helping spread the positive effects of sustainable tourism.

MOTHER AND CHILD - Both local residents, they do their daily routine of putting up litter left by tourists along Boracay's famous White Beach. In time, this is their way of cleaning their home for their island. For the moment, it is teaching kids the importance of sustainable tourism. (Photo by Alver B. Lajera/Division Office of Zamboanga)

SUSTAINING PARADISE

Text by MARIA JOSEPHINE A. PLEJOS

A time, Boracay's sustainable tourism was a long shot. But it was worth trying and perhaps worth duplicating.

It has been months now since the reopening of Boracay after its six-month rehabilitation. Changes are evident: Wider beachfront, quieter atmosphere, better road system and closure of erring establishments. However, there is a downside, too. According to Deputy Ground Commander of Task Force Boracay Dr. Al Orloff, when asked about the state of discipline among locals and tourists, he said that it is a "cat-and-mouse activity."

The Task Force Boracay has been very firm in implementing its rules to ensure sustainable tourism practices in the island. It may be able to do so until April 2021 when the two-year implementation of the program will conclude. But even if Filipinos will have a clear direction on what sustainable tourism is all about, could the ordinary Juan dela Cruz follow the rules even when no one is watching?

While rehabilitating Boracay is considered as the DENR's biggest accomplishment in 2018, measure on sustaining the program should be put in place.

Dr. Orloff believes that a strong and consistent law enforcement can sustain the program. Yet, he cautioned that we cannot have a cat-and-mouse law enforcement system. There should be ways to address other concerns such as the livelihood of ordinary residents up to the concerns of big businessmen who have invested a lot of money in the island.

Boracay's sustainability is just the start of the changes we need in the Philippines. If we can do it here in this island, then it can be done anywhere else in the country.

The will to change should come from the hearts of every Filipino. Law implementers should consistently enforce what is right and prosecute violators - no matter who they are. The political will of leaders should be made of steel but also flexible enough to have a vision and put in place long-term solutions to problems.

The Duterte administration has already started the change and it showed in how an island dubbed a "responso" can transform to become a paradise once again.

Sustaining this change requires that each Filipino also change their old, backward way of thinking. It is not too late!

The author is a principal of Magsaysay Elementary School in Malay City. She teaches science and health subjects and is a journalism adviser.

DESERVING BORACAY

Text by DOLORES L. CARRION

Let us all become tourist police. Let us become information multipliers.

These were the words of Dr. Al Orloff, the Deputy Ground Commander of the DENR National Task Force Boracay as he urged responsible tourists to share their stories about the rehabilitation of the island.

A reliable survey reported that 82 percent of adult population in Boracay has used technology and social media to communicate and spread information about updates and progress about the island.

The government also did its part. It intensified the monitoring of waste disposal and imposed higher penalties to those who will be caught violating environmental laws.

However, these efforts need to have been taken for granted by some businesses. A few weeks ago, the local government has closed some establishments found to be non-compliant with regards to business permits including sanitary and environmental inspection requirements.

With all the efforts - from government and people's organizations - to restore Boracay to its pristine condition, there are still existing factors such as people's resistance to change and discipline. What else can Boracay do from now on to pay for what they had served?

Boracay needs everyone's help. No matter who you are, you have a responsibility to take care of the environment. Become a responsible citizen police. Serve Boracay of what it deserves before it is once again too late.

The author is a head teacher of Magsaysay Elementary School in Malay City. She is a school paper adviser and has taught English for 18 years.

DISCIPLINE IN DEED

Tourists line up to segregate trash in covered bins spread in one of Boracay's popular destinations in Station 2. The local campaign for solid waste management seems to have caught on since government allowed commercial businesses to remain in the island. (Photo by Eugene Soney D. Cagip)

GARBAGE COLLECTOR

Garbage collectors load segregated trash on a municipal truck which do daily door-to-door collection starting from 2 a.m. up until they finish their task. The trash will be hauled to Malay, on the mainland where there is a regulated dump site. (Photo by Ralph Anthony Geronimo/Magsaysay National High School, Zamboanga)

Go Green, read us at email: EnvironmentMB@gmail.com

Climate action now

By JOHN RYAN M. JACOT

Worsening global temperatures. Rising sea levels. Melting ice sheets. Blazing forest fires. The signs of an environmental crisis called climate change are around us and its effects create a colossal impact that continues to rock the ecological sphere and disrupt the dynamics of ecosystems.

Urban and industrial traditionalists assert that climate change action is a mere obstacle to the advancement of urban hubs that would improve the quality of life, raise income levels, and develop business activities.

However, despite the fruits of industrial development, ecological sustainability continues to be compromised which further worsens the damage caused by climate change.

For instance, a 2019 United Nations report concluded that the world's oceans and ice sheets are under threat with fish populations already declining in many regions. Its fallout would be difficult to contain without immediate and sustained ecological action.

In addition, a 2019 report from PANGLOSS revealed that there will be an increase in annual mean temperature which shows a large amount of warming year per year. This change is being driven by increased carbon dioxide and other human-made emissions.

The global effects of climate change can be seen in the increase of sea levels, where 20 cities are found to be highly vulnerable to a one-meter sea level rise. According to a 2017 study by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), this will

'Come together because your future is at risk. If we take action now, we can work together toward ensuring that our future and the future of the next generation will be safe.'

"effectively flood cities around the world."

The excuses made against climate change are heavy chains that entangle communities as the world seeks for ecological sustainability.

Stakeholders of the environment – civic groups, the government, and all of us – should pool resources toward promoting simple yet dynamic ways to address climate change as anchored in the National Framework Strategy on Climate Change.

It is best for everyone to answer the call of environmental action now, not later. Let us take it from the words of Sealito Pailio from the Climate Change Commission, who said: "Come together because your future is at risk. If we take action now, we can work together toward ensuring that our future and the future of the next generation will be safe."

Are you ready to take action now?

Jacot, 24, is a JERMES student at the Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepcion in Marikina, Cebu

EDITOR'S NOTE

During the 50th Word Cup held in School campus, students and school leaders gathered all year the country's top talents to learn about journalism and broadcasting, and to learn to master various news such as media, health, and climate change. After the talk, participants were asked to submit an article on their reaction to climate change. Here are five of the best ones. —Johannes I. Ching

No one is spared

By JONATHAN R. ENMANUEL

Climate change is inevitable to ignore. It is no longer an abstract scenario of the future. We feel it now. We see it now. With urgency, we are now doing tangible actions to act now with efforts on combating climate change on a global scale.

A lot of people say they are aware about climate change, but sadly, most if not all, actually only know little about it.

With overwhelming scientific evidences, reports, and data revealing extreme weather, record-breaking temperatures, melting glaciers, we tend to just submit ourselves at the mercy of nature. What, perhaps not anymore especially in the case of the Philippines.

According to Sealito Pailio from the Climate Change Commission, under the Paris Agreement,

'Climate change is inevitable to ignore. It is no longer an abstract scenario of the future. We feel it now. We see it now.'

the Philippines has committed to cut green house gas emission by 70 percent by 2050.

"The commission is doing extensive information campaigns using all media platforms, symposia, and trainings on the effects of climate change, and to also relay things which can be done to deal with this issue," he said.

Scientists also suggest with certainty that the issue must be addressed in bigger perspective to gain global attention. Climate change must be given optimum attention, more than anything else.

Without doubt, the issue now is beyond the use of fossil fuel, industrial revolution, levels of carbon dioxide, greenhouse-gases and global temperatures. The argument now must be beyond the portals of forests burning, coral reefs dying, and water supplies shrinking.

It is about finding tangible and sustainable mechanisms to stop the damage. We need to act together as one. We need to do it now – faster and heavier – because no one is spared. Remember, we can fight climate change. We are the world's greatest resource.

Enmanuel has 10 years of experience in advising school papers. He is currently teaching at Remedios National Comprehensive High School



Write about climate change

Dr. Crispin C. Maslog, author and columnist at SoCrisp.Net, explains to participants, composed of campus journalists and school paper editors, how to report on climate change in the talk 'Engaging Various Stakeholders in the Climate Crisis' held during the 50th Word Cup in Busu. (Photo by Jimmy A. Demagor)

Take the first step

By BI LANSANG

Numerous national and international interventions have been proven to be inadequate in reversing the devastating effects of climate change.

Climate change has been a roundabout topic that has already become a staple on newspapers and campus publications. And most of these articles focus on one topic – the 'blame game.'

Blames are not off the hook when it comes to climate change. It's an inherent fact that we are at fault here.

This is not a matter of judging who is to blame.

It's a matter of do, don't, or die.

In his talk, climate change resource speaker and author of It's Your Turn, Dr. Crispin Maslog shared his insights and expertise on climate change. Maslog encouraged the young journalists to use the 'power of the pen' in combating climate change.

"Be involved, take it as an issue, and write in publications," Maslog said. Actions speak louder than words. It is an edge that has continued to prove that it is easier said than done.

Everybody should take part in alleviating and eventually eliminating this global crisis. It is never enough to pinpoint the root cause of all of these.

Words are empty if not coupled with the right actions.

As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step."

We already know what needs to be done. We have to act now and save the planet. Take the first step.

Lansang is a school paper adviser of Columbian College (Barretto campus) in Zamboanga

No classes, yehey?

By JOVELLE R. VILLANUEVA

It has been two months into the academic year, yet students have already missed a lot of classes due to frequent class suspensions. On the third week of September alone, out of the five school days, students in Cavite have only attended their classes once, since their Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday classes have been suspended due to inclement weather brought about by Typhoon Nima.

Meanwhile, posts on social media seem to show how most students are in favor of these suspensions. A little rain and they would be putting their hopes up to have a week from their governor or mayor.

However, this frequent rainfall seems to be just a glimpse of a bigger picture. Dr. Crispin Maslog, a veteran journalist who published books on climate change, talked about how rainfall patterns have changed and how "winds and rains have become more severe."

This was supported by Sealito Pailio from the Climate Change Commission, who underscored Maslog's point. Typically, the Philippines encounters about 20 typhoons a year. Though the typhoons visiting the archipelago have lessened in

number, they became stronger in intensity. "Monsoons are strengthened and there are new situations we have never experienced before," said Pailio.

Pailio lamented that local government officials are sometimes caught off guard by these changes but this has improved through time, especially now that they are more active in making decisions such as class suspensions.

These changes are no doubt effects of climate change. However, students are not the only ones affected.

"Farmers don't know when to plant anymore," said Maslog. He then 'changed' the term climate change to make it not only a "climate crisis" but more as a "climate catastrophe."

"It (climate change) has become a threat to the survival of man," warned Maslog. "The next time students hope for class suspension, may they be reminded of the bigger battle that all of us are facing. There is more to it than just taking a day off from class."

Villanueva, 25, is a communication arts student from Lyceum of the Philippines-Cavite



Learn what PH is doing vs. climate change

Participants of the 50th Word Cup interview Sealito Pailio (seated) of the Climate Change Commission to clarify how the Philippines which contributes a meager 0.22 percent compared to China's 20 percent and the US's 18 percent of greenhouse gas emissions can reduce it further by more than half without sacrificing national growth. Countries are racing against time to limit rising global temperatures due to the greenhouse effect, directing the additional two-degrees threshold can lead to irreversible threat of sea level rise of close to one meter due to the unaltered melting of polar ice. (Photo by Engeline Amado head C. Calupit St. of Marikina Science High School)

B-6 **MANILA BULLETIN**
THE ASSOCIATED EDITORS COMPANY

Environment News

Thursday, August 1, 2019



Text by PATRICK ROBERT S. SATATO

Within the busy concrete jungle that is Metro Manila, one would not expect to find a haven for migratory birds just right at the mouth of Manila Bay. This area is called the Las Pilas-Paralagay Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA), a protected area that is a highly urbanized place could still spare some space for environmental causes.

Finding itself by being listed in the Ramsar Wetland of International Importance, the 175-hectare LPPCHEA caters to more than 1,000 migratory birds which consider the latter as a rest stop from tedious migration over the months of August to July.

However, with urbanization creeping just right at its doorstep, ready to take over the mangrove-laden wetland, how much time do these birds have to enjoy this habitat?

Adding to that challenge, during the southwest monsoon, this critical habitat suffers from pollution due to the arrival of solid and liquid wastes, increasing the amount of coliform bacteria in the water. This harms the fishes too that temporarily serve as food for the birds that come from as far as Australia, Siberia and Japan.

It is also important to note that infrastructure development is gaining ground in the area which could affect the health of the 36-hectare mangrove



SEAGULLS FLY OVER THE LPPCHEA
There are about 80 bird species documented in the 175-hectare area. Photo below: Word Cup Journalism participants gather in the conference area for an ecology education lecture and press briefing courtesy of the DSWT Protected Area Biodiversity Conservation Section and organized by the Makati Platinum Lions Club. The DSWT has welcomed stakeholders in the close-up, tree planting and ecology education at the LPPCHEA since the government launched the Manila Bay Rehabilitation in June. Freedom and Long Islands - which comprise LPPCHEA - serve as a catch basin of solid wastes mostly plastic and household wastes. On a weekly average, some 3.5 tons of garbage are hauled by DPWH for processing at the Las Pilas Dump Site en route to its final destination in Rodriguez, Rizal. (photos by Jimmy A. Domingo)



Restinga Esteta, 59, a fisherman in LPPCHEA said they also help protect the cleanliness of the habitat as it is also their source of livelihood. They can catch an average of two kilos of fish for an hour using their nets. (Photo by Jimmy A. Domingo)

'Urbanization entails with it the promise of increased employment, stronger international ties and a more equitable economic growth. But should this prosperity be at the expense of the environment?'

ism with the fervor of volunteering one's time and resources to promote equality towards our one and only planet.

Sadly, we live in a time where considering our critical habitats as collateral to the surge of urbanization is justifiable.

But on the other side of the coin, if we get rid of our apathy towards nature conservation, LPPCHEA could not only continue to provide a temporary home for migratory birds for years to come but also become a driving example for environmental conservation can exist side-by-side with urbanization.

(The author is an English teacher at Cebu-Delegado National High School in Negros Oriental)

GREEN IS IN!

Eco responsibility

Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation (TMPC) joined the Global Toyota Environment Month through a series of activities that raise awareness on environmental conservation. TMPC team members and representatives from the Toyota Suppliers Club (TSC) planted 200 trees inside the 15-hectare Toyota Forest in the Toyota Special Economic Zone in Santa Rosa, Laguna. Toyota representatives also participated in the river cleanup along the Sitang Santa Rosa River near the company's factory. By cleaning up the river, TMPC hopes to prevent further pollution and improve the waterways. The Sitang Santa Rosa River is connected to Laguna Lake, which is one of the primary water sources for livelihood of nearby communities.

Corporate-led forest restoration program cited by CSR group

The future has, indeed, taken root for geothermal leader EDC's geothermal restoration program as it has won the best corporate social responsibility (CSR) project in environment at the League of Corporate Foundation's 1st CSR Guild Awards.

Bini is the first corporate-led forest restoration program that has been bridging forest gaps and bringing back abundance of our threatened Philippine native trees.

"This recognition is a big honor for us because it comes from our peers who have their own laudable CSR programs as well," said Atty. Allan V. Barcena, head of EDC's CSR group. Planting trees and growing them have been an integral part of

sustaining the geothermal reservoir in EDC's geothermal reservation for over 40 years. In 2006, the company launched Bini to expand the program by using science in planting and rescuing threatened native trees. A total of 30 threatened native tree species have been prioritized for this search and rescue program as their numbers have been dwindling, with some even believed to be extinct.

In 2017, EDC finished locating, collecting these hardwood species and began propagating them in 2018 through its Vegetative Material Reproduction (VMD) technology, which mimics our forest's natural environment in two automated nurseries located in the company's geothermal facility in Valencia, Negros Oriental and in Antipolo, Metro Manila.

Moreover, around 9,333 hectares of forest land within and surrounding EDC project sites has been rehabilitated. This is equivalent to about 6.4 million

seedlings planted all over the country in partnership with 100 farmers associations whose members are incentivized for helping EDC grow and maintain its Bini areas.

EDC's Bini experience shows that, with the right combination of win-win strategies and partnerships, the triple bottom line of environmental, social, and economic transformation is attainable.

Another good example of successful strategic partnerships is the 10 Million Trees in 10 Years for a Greener Negros (10M in 10) project, one of the finalists in the 1st CSR Guild Awards' Outstanding CSR Collaboration Project category. 10M in 10 is a movement that EDC initiated in 2015 to grow back the forests in Negros Island by planting, growing, and maintaining 10 million trees in 10 years.

As of 2018, 10M in 10 has already planted over 6.2 million trees with the help of its 138 stakeholder partners.

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SAMPLE ADVISORIES FOR WORD CUP EVENTS, charged to School MOOE

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VIII - EASTERN VISAYAS
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF MAASIN CITY

July 22, 2025

DIVISION MEMORANDUMNo. 341 s. 2025**PARTICIPATION TO THE 26th WORD CUP PHILIPPINES- NATIONAL JOURNALISM CONFERENCE AND CONTEST**

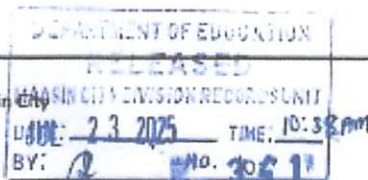
To: Chief, CID/SGOD
Public Schools Cluster Heads
Public Secondary School Heads
Campus Journalism Coordinators and Advocates
All Others Concerned

1. In reference to the invitation from the Word Cup Philippines, this Office, through the Curriculum Implementation Division (CID) announces to the field on the participation of the 26th Word Cup Philippines-National Journalism Conference and Contest on August 29-31, 2025, at the Tagaytay City.
2. In this regard, all schools are encouraged to send at least 1 teacher campus journalism adviser or campus journalism advocate to represent and participate the activity.
3. Participation to this activity shall observe the following conditions:
 - No disruption of classes or compromise school operations.
 - Participants are expected to share key learnings during school-based learning action cells (LAC) or similar professional development platforms.
3. Enclosed in this Memorandum the invitation letter and indicative matrix of the said activity for reference and the details of the activity.
4. Participation Fee and Travelling expenses of the participants are chargeable to the local funds/MOOE subject to COA auditing rules and procedures.
5. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum are earnestly desired.


GENIS S. MURALDO EdD, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent



Government Center, Combedo, Maasin City
(053) 570-8066
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Page 1 of 2

SAMPLE ADVISORIES FOR WORD CUP EVENTS

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Region Advisory CL...



Region XII Advisory No. 038, s. 2024

In compliance with DepEd Order (DO) No. 8, s. 2013 this advisory is issued not for endorsement per DO 28, s. 2001, but only for the information of DepEd officials, personnel/staff, as well as the concerned public.

(Visit www.deped.gov.ph)

April 22, 2024

**21st WORD CUP NATIONAL JOURNALISM CONFERENCE
AND AMBASSADORS AWARDS**

The 21st Word Cup National Journalism Conference aims to enhance the writing and photography skills of teachers and students, recognize exemplary work, and get quality outputs published in national media.

The actual seminar will be on May 4-5, 2024 (exclusive of travel time) at Angel's Hills, Tagaytay City. Contests are open to elementary, junior, and senior high school, college students, and school paper advisers.

School Paper Advisers who shall opt to participate shall ensure that no classes will be disrupted in compliance with DO. 34,s.2023.

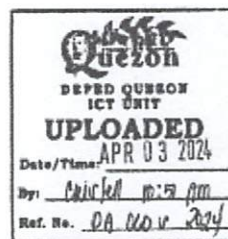
Other details of this activity are attached for reference.

For more details, contact **Eugenio Sonny O. Calapit, Ed.D.,EnP** through wordcup.philippines@gmail.com or contact at 09682973049.

SAMPLE ADVISORIES FOR WORD CUP EVENTS



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region IV-A
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF QUEZON PROVINCE



DIVISION ADVISORY NO. 060, S. 2024
March 26, 2024

In compliance with DepEd Order (DO) No. 8, s. 2013,
this advisory is issued not for endorsement as per DO 28, s. 2001,
but only for the information of DepEd officials,
personnel/staff, and the concerned public.
(Visit www.deped.gov.ph.)

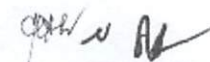
**INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN 21ST WORD CUP NATIONAL JOURNALISM
CONFERENCE AND AMBASSADORS AWARD**

The Word Cup Edcalibre International Co. invites interested elementary, junior, and senior high school students of DepEd Quezon to participate on its 21st Word Cup National Journalism Conference and Ambassadors Award to be held in Tagaytay City on May 4-5, 2024.

Attached are the contest mechanics, matrix of activities, activity objectives, and details of registration and reservation.

Attendance to this event is subject for compliance to DepEd Order No. 22 s. 2023 titled Implementing Guidelines on the School Calendar and Activities for the School Year 2023-2024 and DO 9 s 2005 titled Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged Time-on-Task and Ensuring Compliance therewith.

For further details, questions, and reservation, please contact EUGENIO SONNY O. CALAPIT through email edcalibre.intl@gmail.com or mobile numbers 09159607268.


ad-smc/alp/04/26/2024


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