



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
REGION VI – WESTERN VISAYAS  
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF AKLAN

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Division Advisory No. 185, s. 2025  
December 5, 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 Aklan  
officials and personnel/staff.  
(Visit <https://depedaklan.online>)

**27<sup>th</sup> WORD CUP PHILIPPINES**

Attached is a copy of Regional Advisory No.402, s. 2025 titled 27<sup>th</sup> Word Cup Philippines of the Word Cup Associated Editors Co., to be conducted on December 5-7, 2025 at the National Press Club, Intramuros, Manila.

For more information, contact:

Word Cup Associated Editors Co  
Email Address: [wordcup.philippines@gmail.com](mailto:wordcup.philippines@gmail.com)  
Contact Number: 0954-190-2247  
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Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
REGION VI-WESTERN VISAYAS

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Regional Advisory No. 40-2, s. 2025  
November 18, 2025

In compliance with DepEd Order (DO) No. 8, s. 2013  
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**27<sup>th</sup> WORD CUP PHILIPPINES**

Attached is Advisory No. 223, s. 2025 titled 27th Word Cup Philippines of the Word Cup Associated Editors Co., to be conducted on December 5-7, 2025 at the National Press Club, Intramuros, Manila.

The Schools Division Superintendents are given the discretion to act on this matter.

For more information, contact:

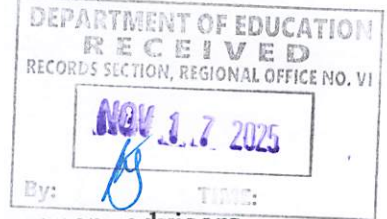
Word Cup Associated Editors Co  
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MPP/CLMD-RA-27th Word Cup Philippines  
100/November 19, 2025

Advisory No. 223, s. 2025

November 11, 2025

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### 27th WORD CUP PHILIPPINES

The Word Cup Associated Editors Co. invites school paper advisers, administrators, and student publication staff to participate in the 27th Word Cup Philippines, to be held at the National Press Club, Intramuros, Manila, on December 5-7, 2025.

Word Cup Philippines is a national journalism conference and contest series that aims to cultivate young communicators, educators, and public information leaders. This year's event will feature:

1. Hands-on capacity building for student journalists and advisers through training in media literacy, news writing, and digital communication;
2. Authentic newsroom simulations for experiential learning and competitive collaboration;
3. Publication opportunities in national dailies for exemplary works; and
4. Institutional recognition through the Word Cup Ambassadors Award for outstanding schools and mentors.

Interested participants may register through  
<https://bit.ly/27thWordCupPH>.

Participation of learners and teachers from public and private schools shall be purely voluntary and will not hamper instructional time in compliance with the provisions of DepEd Order (DO) No. 009, s. 2024 titled Implementing Guidelines on the School Calendar and Activities for the School Year 2025-2026 and DO 9, s. 2005 titled Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged Time-on-Task and Ensuring Compliance Therewith and the policy on off-campus activities stated in DO 66, s. 2017.

This is also subject to the no-collection policy as stated in Section 3 of Republic Act No. 5546, also known as An Act Prohibiting the Sale of Tickets and/or the Collection of Contributions for Whatever Project or Purpose from Students and Teachers of Public and Private Schools, Colleges and Universities (Ganzon Law), issued in DO 19, s. 2008, and reiterated in DepEd Memorandum No. 041, s. 2024.

For more information, please contact:

Word Cup Associated Editors Co.  
Mobile Phone Number: 0954-190-2247  
Email Address: [wordcup.philippines@gmail.com](mailto:wordcup.philippines@gmail.com)  
Facebook Page: [facebook.com/associatededitorsco](https://facebook.com/associatededitorsco)



27 Oct 2025

**SONNY ANGARA**  
Secretary  
Department of Education

Through: **DR. MALCOLM S. GARMA**  
Undersecretary

**Dear Secretary Angara:**

Warm greetings!

On behalf of NextNarrative, Inc. and our partners, we are honored to invite the Department of Education's school paper advisers, administrators, and student publication staff to the **27th Word Cup Philippines**, to be held on December 5–7, 2025 at the National Press Club, Intramuros, Manila.

Word Cup remains a leading national platform for campus journalists, advisers, and student leaders to sharpen their craft, showcase their talents, and learn directly from media practitioners. Many of its alumni have gone on to excel in journalism, education, and public service—proof of its continuing contribution to the development of ethical, skilled, and socially aware communicators.

The most recent conference gathered over **600 participants** nationwide for intensive hands-on workshops, live press simulations, and multi-category contests judged by industry experts. Schools that joined not only gained recognition through their students' achievements but also strengthened their reputation for excellence in communication, literacy, and creative learning.

The 27th Word Cup offers:


- Hands-on capacity building for student journalists and advisers through training in media literacy, news writing, and digital communication
- Authentic newsroom simulations for experiential learning and competitive collaboration
- Publication opportunities in national dailies for exemplary works
- Institutional recognition through the Word Cup Ambassadors Award for outstanding schools and mentors

Considering these, we would be most grateful if the Department could encourage the widest participation of schools nationwide. This will help teachers and students benefit from an authentic journalism learning experience that supports DepEd's thrusts on literacy, 21st-century skills, and civic engagement.

Registration is through <https://bit.ly/27thWordCupPH>, and further details may be found in the attached program and guidelines. For inquiries, we may be reached through [wordcup.philippines@gmail.com](mailto:wordcup.philippines@gmail.com) and 0954 190 2247 or through our Facebook page: Word Cup Associated Editors Co.

We would be deeply grateful for your support in empowering the next generation of storytellers, truth-seekers, and nation-builders.

With sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eugenio Sonny O. Calapit".

**EUGENIO SONNY O. CALAPIT, Ed.D., EnP**  
Executive Director

## 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)
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#### 6 December 2025 (Saturday)

7:00-8:00 AM	Distribution of IDs, kits and t-shirts
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8:00-11:30 AM	Opening Program & Press Conference
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11:30 AM – 12:45 PM	Lunch
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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>
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3:00 PM	Output <b>deadline</b> for <b>NW, FW and EDW</b> participants		
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3:15-4:00 PM	Mobile Journalism (MJ)	Photojournalism (PJ)	Sports Writing (SP) <i>Pagsulat ng Balitang Isports</i>
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4:00 – 5:00 PM	Coverage of Sports event
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5:00 – 6:00 PM	Workshop (MJ, PJ, SP)
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6:00 PM	Output <b>deadline</b> for <b>MJ, PJ and SP</b> participants
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#### 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>
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10:00 AM	Output <b>deadline</b> for <b>STW, CHW and EC</b> participants		
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10:15- 12:00 NN	Watercolor Wellness
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12:00-1:30 PM	Lunch
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1:45-5:00 PM	<b>Awarding Ceremony</b> Word Cup Ambassador Award (School Paper Advisers) Word Cup Institutional Ambassador Award Recognition of Exemplary Work
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\* 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 (4<sup>th</sup> Floor, National Press Club, Intramuros, Manila).



## 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)

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







MANILA BULLETIN

# Lifestyle

YOUTH

B-S | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2025

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

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manilabulletinlifestyle

VOICES

## Leave my pen under the rubble

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

By ALTHEA ZAMITILLA S. BUSTIA, 16  
Grade 11, Edgemoor City National High School  
Illustration by ALTHEA ZAMITILLA S. BUSTIA, 16  
Grade 11, Edgemoor City National High School

There is no excuse. Their pen could be used to absorb water from the amount of rain poured onto them, or their tongues could be used to soothe the pain of those who are left to rot. But as long as their pen is filled with ink, journalists will write their truth and remember their truth to be heard among all the perils of the world.

With over 7,000 islands and a million people to serve, the Philippines is a country full of rich politicians who give us every reason to say "no." You can smell it from the way streets reek of a badly ditched and see it from the way the Philippines could go to the same neighborhood, but only one has a home. For those in



The author

they are the ones who treat Filipinos as if they are art—something to be saved for. Because a hero is not someone you see on TV; someone they did something to change the face of the country that the Philippines has become, but someone who does not feel the need to be recognized.

Journalists: the silenced loud, the voiceless, the silent truth,



and of its age. There is truly no one else, the world could not find one, and the last thing you would hear before going out is that the world is ending, with a picture of the sun exploding in high definition.

But even under the weight of stories and silence, the pen remains sharper than the sword. It is not just a tool, it is a lifeline, a rebellion, a voice against silence. 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 plant that silence is never permanent—that ink seeps even into the deepest folds of history.

For every headline censored in court, for every photo banned in print, there is a sacrifice too heavy to ignore. They know that the stories they tell may cost them their tomorrow,

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

Write, Capture, Publish. That is the goal and the cycle our journalists have to live. When another journalist, simply working inside their home, is silenced by those who breathe lies—when it all comes crashing down right beneath their feet, with no finished piece—you will find their pen under all the rubble.

Althea Zamitilla S. Bustia, 16, is an 11th Grade student at Edgemoor City National High School (ECNHS). She is the editor-in-chief of The Frontline, the English publication. She has been a student journalist for seven years, specializing in feature writing.

The illustration is created by Althea Bustia, a Grade 11 STEM student from ECNHS, who is chief editorial cartoonist of The Frontline.

"Silence" 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 submission to [submissions@lifestyle.ph](mailto:submissions@lifestyle.ph) with the subject line—Voices (Article Title)—and send us 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 power. Filipino lives could be something as white as a sheet, as a full body, as a full body, as a full body.

Through those who carry a cross, those who would rather choose truth over life, there is a gift to their head.

EXPLORE MORE



Our brand, our style, our moment



Mapua 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



JESSICA PAUL

It may be a person's crowning glory, but in the Philippines, it can also be the key to a brighter future. This is very much why beauty giant 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 turn their creativity into a sustainable livelihood.

These organizations had official to seal their partnership in an event held last Sept. 23, 2025, at L'Oréal Academy, The Pacific West Tower Office 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 technologies. Participants will gain access to L'Oréal Color Certification, an internationally recognized program that trains stylists to become professional colorists capable of competing on a global stage.

To support students, L'Oréal will also provide professional-grade products for hands-on learning and open up L'Oréal Academy in Mandaluyong City as an accredited assessment 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, freelance work, or even the booming digital creator economy.

"At L'Oréal, we believe that beauty has the power to transform lives," said Jessica Paul, 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 Benitez emphasized that hairdressing is more than cutting and coloring. "It's all about the creative, 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,



not just school youth, and underrepresented communities to turn their skills into sustainable careers."

This effort comes at a critical time with 77,000 salons registered nationwide, the Philippine hairdressing sector continues to grow, creating income 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, Benitez shared that the course is open to everyone, particularly out-of-school youth, he emphasized that there are no prior education requirements to enroll, and best of all, the training is completely tuition-free.

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

Through the L'Oréal partnership, stylists 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 50 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 [tesda.gov.ph](https://tesda.gov.ph) or contact your nearest TESDA training center.



STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER: JESSICA PAUL, general manager, L'Oréal Philippines Professional Division; Director: L'Oréal Philippines, L'Oréal Philippines Country Managing Director, Jose Francisco Benitez; TESDA Director General, Jose Francisco Benitez; PBSP Country Managing Director, Harold Jay Sison; TESDA chief TESD specialist, and Adam Mulrow, head of education for L'Oréal Philippines.

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  
Iloilo Doctors' College  
Basic Education Department

**D**o 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 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 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

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 401 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. Hone 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  
Keynon 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 Iloilo Doctors' 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](mailto: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!



Artwork by Eon  
Catacangan

EXPLORE MORE



## Published Articles, 25<sup>th</sup> Word Cup Philippines Ninth Masterclass

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MANILA BULLETIN



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Lifestyle | Youth

# Campus journalist weighs in on AI's double-edged role in truth and deception

A.I. or a lie?

By MB Lifestyle

Published Jul 7, 2025 10:37 AM

Facebook X YouTube



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.

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4 South Koreans arrested, 3  
of them 'fugitives' -- BI



Legal advocate Isabella  
Grace shines at the 48th  
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## Editors' Picks

'Bakit ngayon lang?':  
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Legal advocate Isabella  
Grace shines at the 48th  
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## Recommended For You

'Bakit ngayon lang?':  
Dioknn raises eyebrow on



## Published Articles on the 21<sup>st</sup> Word Cup Philippines

Inquirer: Uptrend in science museums investment to benefit DepEd learners

[bit.ly/InquirerOn21stWordCup](https://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

MOST READ



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GLOBALNATION  
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GLOBALNATION  
Key takeaways from Kamala Harris-Donald Trump debate



LIFESTYLE  
Fernando Amorsolo: A refresher on the first-ever Filipino National Artist



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ENTERTAINMENT  
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TAGS: Journalism

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## Published Articles on the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 DEMINGAY  
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

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



CARTOON BY LEONAR D. FOMA



THE AUTHOR, Michael Jay Demingay

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.

Manila Times: Campus journalism can boost interest in science

[bit.ly/ManilaTimesOn21stWordCup](http://bit.ly/ManilaTimesOn21stWordCup)

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6 Abante **TONITE**

**EDITORIAL**



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

## Panagutin nagpapakalat ng kasinungalingan



"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."

Sa halip na umakso ng pananagutan matapos mabunyag na peke ang video, ang naging tugon ni Sen. Bato Dela Roca sa publiko ay murahin pa ang mga nagbigay ng habala: "Loloi n'yo! Mga ulol kayo!"

Bukod sa ang kanyang ginawa ay nakakahiya

ito rin ay hubos na nakakabahala - ang magpakalat ng maling impormasyon sa publiko.

Possible bang may nalabag etikal na tungkulin

Bakit ito ay mapanganib sa isang demokratikong bansa - ang pagpapakalat ng isang AI-generated deepfake ay may matinding epekto sa karapatan ng mamamayan sa tamang impormasyon.

Bilang isang Senador, inaatahan mula sa kanya ang pagguguguhin ng pagpapakalat ng maling impormasyon gamit ang AI.

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 amaydahan sa 20th Congress at itama ang AI at deepfake.

Nandyan din ang Article 19, Civil Code of the Philippines na nagsasaad 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 ito ay hindi ang isang inisangyang nagpapakalat 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 puwedeng mangagat kagap nagpapakalat ng disinformation.

Halimbawa, kung isang public official ang napatutayang isinagay nagpapakalat ng fake AI, ito ay dapat ituring na grave misconduct at maging magresulta sa suspension, dismissal, o disqualification from public office.

Sa ngayon, may ginawa ng akusyon ang Facebook para di na kamaal at ang maling impormasyon ni Sen. Dela Roca.

Walang personalan.

## Sara impeachment pilit tinotokhang, pero humihinga pa rin



Sa isang tunay na demokrasya, ang impeachment ay hindi lang legal na proseso, ito ay isang makapangyarihang sandata ng mamamayan laban sa mga pinakamatatag na lider na lumabag sa trawla ng taumbayan. Pero paano kung ang mga "hewers" na dapat maghugya ay sila ring tagapagtanggol ng inakusahan? Paano kung ang Senado ay hindi na hukuman ng katotohanan, kundi pugad na ng sabwatan?

Ganito ang mala telenobelang sitwasyong kinatataganatin 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 - sina Ronald "Bato" Dela Roca, Christopher "Bong" Go, Imee Marcos, at Robin Padilla - ay nagroot ng robes hindi bilang mga impartial senator judges kundi mga abogado ng impeachment na hawak presidente. Kung kaya ito ng mamamayan kung paano sila aktibong kumilos upang harangin, pahinain, at tuldukan ang impeachment, bago pa ito humantong sa katarungan at katotohanan.

Una na ryan si Bato, na walang paligay ligoy sa kanyang mga pahayag na gusto niyang patayin

ang impeachment. Pirang EJK lang. Mahilis, brutal, at walang due process. Pero ano pa ba ang asahang natin sa mismong utak at tagapagparupad ng Oplan Tokhang? Kung mismong mga lalaki ang posibilidad na umasa ang impeachment pa kaya, lalo na't ang nakakalang ay ang anak ng kanilang amo?

Sumunod naman si Bong Go, ang eternal sidekick ng mga Duterte. Tabik na natin sa pansalita, malinang saan ang pagkilig. Siya ang upang sumagot sa moryon ni Bato na ibasura agad ang reklamo. Inamin din ni Bato noong kampanya na kapag hindi nila nakalutaw sa eleksiyon, mas lalaki ang posibilidad na umasa ang impeachment pa kaya.

Hindi rin magpapahuli si Imee. Habang umiiral ang usap ng impeachment, nandoon siya, hindi sa Senado, kundi sa Malaysia kasama si Sara. Sa halip na magpakita ng distansya sa akusado, pilit niyang samahan ito sa mga "official functions." Tila ba sinusabi niyang hindi travel buddy pa. At noong tanungin tungkol sa impeachment, ang sagot niya ay akanya lamang daw ito ng oras.

At symple, si Robin Padilla, ang bida ng sarili niyang Duterte Forever teleserye. Sumama sa Malaysia, sumama sa The Hague, at sa harap ng kamera'y biglang sumagaw ng linya: "Kahit sumunog ako, Duterte pa rin ako?" Kailan kaya ang bonfire sa Senado? Kailan kaya siya magpapatungo? O baka naman kukiha siya ng stunt double? Kung hindi pa yan ba, ewan ko na lang.

Habang ang apat ay huyagan sa kanilang pagkilig, si Senador President Chiz Escudero naman ay may sariling diskarte. Hindi raw siya

ruwang tumututol, pero halatang pinapahalag, pinapaligay, at pinapakalat ang promesa sa pamamagitan ng technicalities at procedural gymnastics. Kung baya sa basketball, siya ang player na double lang ng dribble, pero ayaw i-shoot ang bola.

At ngayon, ito ang nakakalungkot: para sa mga ito, ang impeachment ay laro lang ng mga makapangyarihang. Wala sa kanila ang tunay na interes na makamtan ang hustiya. Para sa kanila, sapat na ang loyalty sa kapartido at kanilang political agenda kaya loyalty sa taumbayan.

Pero may pag asa pa. Sa kabila ng labat ng ito, buhay pa ang impeachment. Naghihugalo, at bugbog, pero humihinga pa rin. Pilit nilang tinotokhang, pero buhay pa rin. Sa kabila ng kalaw't kasang pagkarang, na converge na ang Senado bilang impeachment court. Nangunguna rin ang mga senador bilang hukom. 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 taumbayan. At kung ang Senado ay pipikit, pipit at bingi, kailangan nating manindigan at kumilos.

Gungipin natin ang proseso ng sunumbukang potasyon. Palakasin natin ang sigaw ng hustiya. At sapalita sa kanila: ang kapangyarihang magpapagat ay nagsimula sa bayan.

Dapat bigyan ng bagong buhay at sigla ng mamamayan ang impeachment. Dahil kung hindi tayo kikilos, walang paninindigan ang Senado. Pero kung tayo'y sabay sabay na tumindig, walang makapagpipit sa paghahanap natin ng katotohanan at katarungan.



Justine Seranovic

Masdan ang paraben sa malaking balag ng bansa noong nagdaang weekend. Pero pagka-tung ko sa Isla ng Boracay - sila nakasama ang larang. Masilwalan ang dagat, at duma pa rin ang alabado ng puting buhangin. Kaya natapos ang unang balag ng akong balag - ang magbigay ng lecture - nakalabit pa ako't nakapagtanggap sa dagat.

Tila walang ulan sa sigalang hard ng Boracay. Buhay na buhay ang negosyo kahit pa simula na ng klase. Bukas ang mga karsan, tulay ang mga island hopping tour, at nag-uulan pa rin sa panahon ang mga trike at trike sa gilyo ng kalakad.

Napunt sa lahat ng gawala ng isla, may agam-agam akong nararamdaman mula sa ilang lokal na residente. Kanunod ito ng halitang may mungkahing story ang 2.54 kilometro Boracay Bridge na mag-uugnay mula Caticlan Airport hanggang maimong isla. Bagama't malaking tungkol ang

## Agam-agam ng mga taga-Bora

proyekto para sa logistika at daloy ng mga turista, ita ang tinig ng mga taga isla.

"Pano na kami?" tanong ng isang bangkero. Kung dati'y araw-araw ang byahel ng bangka, baka sa tulong ng tulay, mahawanan na ito - at kasama ang kita nito. Ganoon.

Hindi ito haka-haka lamang. Isa ito sa mga aktuwal na kinwentong tinatalakay sa experiential journalism training workshop ng 25th Word Cup PH. Dinakulan ito ng mga 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 lecture ang natanggap ng mga estudyante - na raraan din nila kung paano magbigay tunay na mamamahayag. May on-the-spot interviews, actual coverage, field story hunt, at hands-on news

production tasks.

Ila ako sa mga namamahayag speaker. Itinuro ko ang News Writing at Mobile Journalism - kung paano gumamit ng balita gamit ang cellphone lang, paano magbigay ng impormasyon sa impormasyon, ito, at paano malayay ang kinwentong mahalaga sa mga tao.

At habang tinutugyan ko ang mga batang manunasa hangin na sumikap kabanang ang boses ng komunidad, natapos ko: ito ang tunay na sayay ng pananahang - ang dapat ang mga isyong malapit sa puso ng tao, at pag-unapon ito sa liwanag ng katotohanan.

Kaya isang malaking kudos sa management at organizing team ng Word Cup PH. Sa mga guro't tagapagpatay na ginagamit na kahit masalid, sumagot sa aral at karunungan.

Ang sa akin lang - sa kabila ng ulan, isang masar na kinakalagan ang ulababang - isang bayang may malayang panamahayag at may punong handang maging.

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

Sisimulan 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 makikinalabang dito ang 1.5 na kindergarten students at araw-araw ay magkakaroon ng hot meals ang mga ito na nagkakabalaga ng P25 pesos mula sa dating kinse pesos noong nakalipas na taon.

Bukod sa hot meals, makakatanggap din ng fresh milk ang mga

batang undernourished na nagkakabalaga ng P22.

"This will ensure na sapat iyang nutritional value na natatanggap ng mga kabataan na magiging kalakob nitong supplemental feeding program sa ating mga child development centers," ani Gatchalian.

Ang hot meals ng mga bata ay nakapagprograma sa "Pangang Poon" ng National Nutrition Council at ang mga local government unit ang bibili sa mga magtataka. Alin sumod sa alituntunin ng NNC kung ano ang dapat na pakan sa mga bata.

Ang hot meals ay lulutuin sa community kitchens o central kitchens sa day care centers. (Aileen Talipog)



## Manila Times: Campus journalism can boost interest in science

[bit.ly/ManilaTimesOn21stWordCup](http://bit.ly/ManilaTimesOn21stWordCup)

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



Word Cup Associated Editors Co. Executive Director Eugenio Calapit welcomes participants to the 21st Word Cup National Journalism Conference and Contests at Angeles Hall, Taguig 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 Hall in Taguig 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 center. 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 content 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, 5th Floor, Buenaventura 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 Ireta Jose discussed "The Status Quo of the Catholic Church Heritage in the Philippines," and Commission on Cultural Heritage Executive Secretary Ft. Milan Ted Torralba tackled "Archives and Canon Law."

Archdiocese of Manila Chancellor Ft. 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 Ft. Jonas Ayanan of the Archdiocese of Gaganan de Oro, who headed the discussion on Diocesan Archives.

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

field relations manager Felvir Ordinario spoke about "The Impact and Issues of Genealogy Project of the Church of Jesus Christ."

Capping off the first day of the event was a Eucharistic Celebration at the Santissimo Rosario Parish presided by the Archivo de la Universidad de Santo Tomas Acting Archivist Ft. Gaspar Sigava, OP. Lectures for Thursday, May 9, include "Ethics and Accountability in the Management of Archives and Records Management" by Ateneo de Manila University Archives Director Asst. Prof. Francis Navarro, followed by "Development of Archives and Records Management Profession and Training in the Philippines" by the Board for Librarianship Chairman Yolanda Granda and "Data Privacy for Ecclesiastical Documents" by the executive assistant for the Office of the UST Secretary-General Emmanuel Batulan.

A tour of the UST facilities, including the oldest school-based museum in the country, the UST Museum and its laboratory, the Archivo de la Universidad de Santo Tomas (AUST), and the Antonio Vives del Rosario UST Heritage Library, comprise the afternoon session.

Day 3 activities include lectures by the UST Prefect of Libraries Ft. Angel Aparicio regarding the Antonio Vives del Rosario UST Heritage Library, "Disaster Resilience and Post-Disaster Recovery for Cultural Heritage" by UST College of Tourism and Hospitality Management academic staff Karl Baroro, and "Sustainability in Conservation in the Philippine Setting" by Olada Manila records specialist Lulu del Mar.

A workshop on Archives management conducted by del Mar, Jocelyn Marcos and the AUST staff follows a Eucharistic Celebration with Ft. Harold Reatoria, OSA, as presider, and the Fellowship Night.

For the fourth and final day of the summit, the Assistant to the UST Rector for Information and Communications Technology Asst. Prof. Terrilyn Padua will deliver a lecture on "Parish Registry Portal: E-Records Management of Sacramental Books," while AUST Acting Archivist Ft. Gaspar Sigava and SEAP Secretary Marcos will lead the "SEAP Moving Forward Workshop and Planning" session.

Concluding the four-day National Summit will be a concerted Mass with Dumaguete Bishop Julio Cortes as the main presider and homilist.

Email [archives@ust.edu.ph](mailto: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 Teody 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 Yusii, will speak about "Key Higher Education Trends and Issues to Know."

Speakers during the plenary sessions include CHED OIC-Deputy Executive Director Lily Freida Nilla 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 Ismaire Pinau 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 IES2024 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

A CHED member of the Swiss Invention

Association (SIA) and CHED

member of the SIA is a national

achievement in a national



## Sample Workshop Output of Previous Word Cup Masterclass (14<sup>th</sup> Word Cup)

**Environment News**

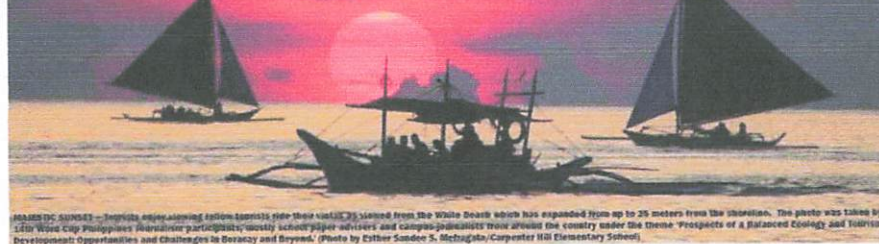
Thursday, May 30, 2019 B-7

Go Green, read us an email: [Environment@lib.org](mailto:Environment@lib.org)

Text by **JOHANNES L. CRIDA**

# BORACAY RENAISSANCE

### A year after its closure, what now?



**MAHARAJA SUNDAR** – Boracay's long-remembered closure has left its mark. The island, which has expanded from up to 25 meters from the shoreline. The photo was taken by 14th Word Cup Philippines' Islander participants, mostly school paper editors and campus journalists from around the country under the theme 'Prospects of a Balanced Ecology and Tourism: Development Opportunities and Challenges in Boracay and Beyond.' (Photo by Esther Sandoz S. Melgosa/Carpenter Hill Elementary School)

## BE HUMANS, NOT PLASTIC

Text by **MARK JULIUS D. FUENTES**

**M**alay's Municipal Ordinance No. 566 prohibiting the use of disposable plastic items among hotels, resorts, restaurants and business establishments is proof that the local government of Malay, Alaba has learned its lesson. Nevertheless, despite the six-month-long 'highway' of businesses during the island's rehabilitation, plastics are still freely accessible in some souvenir stores, convenience shops 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 'entanglement and entanglement.' Even when plastic products break down, the plastic lives on as smaller elements that get 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.

Tourists, in fact, we have to understand that in order to help Boracay fully heal, we must be disciplined. If the government has prohibited smoking, driving

## CHALLENGING ENHANCEMENT

Text by **ANNA MARIE D. PUGONIA**

**A**fter six 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 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 Oquillo, 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

## SUSTAINING PARADISE

Text by **MARIA JOSEPHINE A. PLEDO**

**A**lmost, 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 Oquillo, 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 keen in implementing its role to ensure sustainable tourism practices in the island. It may be able to do so until April 2020 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. Oquillo believes that a strong and consistent law an-

## DESERVING BORACAY

Text by **DILORES L. CARBON**

**L**et us all become tourist police. Let us become information multipliers.

These were the words of Dr. Al Oquillo, 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 93 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 seem to have been taken for granted by some businesses. A few weeks ago, the local government

## DISCIPLINE IN DEED

Tourists line up to segregate trash in colored 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 reopen in the island. (Photo by Eugenio Sandoz G. Calapog)

**MAHARAJA SUNDAR** – Boracay's long-remembered closure has left its mark. The island, which has expanded from up to 25 meters from the shoreline. The photo was taken by 14th Word Cup Philippines' Islander participants, mostly school paper editors and campus journalists from around the country under the theme 'Prospects of a Balanced Ecology and Tourism: Development Opportunities and Challenges in Boracay and Beyond.' (Photo by Esther Sandoz S. Melgosa/Carpenter Hill Elementary School)

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## Climate action now

By JOHN RYAN M. JACOT

**W**orsening 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 distress 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 PAGASA 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 23 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 providing simple yet dynamic ways to address climate change as articulated 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 Senador Paolo 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?**

Justo, 16, is a HUMES student at the Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepcion in Marikina, Cebu

### EDITOR'S NOTE

During the 10th Word Cup held in Makati National Comprehensive High School, participants were asked to write an editorial on climate change. Here are four of the best ones. — *Johnathan B. Emmanuel*

## No one is spared

By JONATHAN B. EMMANUEL

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 curtailing climate change on a global scale.

A lot of people say they are aware about climate change, but sadly most find it 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. Well, perhaps not anymore especially in the case of the Philippines.

According to Senator Paolo 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 campaign 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, nor heat-trapping gases and global temperatures. The argument now must be beyond the portals of forests burning, coral reefs dying, and water supplies declining.

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 better - because no one is spared. Remember, we can fight climate change. We are the world's greatest resource.

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



**Write about climate change**

Dr. Crispin C. Maslog, author and columnist at SoCexNet, explains to participants, composed of campus journalists and school paper advisers, how to report on climate change in the talk "Writing for the Stakeholders in the Climate Crisis" held during the 10th Word Cup in Cebu. (Photo by Jimmy A. Demagosa)

## Take the first step

By RJ LANSANG

**N**umerous 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 it has already become a staple on newspapers and campus publications. And most of these articles focus on one topic - the "blame game."

Humans 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 his book, 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 them.

Words are empty if not coupled with the right actions.

As Dr. Maslog Lathan Jing, 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 RIVELLE P. 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, and Friday classes have been suspended due to inclement weather brought about by Typhoon Kima.

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 hear a word 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 Senator Paolo 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 become stronger in intensity. "Monsoons are strengthened and there are new situations we have never experienced before," said Paolo.

Paolo 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 "charged" the term climate change to make it not only as "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, 19, is a communication arts student from Lagonoy of the Philippines-Cavite



**Learn what PH is doing vs. climate change**

Participants of the 10th Word Cup interview Senator Paolo (second) of the Climate Change Commission to clarify how the Philippines which contributes a meager 0.32 percent compared to China's 28 percent and the US's 18 percent of greenhouse gas emissions can reduce it further by more than half without sacrificing industrial growth. Countries are racing against time to limit rising global temperatures due to the greenhouse effect. Breaching the additional two-degree threshold can lead to irreversible threat of sea level rise of close to one meter due to the unabated melting of polar ice. (Photo by Egeusio Amadeo Neel C. Calapit III of Makati Science High School)



B-6 MANILA GULFETTER

## Environment News

Thursday, August 1, 2019



Saving a critical wetland  
to promote ecotourism

# HAVEN IN THE METRO

Text by PATRICK JUBERT B. BAYATO

Within the busy concrete jungle that is Metro Manila, one would not expect to find a haven for migratory birds just right at the south of Manila Bay. This area is called the Las Pinas-Paralaguas Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA), a protected 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 fish 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 56-hectare mangrove



forest. The impact of urban expansion towards the country's economy is undeniably significant. 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?

The people behind LPPCHEA firmly believe that the habitat could be an urban destination where visitors could be offered a unique experience. Aside from learning about the importance of nature, see migratory birds in flight, and know the impact of the presence of mangroves, this could be an ideal site for 'urban-tourism' - merging the joy of tour-

ism with the fervor of volunteering one's time and resources to promote empathy 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 quality towards nature conservation, LPPCHEA could not only continue to provide a temporary home for migratory birds for years to come but also become a shining example how environment conservation can exist side-by-side with urbanization.

(The author is an English teacher at Guadalupe National High School in Naga City, Negros Oriental)



A DPWH worker, one of 40 personnel assigned at the LPPCHEA, gather garbage, mostly plastics and household non-biodegradable wastes which wash ashore from the Las Pinas and Paralaguas river tributaries, Cavite and Batangas areas. (Photo by Jovan Hope Baltazar of May 1015, Zamboanga-Singapore)

## Corporate-led forest restoration program cited by CSR group

### GREEN IS IN!

#### Eco responsibility

Trinity Motor Philippines Corporation (TMP) joined the global Toyota Environment Month through a series of activities that aim to promote an environmental conservation. TMP team members and representatives from the Toyota Suppliers Club (TSC) planted 100 trees inside the 11-hectare Toyota Forest at the Toyota Agraria Lumban Estate in Santa Rosa, Laguna. Toyota volunteers also participated in the river clean-up along the Siliwangi River near the company's vicinity. (in photo) By cleaning up the river, TMP hopes to prevent further pollution and improve the watersheds. The Siliwangi River is connected to Laguna Lake, which is one of the primary water sources for livelihood of nearby communities.



The future has, indeed, taken root for geothermal leader Energy Development Corporation (EDC) whose 'Birhi' greening legacy program has won the best corporate social responsibility (CSR) project in environment at the League of Corporate Foundation's 1st CSR Gold Awards.

Birhi is the first corporate-led forest restoration program that has been bridging forest gaps and helping back to abundance 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 at work," said Atty. Allan V. Barona, head of EDC's CSR group.

Planting trees and growing them have been an integral part of

maintaining the geothermal reservoir in EDC's geothermal reservation for over 40 years. In 2008, the company launched Birhi to expand the program by using science in planning and restoring threatened native trees. A total of 98 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 2011, EDC initiated locating, collecting these endangered species and began propagating them in 2018 through its Vegetative Material Reproduction (VMR) 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 Jolito, Metro Manila.

Moreover, around 9,323 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 109 farmers associations whose members are incentivized for helping EDC grow and maintain its Birhi areas.

EDC's Birhi 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 Gold 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 136 stakeholder partners.

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