HORIZON

PURSUING TRUTH, UPHOLDING INTEGRITY, LEADING BEYOND.

Volume 3
Issue 2

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOR COLLEGE - JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2025 - JANUARY 2026



PHOTO BY OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOR COLLEGE
CAPTION BY ROSLYN GALANO
FUTURE EMPOWERED LEADERS. Dr. Armida Salvador Samaniego, OLOPSC President, introduced OLOPSC to begin its program to be a TESDA-Accredited Assessment Center to prepare future leaders last February 11.

EMPOWERING COMPETENCE:

OLOPSC BOOSTS INDUSTRY-READY EDUCATION WITH TESDA-ACCREDITED ASSESSMENT CENTER

Zavrina Gonzales and Nicholas Inocencio

Ready, set, certify!

Building on their goal of empowering and enabling leaders for the future, Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College (OLOPSC) launched the TESDA-Accredited Assessment Center on February 11 at the OLOPSC DC Building, Marikina City, with the theme “Where Skills Meet Standard,” broadening opportunities for nationally recognized skills certification and industry-standard training.

Through official accreditation by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the initiative was formally inaugurated in a ceremony led by OLOPSC President Dr. Armida S. Samaniego. Representatives from the Department of Education (DepEd), TESDA PaMaMariSan District, and partner schools from Marikina Private Schools Association (MARIPRISA) and SHS schools in Marikina and Rizal were invited to attend in line with their shared commitment to excellence.

“The assessment center is a strategic response to the growing demand for standards-based training and industry-validated skills certification,” Dr. Armida S. Samaniego, the OLOPSC President, stated in her welcome message. “Together, we continue to create opportunities and shape future-ready leaders.” she added.

The center initially launched certification programs in Food and Beverage Services NC II and Event Management Services NC III, with additional qualifications expected to expand in the future to further support skills development and industry-aligned learning. This initiative emphasizes the institution’s commitment to building the capabilities of future-ready leaders and training them for challenging workforce challenges.

Prior to the launching of the assessment center, the two TESDA programs have been duly certified by the agency since August 2025. The certification will remain valid until August 2027, ensuring that the programs meet the highest standards for training and competency development.

The center features advanced, state-of-the-art training facilities featuring modern industrial equipment and workstations, namely O’Hotel, Cafe Laboratory, and Conference Rooms featuring modern industrial equipment and workstations, giving a true-to-life learning environment that ensures the trainees to experience practical activities that reflect actual workspace conditions.

Liza Marie V. Gawe, the TESDA Supervising Specialist, praised OLOPSC for its adherence to the national standards and cutting-edge facilities designed to offer platforms for individuals to validate their skills and encourage professional growth for students and community members.

By focusing on competency-based training, OLOPSC continues to prepare next-generation individuals capable of exceeding workplace demands and contributing to a workforce aligned with evolving industry standards. Based on the OLOPSC page, additional certification programs will soon follow to meet evolving industry needs, further expanding opportunities for professional progression and skills cultivation.

BYLINE TO TIMELINE: JOURNALISM IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Zavrina Gonzales

A student journalist glides through rows of seats in a packed school auditorium miles away from home. The frenzy of the competition pushes in from all directions, evident from the multiple cameras fighting to get the best angle, and yet they push on. Now, imagine hundreds, if not thousands of campus journalists experiencing this exact moment. Times like these serve as a reminder to November 19, International Journalists’ Day, and its purpose: to honor those who carry the responsibility of truth into the public eye.

International Journalists’ Day honors the countless brave individuals who put their lives at risk to report the truth and expose injustices in the system, as well as a tribute to the countless student journalists pouring their blood, sweat, and tears into their publication. While journalists mark this day as a moment to celebrate the journalists fighting to cover on the front lines, they do so with renewed calls to defend press freedom and a reaffirmation of their duty to serve the public.

Like a river that grows and splits into new streams, the role of journalism changes along with society. Digital platforms, social media timelines and smartphone screens are now the main channels for what used to be printed pages and nightly broadcasts. Journalists now have to navigate an overwhelming amount of information as fact-checkers, data analysts, and storytellers in addition to covering events.

Nowadays, anyone can become a journalist. Whether you are a random YouTuber doing a deep dive on a major social issue, or a first-year in high school trying out journalism for the first time in an attempt to find your clique. In the modern era, it only takes one click cto publish a post and persuade the whole world to agree with your opinions and mindset...

CHECK FULL ARTICLE ON PAGE 11

SUPER TYPHOON UWAN’S DESTRUCTION

P4.92 B DAMAGES

33 DEATHS

88 INJURIES

3 MISSING

2,242,319 AFFECTED PEOPLE

05 NEWS



MARIKINA’S 2ND BEST NEWSPAPER: THE HORIZON SOARS TRIUMPHANTLY WITH 20 WINS AT DSPC; WINNERS GEAR UP FOR RSPC

EDITORIAL 08



FULFILLING SUBSIDY

18 SCI-TECH



ECOLOGY OF LOSS: THE PHILIPPINE EAGLE’S SHRINKING HOME

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STRENGTHENED BELIEFS



PHOTO BY CAMILLE ROSARIO
CAPTION BY AMBER LUCEA
INTEGRITY OVER AVIDITY. The winning shot of the Grade 10 Photo Essay demonstrates honesty as the customer pays the right amount to the seller—capturing the community's value towards integrity.

ESP MONTH STRENGTHENS CORE VALUES; WELCOMES THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Lorraine Herrera

PHOTO ESSAY CONTEST

GRADE 7
1ST PLACE: Gate of Heaven (GOH)
2ND PLACE: Ark of the Covenant (AOC)
3RD PLACE: Mystical Rose (MR)

GRADE 8
1ST PLACE: Blessed Comforter (BC)
2ND PLACE: Path of Salvation (POS)
3RD PLACE: Good Shepherd (GS)

GRADE 9
1ST PLACE: Amazing Grace (AG)
2ND PLACE: Holy Redeemer (HR)
3RD PLACE: Prince of Peace (POP)

GRADE 10
1ST PLACE: Assumption of Mary (AOM)
2ND PLACE: Solemnity of Mary (SOM)
3RD PLACE: Mother of Good Council (MGC)

HUWARANG BAYANI LOOK-A-LIKE

GRADE 7&8
1ST PLACE: Raymore James Bohol (8-DM)
2ND PLACE: Jayden Jans Bautista (8-BC)
3RD PLACE: Chloe Allison Ngo (8-POS)

GRADE 9&10
1ST PLACE: Winona Arabella Bantug (9-AG)
2ND PLACE: Rainiel Elijah Cabral (10-AOM)
3RD PLACE: Bio Myrenizah (9-WC)

Welcoming the jolly Christmas season, the Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College (OLOPSC) commenced the month of Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao (EsP)—following the theme "Matatag na Puso at Diwa: Inklisibong Pagpapakatao, Determinadong Bayani, Positioning kinabukasan," through a sequence of various activities all throughout December.

The first activity in line was the Photo Essay Contest, where each section was tasked to submit a photo that correlated with OLOPSC"s core values (S-RICE) and then asked to select a section representative to write an essay regarding the submitted photo for the interlevel competition.

Following that, in collaboration with the Araling Panlipunan (AP) department, the next competition was the Huwarang Bayani Look-a-Like Challenge, wherein each section was to select a representative to reenact a certain global hero.

Finishing off the month, OLOPSC hosted a Gift Giving for their adoptive families in Tumana. Each family was given a gift package for their celebration of Noche Buena that was handed to them by the students, who also provided the contents of the package for their project in EsP.

Being one of the ones who've planned these events, Theresa Saet, the Subject Area Chair for EsP, said

"EsP Month was instrumental in shaping students into capable, principled individuals ready for the real world, as all initiatives were intentionally tied to the school's Vision and Mission, and focused on building practical life competencies. By aligning every activity with the institution's foundational goals, students learned to connect personal development to meaningful purposes."

Upholding the institution's core values, the OLOPSC - EsP department plans to host the same activities in preparation for next year's celebration.



PHOTO BY AMBER LUCEA
GROOVING IN SYNC. Junior High School (JHS) Faculty dances with the rhythm as they showcase unseen talents during the ASAP: Alab at Sigla sa Ating mga Puso held on December 11, 2025.

OLOPSCIANS RESHARPEN SKILLS THROUGH SECOND ROUND OF MATHITINIKS

Nixie Sabang

Aiming to apply academic skills and test students' critical thinking under pressure, the Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College (OLOPSC) Junior High School (JHS) section representatives took part in the second round of the Battle of Mathitiniks set last November 27, 2025.

Three participants were chosen in each section, and the sections were ranked based on their number of points earned; the first rank received seven points, decreasing to the last rank, which received a point.

Results were released on December 6 at the OLOPSC's Facebook page.

"It's insightful and less complex than the previous round, all lessons were applied, however, it's still a bit challenging," commented Cassandra Pacol, a Grade 10-COM representative.

Emphasizing the school's commitment to further explore and expand OLOPSCians' academic capabilities, teamwork, grit, and confidence, the third round began on December 18, marking its goal to increase challenge and competence through Math.

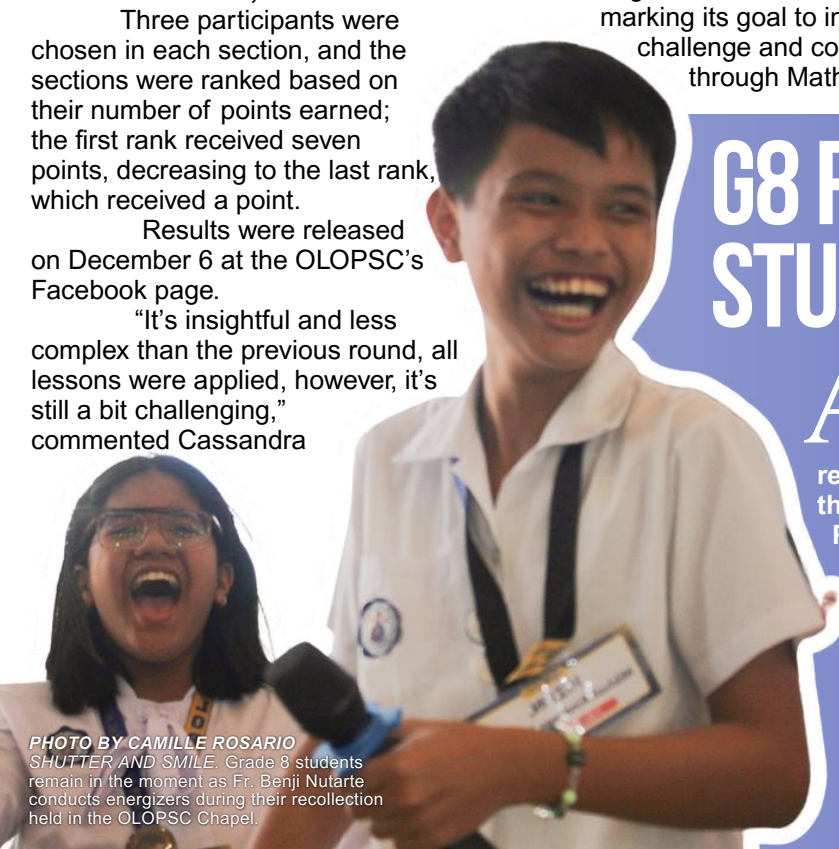


PHOTO BY CAMILLE ROSARIO
SHUTTER AND SMILE. Grade 8 students remain in the moment as Fr. Benji Nutarte conducts energizers during their recollection held in the OLOPSC Chapel.

G8 RECOLLECTION, CONFESSION STRENGTHENS STUDENTS' RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Zacred Aquino

Aiming to strengthen students' spiritual relationship with God, the Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College (OLOPSC) Junior High School (JHS) Faculty organized a Recollection and Confession for Grade 8 students at the OLOPSC Chapel last November 27 and December 3.

The recollection was held at the chapel and led by Fr. Benjie Notarte as he educated the pupils on spiritual learnings, focusing on generosity, attentiveness, and humility.

Students also participated in the confession, seeking forgiveness and spiritual renewal while deepening their relationship with God.

"The recollection is part of our spiritual program that is anchored in our school values, and it is done yearly for the students to have spiritual growth that will guide them throughout the school year," said Noel Piedragoza, a Grade 8 EsP Teacher.

"Through recollection and confession, I have come to appreciate my family more and value the time I spend with them, realizing that they will not be with me forever and that every moment truly matters," Mikhail Hizon, student from Grade 8 - Blessed Comforter.

The yearly recollection and confession helped students grow spiritually by bringing them closer to God and their families, while also incorporating OLOPSC's core value of spirituality, and guiding them to reflect on their lives and faith as they continue to mature throughout the years.

JHS FACULTY CAPTIVATES STUDENT BODY THROUGH FACULTY CONCERT

Roslyn Galano

Aiming to captivate the Junior High School's attention, the Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College - Junior High School (OLOPSC JHS) department organized the Faculty Concert through a variety of performances in the OLOPSC Gymnasium last December 11, 2025.

The event was proposed by Norika R. Chavez, faculty President and part of the MAPEH subject area teachers.

With her leadership, the JHS Department was able to reach the goal of giving students an enjoyable performance by teachers performing as Sessionistas, Bini, Kpop Girls, Kpop Boys, Divas, Hiphop, Old School, and as a Band.

The event used to be a tradition until the pandemic hit. They decided to reinstate the former tradition with the main reason being to resolve their financial issue for the Junior High School's faculty Christmas party.

For the students to attend the concert, they must buy the ticket which costs 70 pesos. The money earned from these tickets are allotted for the said faculty Christmas party.

According to Angelo Zamora, a faculty staff member and student council adviser, before the actual performance, teachers only had three weeks to finish routines and create the campaign materials, while juggling their own obligations as teachers.

"Balancing our roles as educators and performers while being mindful of our responsibilities as parents and spouses was incredibly taxing. We overcame these hurdles through collective discipline and mutual support." Said by Chavez.

Moving forward, to maintain the revived tradition, the department plans to organize the same event next year as the whole department certainly enjoyed the feeling of performing once again.

CONQUERING NUMBERS

MATHITINIKS FINAL ROUND PROMOTES MATHEMATICAL PROFICIENCY

With a goal to strengthen students' mathematical agility, Junior High School section representatives demonstrated their numerical prowess by competing in the Final Round of the Battle of Mathitiniks (BOM) at the Audio Visual Room last February 4.

Aligned with the celebration of Math Month, participants worked in groups of three per section and wrote their answers on a whiteboard while the questions were flashed on a screen, highlighting proficient collaboration.

The winners were determined based on the final scores, which were obtained by adding each section's total points from the previous rounds to their scores in the final round.

"For the final round, I planned to focus on my weak areas, review my previous mistakes, manage my time well, and double-check my answers to ensure success," expressed John De Leon, one of the Grade 8 section representatives for the contest.

The competition was divided into three categories: easy, medium, and difficult, where the students answered in a span of 30 to 60 seconds each question to exercise their computational efficiency.

"The Battle of Mathitiniks is more than just a test of Math skills. It serves as a training for the cognitive and emotional demands of higher education and professional life," stated Bernadette De Mesa, the Subject Area Chair for Mathematics.

She also stated that the competition teaches students quick response, accuracy, academic resilience, and time management, exposing them to a wider pool of talent while promoting leadership through task delegation.

By solving numerical problems of varying difficulty, the program aimed to reinforce students' understanding of mathematical concepts—promoting excellence through the enhancement of critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and analytical skills.

Striving to further support the development of students' quantitative skills and nurture a deeper appreciation for mathematical learning, the institution plans to continue hosting the annual BOM.

CHAMPION
GRADE 10: Assumption of Mary (AOM)
GRADE 9: Amazing Grace (AG)
GRADE 8: Blessed Comforter (BC)
GRADE 7: Ark of the Covenant (AOC)

FIRST RUNNER-UP
GRADE 10: Solemnity of Mary (SOM)
GRADE 9: Bread of Life (BOL)
GRADE 8: Good Shepherd (GS)
GRADE 7: Gate of Heaven (GOH)

SECOND RUNNER-UP
GRADE 10: Mother of Good Council (MGC)
GRADE 9: Holy Redeemer (HR)
GRADE 8: Light of the World (LOTW)
GRADE 7: God of Peace (GOP)

THIRD RUNNER-UP
GRADE 10: Coronation of Mary (COM)
GRADE 9: Wonderful Counselor (WC)
GRADE 8: Captain of Salvation (COS)
GRADE 7: Mirror of Justice (MOJ)

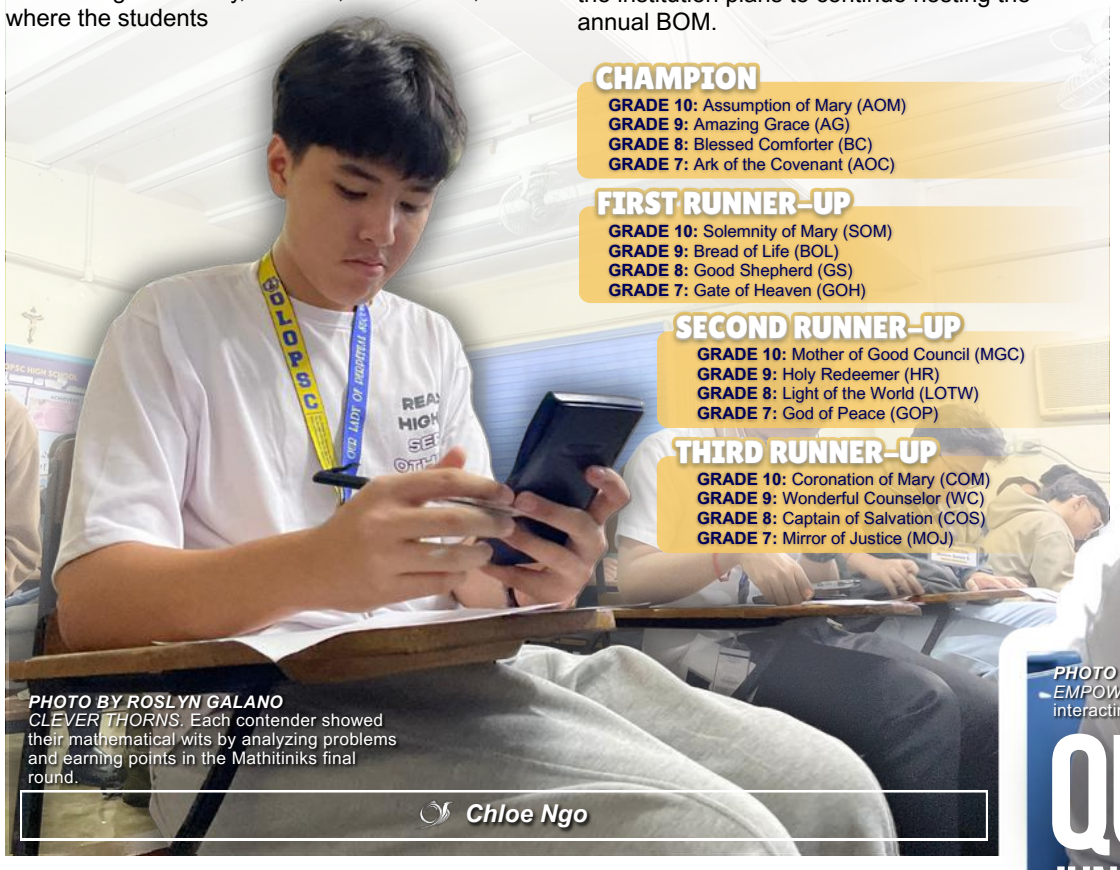


PHOTO BY ROSLYN GALANO
CLEVER THORNS. Each contender showed their mathematical wits by analyzing problems and earning points in the Mathitiniks final round.

Chloe Ngo

QUEST FOR WORDS

JUNIOR SPELLING QUEST HONES STUDENTS' VOCABULARY SKILLS

With its mission to enhance students' vocabulary and spelling skills, the Junior High School (JHS) Department advances the English Month celebration with the "Junior Spelling Quest" — a spelling competition open from Grades 7 to 10 at the High School Learning Resource Center, which concluded with final round held at the Audio Visual Room (AVR), last November 24.

"The main goal of the Junior Spelling Quest was to help students improve their spelling accuracy, widen their vocabulary, and develop confidence in using English. The event also aimed to strengthen students' reading and word-recognition skills while encouraging them to engage in friendly and meaningful academic competitions," said Karl Crespo, a Grade 7 English teacher and program coordinator.

English teachers from the JHS Department collaborated with the library staff to organize this event, along with explaining its mechanics: the elimination round consisted of 25 items, with the 20 highest-scorers advancing to the Final Round, which consisted of three rounds, ranging from easy to difficult.

The first round had a time limit of 10 seconds and 2 points per item, the medium round had 15 seconds with 3 points each, and the difficult round had 20 seconds and 5 points for each word.

"I actually did not expect to reach the final round—let alone bag champion. But, regardless, I'm deeply grateful that I managed to prove my efforts effective. Before the competition, I decided to skim through a couple of words just in case. It was to my surprise that some of them actually appeared in the competition, teaching me that even a little preparation can go a long way. Winning champion was exhilarating, but one thing I'd like to highlight is to always be careful—even one point can move you down a place, so always be confident in your judgment." Chloe Ngo from 8 - Path of Salvation, expressed this during an interview.

This event ensured that participants from all grade levels broadened their knowledge and built their confidence through communication and active participation, with emphasis on not only winning, but also skill development.

Looking forward, the department is expected to hold competitions as such that promotes active engagement and willingness in the learners to improve by enriching the students' knowledge, along with empowering them through sportsmanship and camaraderie.

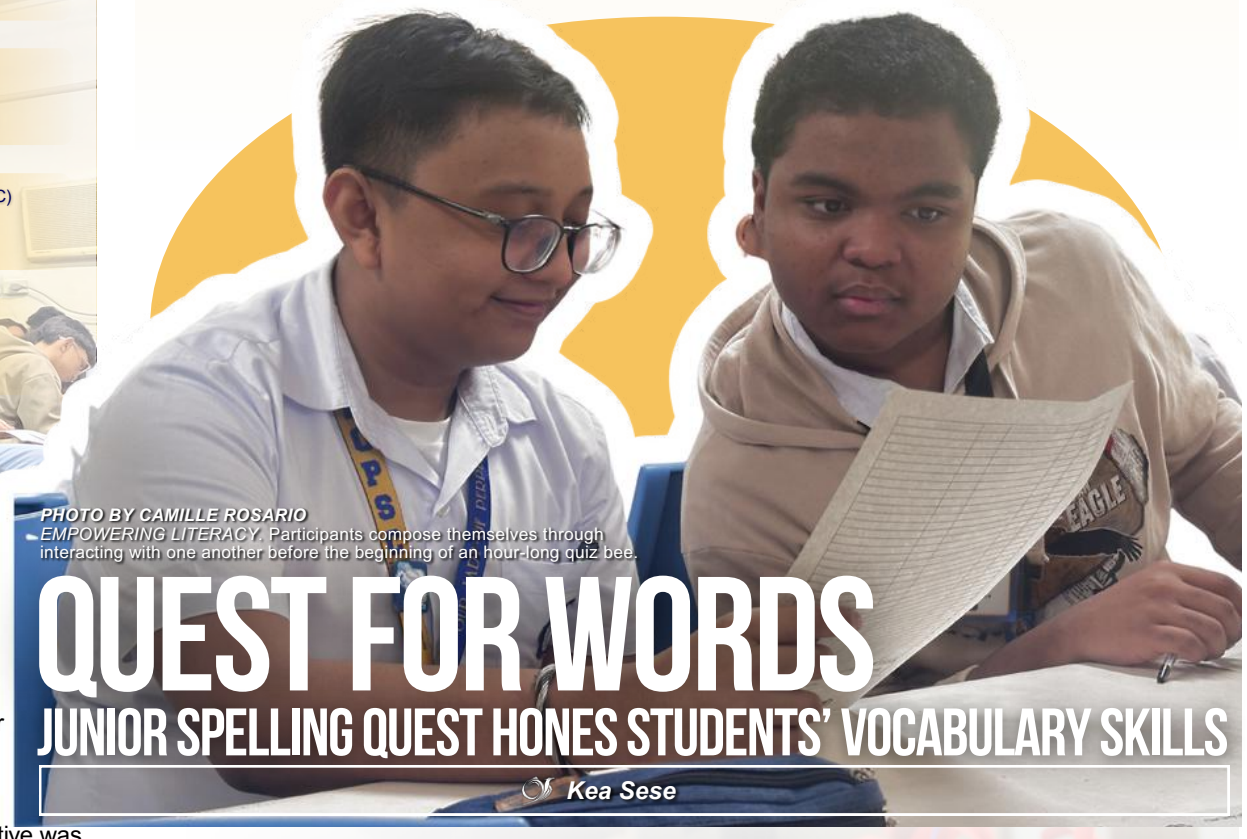


PHOTO BY CAMILLE ROSARIO
EMPOWERING LITERACY. Participants compose themselves through interacting with one another before the beginning of an hour-long quiz bee.

Kea Sese

THE GIFT OF GENEROSITY —WRAPPED AND READY!

Welcoming the spirit of giving, the Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College (OLOPSC) Junior High School (JHS) Department held its annual "Tulong at Kalinga Mula sa OLOPSCian" Gift Giving Program at the Dioniso Sr. Hall last December 11.

With a focus on compassion and community service, the event distributed gift bags to 30 families from Tumana, Marikina City, containing food products donated by JHS students from across grade levels.

In collaboration with the Coordinator of Student Affairs, Pia Velasquez, the Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao department, and the Junior High School Student Organization (JHSSO), the initiative was organized to extend Christmas cheer to underprivileged families—aspiring to make the festive season more memorable.

"Dahil meron tayong mga naibibigay sa kanila, we are extending something na galing sa atin from our identity as OLOPSCians," expressed Angelo Zamora, the JHSSO Moderator, highlighting how caring culture is a core value instilled in the institution.

By reaching out to families in need, the event demonstrated the school's commitment to nurturing its students, fostering a deep appreciation for cultural values by developing a heart for service.

According to the CSA, JHS teachers will also be distributing dishwashing liquid to the same Tumana families this Friday as part of the ongoing outreach, which is set to be sustained throughout the year through continued donations of goods and essential products.

Looking ahead, the department plans to continue the gift-giving program annually to uphold the value of responsibility and care—ensuring that students become active contributors to the welfare of the community.

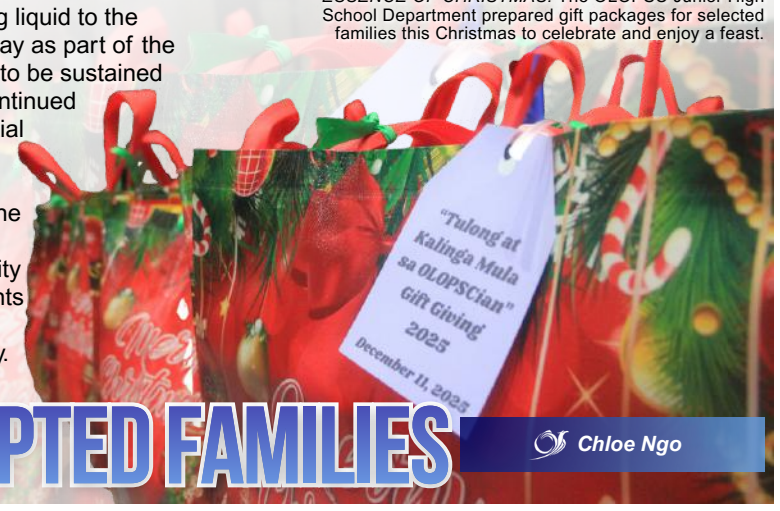


PHOTO BY ROSLY GALANO
ESSENCE OF CHRISTMAS. The OLOPSC Junior High School Department prepared gift packages for selected families this Christmas to celebrate and enjoy a feast.

JHS GIFT-GIVING BRINGS HOLIDAY CHEER TO ADOPTED FAMILIES

Chloe Ngo

OLOPSC PTA HIGHLIGHTS SCHOOL VALUES THROUGH DIGITAL PLAY

Camille Rosario

PHOTO BY ROSLYN GALANO
THE GRIT TO ENTERTAIN. The actor showed great perseverance as he continuously performed despite the sweat to put on a sublime performance to OLOPSCians.

In pursuit of reinforcing the institution's core values through a showcase of theatrical expression, the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), in collaboration with Philmarts Studio, organized its annual digital play in the OLOPSC gymnasium last November 21, 2025.

Aligned with the school's core value of integrity, the play 'Maniwala Ka Man o Hindi,' directed by Gemma Noroña, explored themes of honesty, family, and reconnection amid circumstances rooted in one lie after another.

Actors performed dances, comedic and suspenseful scenes, presenting on stage and among the crowd, promoting audience engagement throughout the production.

"I want the audience to understand that even today, some people still believe in wrong beliefs and superstitions. These beliefs are more common in the provinces, especially among those who do not have enough money or education. Instead of trusting science and doctors who studied for many years, some people still rely on superstition," explained Noroña.

Many commended the plot for its relevance, along with the play's outstanding overall stage production and quality. Students constantly laughed and were kept on the edge of their seats, similar to previous performances.

Aside from the applause, students noted that an area for improvement was the struggle of watching the play for those seated at the back without having the comfort of viewing on the projected screens.

Following this, more plays are expected to be showcased in the future with the help of Philmarts Studio, exploring stories filled with emotion and the goal of reaching those filled with dreams and struggles.

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G9 STUDENTS ENHANCE SPIRITUAL CONNECTION THROUGH ANNUAL RECOLLECTION

Sofia Landagan and Kea Sese

Faithfully instilling spirituality among its students, the Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College - Junior High School (OLOPSC JHS) Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao (EsP) department organized its annual Grade 9 recollection, held at the Dionisio Sr. Hall on January 13.

The program began with the recollection featuring a set of prayers from the Holy Rosary, followed by an introductory reflection by Fr. Benjie Notarte—highlighting the value of positive relationships, responsible citizenship, and improving over time.

In strengthening their relationships, Fr. Notarte guided the Grade 9 students through small activities, including sharing memorable experiences by identifying "four truths and one lie," illustrating their life goals through drawings, and encouraging them to reflect on their spiritual well-being.

The agenda further continued with questions that stimulated active engagement, enabling students to provide their insights on stage—boosting confidence, restoring faith, and inspiring thoughtfulness towards others.

"After the recollection, I felt that all of my burden was gone. I feel that all of the heavy weight I was feeling throughout the hard times was erased by Him. I was grateful and happy that I got this chance to talk to our dear Lord because He was the only person I can talk with whenever I have problems in life, or I ask for guidance," expressed Kristina Bautista, a Grade 9 student from Wonderful Counselor.

Following the recollection, a Mass was held at the chapel, allowing students to further reflect on their spiritual health.

"Recollection gives us reflection, values, and to know your inner self, and it solves your problems in other ways—problems like in your family, in your friends, and in your school," said Pia Velasquez, an EsP Grades 9 and 10 teacher, as well as the JHS department's Coordinator for Student Activities.

The recollection fulfilled its mission by providing students with time to grow, flourish, and redeem their spirits—reinforcing spirituality as its core value in students through reflection and personal development.



PHOTO BY SOPHIA ESGUERRA
RECOLLECTING SPIRITUALITY. Grade 9 students strengthened their faith at OLOPSC's chapel last January 13, following their recollection at the DS Hall where they reflected on how to care for themselves, others, and God.

OLOPSCIANS PLACE 11TH IN NATIONAL MIL QUIZ BEE

Zofia Bartolome

Showcasing excellence in an evolving Artificial Intelligence-driven world, Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College - Junior High School (OLOPSC JHS) students emerged as 11th placers in the National Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Quiz Bee at Citadines Hotel Residence held by the National Council for Children's Television (NCCT) in line with the celebration of Global MIL Week last October 25, 2025.

The team, composed of Jian Ronquillo, Ayana Leaño (10 - Assumption of Mary), and Sophia Esguerra (9 - Holy Trinity), answered questions related to MIL and AI, reflecting the year's theme "Minds Over AI: Media and Information Literacy in Digital Spaces," highlighting its growing role in media, education, and society.

According to Esguerra, a total of 20 teams competed in the quiz bee, with each team composed of three members. The participants collaborated to answer the given questions.

Among the teams, known schools such as La Consolacion, Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU), Far Eastern University (FEU), and the University of Santo Tomas (UST) were among those present during the event.

Aside from the quiz bee, the event has also included discussions and various activities that involve educators, parents, and advocates to share their experiences and ideas to make media literacy stronger in digital spaces.

The quiz bee provided students with activities focused on the media and information literacy and encouraged them to improve their knowledge and responsibility.

ENGLISH MONTH STRENGTHENS LITERACY AMONG JHS STUDENTS

Rian Rosales

Along with its strive for upholding literature and its established values for the enrichment of culture, The Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College Junior High School Department (OLOPSC JHS) conducted a proud celebration of literature and the English language through the month of November with the theme "English In The Age Of AI: Nurturing Creativity, Critical Thinking, and Communication."

Grade 7 students were tasked with creating a slogan based on a chosen book or movie and delivering a declamation. The highlight was the declamation and slogan-making contest.

For Grade 8 students, they participated in an oratorical contest and a poster-making activity, with the instruction to create a poster based on a book or movie—while one representative was chosen per section, they were given the task of preparing an interpretation of the piece "Dirty Hands" by John P. Delaney SJ.

For Grades 9 to 10, they engaged in the revived "Literary Act Attack," a competition that challenges leadership, creativity, and teamwork—they were tasked to choose a movie and act it out to see their interpretation and own adaptation of their chosen movie

For the following years, the English department wishes to conduct more activities, such as the Literary Catwalk and other activities, for the enrichment and development of students' skills and knowledge.

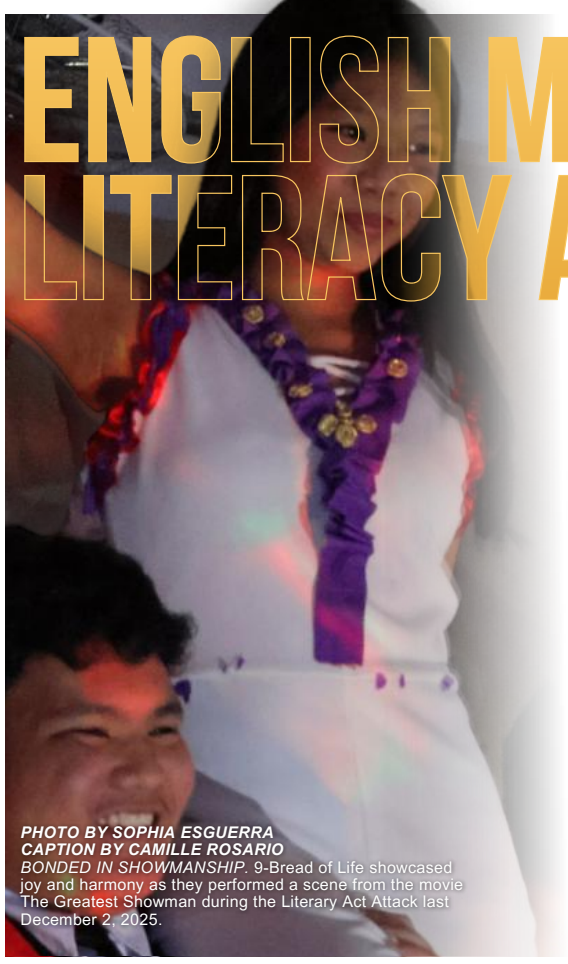


PHOTO BY SOPHIA ESGUERRA
CAPTION BY CAMILLE ROSARIO
BONDED IN SHOWMANSHIP. 9-Bread of Life showcased joy and harmony as they performed a scene from the movie The Greatest Showman during the Literary Act Attack last December 2, 2025.

GRADE 9 WINNERS

- 9 - POP (AVATAR: THE LAST AIRBENDER) — 1ST
- 9 - HT (MOANA) — 2ND
- 9 - AG (WICKED) — 3rd

GRADE 10 WINNERS

- 10 - AOM (ENCANTO) — 1ST
- 10 - SOM (GREASE) — 2ND
- 10 - LOM (EPIC: THE MUSICAL) — 3rd

PATRIOTISM IN ACTION

OLOPSCIANS COMMEMORATE FILIPINO HEROES THROUGH HUWARANG BAYANI

Katrina Dar

Witnessing Philippine history come alive, the Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College - Junior High School (OLOPSC JHS) department conducted the Huwarang Bayani, themed "Diwa ng Kasaysayan: Kabilin sa Kabataan," in celebration of Araling Panlipunan (AP) and Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao (EsP) Month. Students from Grades 7 to 10 transformed the Dionisio Sr. Hall into a stage of heroism, highlighting Filipino heroes and celebrating patriotism, on January 9.

The competition aimed to strengthen students' appreciation of heroism and nationalism. By stepping into the roles of Filipino heroes, students were encouraged to reflect on the importance of courage, sacrifice, and service to the country.

The event featured student representatives portraying different patriots through costumes, character presentations, and short performances. Each participant highlighted the life, ideals, and contributions of their chosen hero, offering the audience a visual and educational experience of Philippine history.

Following each performance, participants faced a question-and-answer portion, where they were asked about the values, legacy, and relevance of the hero they portrayed. This segment tested the students' knowledge, critical thinking, and ability to express ideas clearly, further emphasizing the educational nature of the competition.

"The event was truly memorable, and every performance from each level was outstanding—there was no weak presentation. Each section was deserving of the title of this year's Huwarang Bayani. With our representative, the hard work and dedication were clearly evident in the performance. All the effort and preparation truly paid off. Congratulations to all the contenders, especially to our representative," Jacob Jay Legarse, a student from Grade 9–Amazing Grace, the section that earned the Champion title in the Huwarang Bayani competition.

The Huwarang Bayani competition concluded as a meaningful celebration of history and patriotism, leaving the school community with a renewed appreciation for the sacrifices and values upheld by Filipino heroes.

GRADE 7-8

- 8-DIVINE MERCY
- 8-BLESSED COMFORTER
- 8-PATH OF SALVATION

GRADE 9-10

- 9-AMAZING GRACE
- 10-ASSUMPTION OF MARY
- 9-WONDERFUL COUNSELOR



PHOTO BY KATRINA DAR
FURY OF A PATRIOT. Grade 10 AOM students portray General Luna at DS Hall during Huwarang Bayani, surrounding the central figure in a tense, red-lit tableau that captures Luna's fiery nationalism, inner conflict, and the brutal cost of revolutionary leadership.

OLOPSCIAN JOURNOS EMERGE VICTORIOUS WITH 18 WINS AT NCMC



CAPTION BY ROSLYN GALANO
DUODECAD TROPHY. The Horizon bags 12 awards at the National Campus Media Conference last September 25-27, showcasing expertise in journalism.

Lorraine Herrera

Unveiling true excellence as campus journalists, the Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College (OLOPSC), comprising of Junior and Senior High School students from their official student publications–The Horizon and Hayag Kalayaan, respectively–emerged victorious with 18 wins against 97 schools across the archipelago at the National Campus Media Conference (NCMC) held at the SMX Convention Central Park at Pampanga last September 25 to 27.

The competition aimed to showcase the power of journalism to the campus journalists who attended in order to prepare them for more competitions and when they become Journalists.

Along with the upcoming division and regional school press conferences in preparation for the national stage, the competition aimed to hone the power of journalism in real-life application for campus journalists.

Aside from the individual and group winnings, The Horizon's Volume 2, Issue 2 Newspaper from last year's publication year also bagged multiple winnings.

Aligned with the event's mission, the ceremony also invited inspiring speakers–such as GMA 7 Broadcast Journalist Ivan Mayrina–who emphasized how campus journalists can empower journalism.

Opening one's eyes to the true power of the press, the guest of honor also highlighted the ability of the delegates to use their voice to fight off the deep-rooted corruption in the country while still honoring culture as a Filipino.

Upholding its everlasting legacy, The Horizon plans to continue to radiate in competitions, such as in the upcoming 28th Word Cup Philippines and the Transforming Advocates and Competitions Inc., to continue spreading the truth and empowering people.

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES

NEWS WRITING
- Zavrina Alba Gonzales (JHS) 1st Place
- Mairybelle Franz San Pedro (SHS) 1st Place

EDITORIAL WRITING
- Sofia Ann Tupas (SHS) 7th Place
- Lorraine Lois Herrera (JHS) 10th Place

GROUP CATEGORY

I-Dokumento - 4th Place
- Mairybelle Franz San Pedro
- Sofia Ann Tupas
- Jemilia Gave Dalisay

SCHOOL PAPER ADVISER

OPINION WRITING
- Mr. Justin Mark Carillo - 4th Place

NEWSPAPER CATEGORY

- **Campus Newspaper of the Year** - 1st Place
- **Best Newspaper Opinion Articles** - 1st Place
- **Best Newspaper Editorial Cartoon** - 1st Place
- **Best Newspaper Sports Action Photos** - 2nd Place
- **Best Newspaper Stories** - 2nd Place
- **Best Newspaper Front Page Layout** - 2nd Place
- **Best Newspaper Feature Photos** - 2nd Place
- **Best Newspaper Inside Page Layout** - 3rd Place
- **Best Newspaper News Photos** - 3rd Place
- **Best Newspaper Editorial Content** - 3rd Place
- **Best Newspaper Development Communication Page** - 4th Place
- **Best Newspaper Feature Stories** - 5th Place

MARIKINA'S 2ND BEST NEWSPAPER

THE HORIZON SOARS TRIUMPHANTLY WITH 20 WINS AT DSPC; WINNERS GEAR UP FOR RSPC

Katrina Dar

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES
- 1st Place Feature Writing (RSPC Qualifier) - **Zavrina Alba Gonzales**
- 1st Place Pagsulat ng Balitang Isports (RSPC Qualifier) - **Santino Gabriel Robles**
- 1st Place - Mobile Journalism Filipino (RSPC Qualifier) - **Ravi Garcia**
- 3rd Place Pagkakartung Editoryal (RSPC Qualifier) - **Kylie Lim**
- 4th Place Sports Writing - **Sofia Landagan**
- 5th Place Pagwawasto at Pag-uulo - **Juno Inocencio**
- 6th Place Mobile Journalism English - **Sky Chingcuanco**

GROUP CATEGORIES
- 1st Place Online Publishing English (RSPC Qualifier) - **Anne Salvador, Amber Lucea, Angela Arcangel, Sophia Esguerra, Rachelle Arcangel**
- 3rd Place Radio Broadcasting English - **Cheska Barruga, Hailey Balagtas, Marcus Rivera, Neal Bayaca, Ysa Beltran, Alliah Camilon, Cyreel Mabalot**

EDITOR'S GUILD
- Newly Elected Secretary of the Marikina Editor's Guild - **Ayana Leaño**

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1
- 1st Place Sports Page
- 2nd Place Editorial Page
- 3rd Place Feature Page
- 4th Place News Page
- 5th Place Layout and Design
- 6th Place Science and Technology Page

Emphasizing their talent and commitment to truth, OLOPSCians conquer the 25th Division Schools Press Conference (DSPC) with 20 wins—under the theme "Shaping Influencers and Vanguards of Truth in Schools, Media Platforms, and Communities Through Campus Journalism"—last November 22 at the SSS National High School.

The multi-day conference was held on November 7 to 8, 14 to 15, and 22, 2025, at SSS Village Elementary School and SSS National High School, which served as the main venues for the journalism contests.

Displaying excellence once again, the Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College (OLOPSC) secured second in the overall combined category, while its Junior High School official student publication—The Horizon—was proclaimed Marikina's second-best school newspaper.

Beyond the collective recognition, individual triumphs stood out as participants shared how the competition shaped their growth and confidence in journalism.

Despite the challenges encountered during the competition, the experience proved meaningful for the participants, especially for those new to the field. "Despite the challenges faced during DSPC 2025, and as someone who's just starting their journalism journey, DSPC really shaped my outlook on this field. I'm more than grateful that we were able to bag that champion place even with time constraints. All glory to Him," said Amber Lucea, champion in Online Publishing (English).

Meanwhile, Gabriel Robles, who clinched 1st place in Sports Writing, shared his surprise over the outcome. He admitted that he did not expect to place in the top seven, much less emerge as the top winner in his category.

The success of the DSPC 2025 reaffirmed Marikina City's commitment to nurturing young journalists and promoting responsible campus journalism. As the winners prepare for the Regional Schools Press Conference, they carry with them the values of truth, integrity, and excellence in student media.



PHOTO BY CAMILLE ROSARIO
MAINTAINING THE LEGACY. OLOPSCians display victorious smiles after triumphing in 20 victories in the 25th Division Schools Press Conference.

Fresh from bagging a Level III re-accreditation from the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities (PAASCU), the Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College (OLOPSC) opened their doors to delegates from Faith College to share their own institution practices through a Benchmarking Activity on January 9.

Aligned with the partnered institution's upcoming PAASCU accreditation for Level II, the college conducted a visit to observe the best practices implemented and adapted by its staff–the facilities, how the classes are conducted, and what preparations were made to attain such accreditation.

A formal program was held upon the arrival of the delegates from Faith College, hailing from Batangas, to introduce the two schools and explain the flow of events where they will be having a tour of the entire campus and a meeting after with the Basic Education School Leaders of OLOPSC to discuss the Accomplishment and Implementation of the new PAASCU tool.

Following its agenda, the campus tour was conducted. Starting from the High School Department until Preschool Department. Allowing the guests to fully witness firsthand the facilities OLOPSC has. During the tour, delegates witnessed practices, especially the reward system in which the Junior High School department gives out an award for the sections who have achieved great discipline in their behaviour throughout a quarter and maintaining the cleanliness of their classroom. School programs were also given acknowledgement such as the Christmas Gift Giving Program meant to help families in Marikina City.

"Aside from being a Subject Coordinator, I am also in-charge of the discipline of the Grade 7 to 9 students so the way that you have a reward system to the students who are the most disciplined, cleanest, I would like to have that be adapted to our school to set a value to it," Arlyn M. Narvaez, a representative and the Subject Coordinator for Filipino from Faith College said in Filipino.

Additionally, she highlighted that having students incorporate a unique greeting is a great practice to encourage students to be polite whenever interacting with fellow students, teachers, and staff.

Aiming to further strengthen academic partnerships, the recently formed Asian Association of Academic Administrators and Educators, Inc. (A4E) was also introduced to the delegates. With exclusive networking opportunities, access to cutting-edge educational resources and a participation in impactful professional development.

Looking ahead, both institutions expressed their commitment to further innovate their academic programs and support the continuous development of student learning.

Hara Urbano

SHARING EXPERTISE: OLOPSC, FAITH COLLEGE FORM ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP THROUGH BENCHMARK VISIT



PHOTO BY ROSLYN GALANO
PROLOGUE: THE GROWTH OF ALMA MATTER. Dr. Armida S. Samaniego, OLOPSC President,together with the JHS principal, Mrs. Perpetua Hernandez, and GS principal, Mrs. Mary Rose Labariento, welcomes delegates from Faith College.

REOPENED CASE ALICE GUO FACES HUMAN TRAFFICKING ALLEGATIONS



PHOTO BY BLOOMBERG
CAPTION BY KATRINA DAR
THE SHADOWS OF CRIME. Alice Guo, former mayor of Bamban, Tarlac, sits at a verdict hearing last November 20,2025, amid allegations of human trafficking and connections to Chinese organized crime.

Zofia Bartolome

Reopening the case of dismissed Bamban Mayor Alice Guo, the alleged Chinese spy has been linked to human trafficking allegations after government investigations into an alleged illegal Philippine Offshore Gaming Operator (POGO) hub in Bamban last November 21, 2025.

Authorities managed a raid that rescued some individuals, including Filipinos and foreigners, who were reportedly forced to work in online scam operations under harsh controls.

Investigators are currently checking if Guo used her role as the head of the compound to support the illegal activities. Guo has denied the accusations and said she was not involved in any activities related to POGO.

However, the officials are still investigating her background, business connections, and citizenship status. Guo is currently imprisoned at the NCR CIDG Custodial Facility in Camp Crame, and the Pasig court ordered her transfer to the Pasig City Jail Female Dormitory.

Another accused, Malaysian national Walter Wong Long, was also recently arrested this year in an illegal POGO hub in Bamban, and is currently being held at the Tarlac Provincial Jail and has also been transferred to Pasig City Jail.

Meanwhile, several others were accused, including Huang Zhiyang, who was identified by the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission (PAOCC) as the "boss of all bosses" of POGO operations, and former Technology and Livelihood Resource Center Deputy Director General Dennis Cunanan.

The court order stated that all those involved in the case are not entitled to post bail since the charges are non-bailable. Secretary Remulla said that the detention of Guo and Wong shows that the justice system is working, as the remaining suspects shall surrender immediately.

There are expected renewed calls for stricter enforcement against human trafficking and illegal gambling in the Philippines, as authorities declared that the investigation is still ongoing and there may be additional charges that will be filed if more evidence is discovered.

MARCOS SUSPENDS ZALDY CO'S PASSPORT AMID FLOOD CONTROL ANOMALIES

Chloe Ngo

GROUNDED BY PRESIDENTIAL ORDER

Amid controversies over anomalous flood control projects in Oriental Mindanao and Bulacan, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. suspended the passport of former Ako Bicol Rep. and founder of Sunwest Corp., Zaldy Co to prevent him from fleeing the country last December 10.

"I can report to you that Zaldy Co's passport has been cancelled," Marcos stated in a video posted on his social media accounts, adding that he instructed the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) to coordinate with foreign embassies to track Co's whereabouts.

According to reports by the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the decision followed after Co was linked to multi-billion-peso irregularities in flood control projects, including a ₱289.5-million substandard project road dike in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro that failed to meet safety and quality standards.

The publication further noted that former district and assistant engineers also testified that budget insertions connected to Co in Bulacan rose to at least ₱35 billion from 2022 to 2025, yet authorities were unable to serve arrest warrants at Co's residence.

Co left the country in mid-2025, initially claiming that he needed medical treatment, but has refused to return since the allegations resurfaced—he has been linked to locations in Sweden and Portugal with a "golden visa," which allows foreign investors to reside in the country.

Meanwhile, he has filed a petition with the Swedish Supreme Court to nullify the graft and malversation charges, claiming that the allegations are a political vendetta based on an "unproven conspiracy".

Co is currently deemed a fugitive by the Sandiganbayan and faces three arrest warrants, though he argues that the rule preventing fugitives from seeking court relief should not apply since no judgement has been rendered against him.

Meanwhile, the government plans to coordinate with European authorities and flag his passport through the International Criminal Police Organization, leaving Co with limited options but to return to the Philippines and face the charges against him.



PHOTO BY PHILSTAR
CAPTION BY REANNE MENDOZA
TRAVEL PRIVILEGES REVOKED. Former Ako Bicol Representative, Zaldy Co, receives a passport cancellation and is declared a fugitive in connection to graft charges.

HOLLOW CLAIMS

DOJ DENIES ICC ARREST WARRANT AGAINST DELA ROSA

Amber Lucea



PHOTO BY SENATE PRIB
CAPTION BY SOPHIA ESGUERRA
UNDER SCRUTINY. Senator Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa listens intently during a senate hearing regarding the issues of the International Criminal Court (ICC) warrants.

Following reports circulating the arrest of former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte by the International Criminal Court (ICC), Prosecutor General Richard Fadullon dismissed claims that the Department of Justice (DOJ) had received an arrest warrant from the ICC against Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa, confirming that no official papers have been given to the department.

This statement was issued to clarify public speculations, emphasizing that the DOJ is unable to arrest without an official document from the ICC.

The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Jonvic Remulla also said, "Maybe Harry Roque knows more than I do. I will only confirm when I see the actual document," confirming that the DILG has yet to receive any instructions regarding the alleged warrant, explaining why there is no implemented action.

Remulla added that clarification can only commence once the actual files are obtained, highlighting the vitality of the formal process before confirming any claims.

The issue resurfaced after Former Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque stated online that a warrant had already been issued, despite the lack of concrete proof.

Meanwhile, Dela Rosa remains unseen by the public and has been absent to Senate sessions since November 2025, following his alleged arrest warrant. Due to this, he wasn't able to appear during the final deliberations of the proposed 2026 General Appropriation Act.

Attempts to contact Dela Rosa have gone unanswered for nearly two months, according to Senate President Sotto, while also noting that the senator's office continues to operate.

With no warrants received by either the DOJ or the DILG, and no compulsory action taken by the Senate, the case remains pending as of the time of publication.

TRUTH CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE

COP30 FALLS INTO DEADLOCK AFTER CLIMATE TALKS STALL

Santino Robles

After negotiations deadlocked over language committing countries to phase out fossil fuels, the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30), held in Belem, Brazil, missed its scheduled deadline of November 21, 2025.

The two-week summit intended to reach global emission targets, aligning its goal with the Paris Agreement, a landmark treaty aiming to limit global warming to well below 2°C (3.6°F), pursuing efforts to cap temperatures at 1.5°C and achieve net-zero global emissions by the mid-century.

The negotiations stalled after opposition fuelled by major oil-exporting countries resisted inding language regarding the phase-out of oil, coal, and gas.

During the conference, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, called on nations to implement "roadmaps," which sought to reduce oil, coal, and gas dependence through broader, nationally directed action—although not part of the official agenda, the proposal became a central point of discussion.

Some countries, like India, opposed the roadmap, with South Asia's special envoy Arunabha Ghosh stating that the rigid fossil fuel commitments could undermine energy security in developing countries.



PHOTO BY THE GUARDIAN
CAPTION BY CAMILLE ROSARIO
FUELING DISCUSSION. Brazil collaborates with Colombian and Dutch delegations to enable road maps to overcome mankind's dependence on fossil fuels during the COP30, held from November 10 to 22, 2025.

Prior to the summit, COP30 President André Correa do Lago outlined a global "mutirão," a call to worldwide collective effort focused on "uniting humanity" to tackle climate issues while integrating local actions. Mutirão is a Tupi-Guarani word translating to community work, rooted in Brazilian indigenous traditions of groups working together to finish a task.

The Global Mutirão bundled priority issues, including climate finance and implementation, into a single consolidated decision, and later became embedded in the final outcome of the conference.

In the Belem Package, the conference delivered progress towards a just energy transition, but failed to include strong language combating the use of fossil fuels.

"The root cause of this problem is fossil fuels. How are we dealing with that?" Colombia's environment minister, Irene Vélez Torres, said.

Torres criticized the conclusion of the talks, arguing that the summit's outcome ignored established scientific research stating that fossil fuels account for more than 80% of emissions that cause climate change.

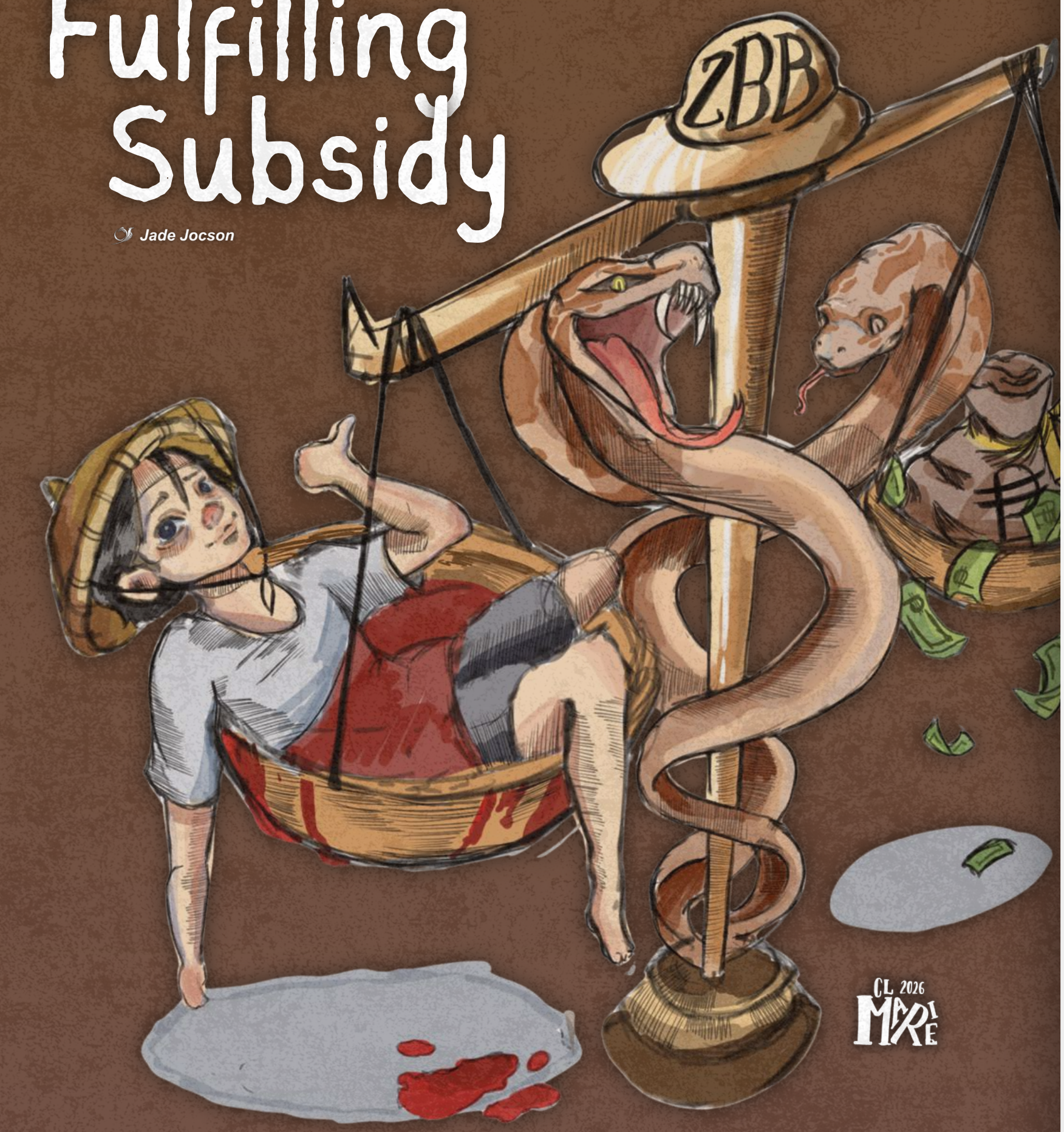
Beyond the conference, the final Global Mutirão text established the Global Implementation Accelerator and the Belem Mission to 1.5, designed to help countries speed up Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and other national climate action plans.

These newly implemented initiatives are expected to be discussed in the following COP31, scheduled on November 9-20.

With 56,118 delegates registered, COP30 is the second-largest in COP history, behind only COP28 that was attended by over 80,000 participants in Dubai.

Fulfilling Subsidy

Jade Jocson



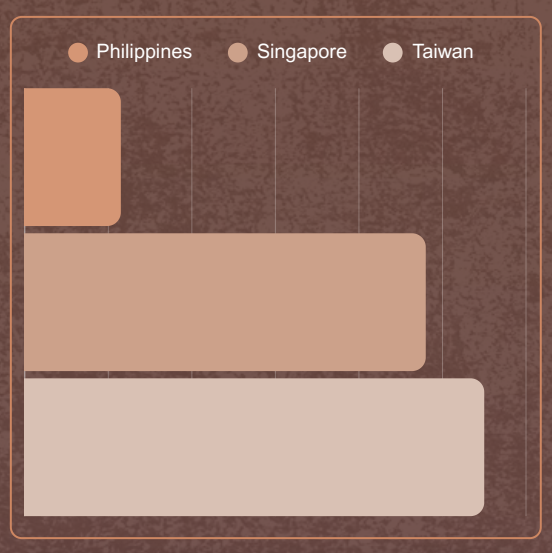
Fully subsidized healthcare was promised by the government to implement an ideal healthcare system for all Filipinos–and that vision is a step closer, yet still so far.

An ideal healthcare system is one where Filipinos, regardless of socioeconomic status or region of residence, are able to receive accessible and high-quality care whenever needed–in line with the World Health Organization's (WHO's) target of achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC). However, this standard isn't met–many Filipinos either shoulder high out-of-pocket medical expenses or fail to receive quality healthcare due to costly fees.

In President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s State of the Nation Address (SONA) in 2025, he mentioned the government's zero-balance billing (ZBB)–a policy wherein any patient admitted to a basic accommodation at any hospital listed under the Department of Health will have their expenses covered.

Despite this improvement in the already strained system, the healthcare system faces other shortcomings–the lack of medical professionals present in the country and insufficient public funding to provide hospitals and proper accommodations, especially in rural areas.

Furthermore, the country's health ranking is considered low when compared to its neighboring countries. As seen in the 2025 edition of CEOWORLD Magazine Health Care Index, the Philippines is lagging behind significantly–ranking only 87th out of 110 countries, while Singapore secured 14th and Taiwan led the rankings. This alone reflects the quality of the provided healthcare, access to medical treatments and technologies, and lack of funding in the nation.



CEO WORLD MAGAZINE HEALTH CARE INDEX

However, the underlying issue of funding was addressed in the National Budget Appropriation of 2026, which Marcos deems as "a budget that serves the people". The health sector was given Php 448.125 billion to support the development of UHC, including a Php 1 billion budget for ZBB in local government hospitals.

Though this funding seems beneficial, it can only be considered effective when it is allotted and spent appropriately. Amid the situation of systematic corruption in the government, the question of whether it will be handled for the common good of the Filipinos remains.

The Philippines is far from achieving the ideal healthcare system. Nevertheless, these improvements, such as the ZBB and funding, are a step closer to executing the vision.

As established by WHO, health is a fundamental human right. The government should use this funding to improve facilities, provide ward accommodations, and address shortages in the healthcare workforce. If the current state of the healthcare system were to be ignored, that would be the same as disregarding the right for all Filipinos to have good health.

The current state of politics should not be a setback for the country's healthcare to meet the needs of the nation and align with global standards–but as a bridge to reach the vision of an ideal healthcare system.

Volume 3 Issue 2

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VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

SKEWED SPENDING

Zavrina Gonzales

If the national budget served as a lifeboat, millions of Filipinos would still be waiting for a seat. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. 's veto of ₱92.5 billion was meant to signal fiscal responsibility, yet ₱150.9 billion remains under the same provision that has long raised concerns over misuse and corruption

In a nation facing calamities, inflation, and systemic corruption, the national budget is meant to be a lifeline. However, the national budget still reflects goals that are unrelated to the challenges that ordinary Filipinos face.

In the midst of the controversy over the flood control projects, the budget allots massive sums to sectors with long-standing issues, but safeguards against political intervention remain in place. Although the administration declares the national budget as pork-barrel free, lingering questions over unprogrammed funds suggest otherwise. In this light, the issue is not about how much was cut, but whether the budget truly corrects a system of spending that has repeatedly failed the public.

Even with PBBM vetoing P92.5 billion out of unprogrammed appropriations, P150.9 billion remains under the same provision that has long raised concerns about misuse and corruption, falling short of restoring the nation's trust. Citizens argue that the president should have vetoed the entire provision, and that important items should be prioritized and not parked as contingent funds. A netizen on Facebook stated that all projects should be anchored in formal local development plans, or else the funds will remain highly prone to corruption and rent-seeking.

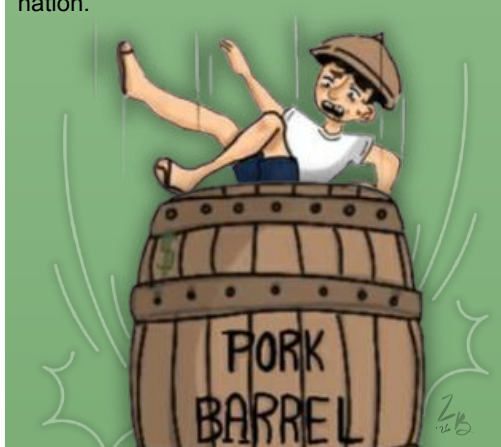
The budget's shortcomings become increasingly evident in the government's approach to disasters. Despite the Philippines experiencing an average of 20 typhoons each year, the Disaster Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Assistance Program received only P15.33 billion out of the P6.79 trillion budget. With communities repeatedly devastated by floods, the national budget functions as a lifeline to ensure that Filipinos are safe and sound, but the people's voices are constantly being drowned out, raising concerns over disaster preparedness and recovery.

This is shown in the treatment of the youth and their education, where the norm consists of overcrowded classrooms, under-resourced schools, and overburdened teachers. Public schools nationwide still face a classroom shortage of roughly 165,000 rooms, while the national budget only plans to cover the construction of 24,964 classrooms nationwide. As alleged in a GMA News article, the Alliance of Concerned

Teachers (ACT) has linked shortages in teachers and classrooms to the learning crisis in the Philippines, including widespread functional illiteracy among Filipino learners.

Despite the government's promise of prudence and transparency, it does little to restore public trust. The national budget is not just a financial plan, but a reflection of the country's values. By prioritizing education and disaster preparedness can it serve its true purpose: the welfare of the Filipino people.

Until the government aligns spending with the real needs of its citizens, the national budget will remain only an ambition without action. If the nation is to build resilience and secure the future, every peso must be allocated with accountability and a commitment to the vulnerable. A budget that ignores the people is a budget that fails the nation.



22 CLASSROOMS, 0 ACCOUNTABILITY

TWENTY-TWO OUT OF 1,700.

Juno Inocencio

This is the figure that shocked the hoi polloi and current Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Vince Dizon during a budget hearing with the Senate regarding the allocation of the national budget to the DPWH. After being asked by Sen. Bam Aquino, even Dizon himself was shocked after learning that only 22 classrooms were built out of 1,700 that were initially aimed for the year 2025.

With a disappointing completion rate of merely 1.3%, the nation was not only robbed of 1,678 classrooms—the human right to access quality education and a proper learning environment was also recklessly stolen from the nation's youth. Aligned with the Sustainable Development Goal 4—ensure education for all—the Department of Education (DepEd), the Local Government Units (LGUs), and the private sectors must work together to hold DPWH accountable for the classroom backlog.

In a country already facing a severe educational crisis, this will only contribute to the ever-increasing number of classrooms to be built. "Our estimated current classroom backlog is 146,000. By 2028, if we continue at this rate, we will reach 200,000," Senator Aquino stated in the same budget hearing after hearing the figure. Moreover, Dizon also described the current rate as "deplorable." Therefore, it is only a matter of time until the dire backlog further worsens.

Each classroom also has traces of corruption—it is unjustly priced. DPWH had tagged its classrooms at a staggering price of 3,000,000 Php each, when experts revealed that it was found that each classroom should take only 2 million to produce a high-quality classroom. Moreover, projects by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) seemed to be much more cost-efficient and effective than projects by the said department; Angat Buhay classrooms only take 862,500 Php to produce–around 2 million less than DPWH's price tag.



Student–classroom ratios have worsened significantly. According to the Department of Education, the ideal classroom size should serve around 30 learners per room. Yet this ratio has risen to 40-50 learners. According to Tennessee's Project Star, classrooms with more than 40 students often see declines in student achievement scores of up to 15–20%, as teachers are unable to provide instruction and meaningful academic feedback. This statistical evidence highlights how the backlog not only delays construction but also deteriorates learning competencies across the nation.

When numbers of classrooms remain unbuilt, the nation's students are forced to work and learn inside tight, overcrowded, and disappointing learning environments that greatly hinder their academic success and growth. This dire situation only contributes to the ever-worsening education crisis. The classrooms that are merely stuck in blueprints, waiting to be built, point to one reality: corruption and greed deprive the Filipino youth of their institutional right to safe and quality education. If the Philippines is to genuinely uphold SDG 4, urgent reforms and accountability within DPWH and partnered institutions become no longer optional—it is imperative.

ZALDY'S CO-ERCION

Jade Jocson

His negligence made his life a tightrope. As he is marked as a fugitive and his movements are constantly tracked by the government—he tries to escape with coercion.

Following the flood-control projects scandal, former Ako Bicol Representative and lawmaker Zaldy Co faced an arrest warrant by the Sandiganbayan in Mindoro, identifying him as a fugitive.

However, despite being a fugitive, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. alleged that Co's lawyer attempted to coerce the government into ceasing the cancellation of his passport, which was in accordance with Sandiganbayan's directive and in compliance with Marcos' order. In exchange, Co made a deal to stop all releases of videos with accusations against the administration. This is his form of coercion—to get what he needs to flee.

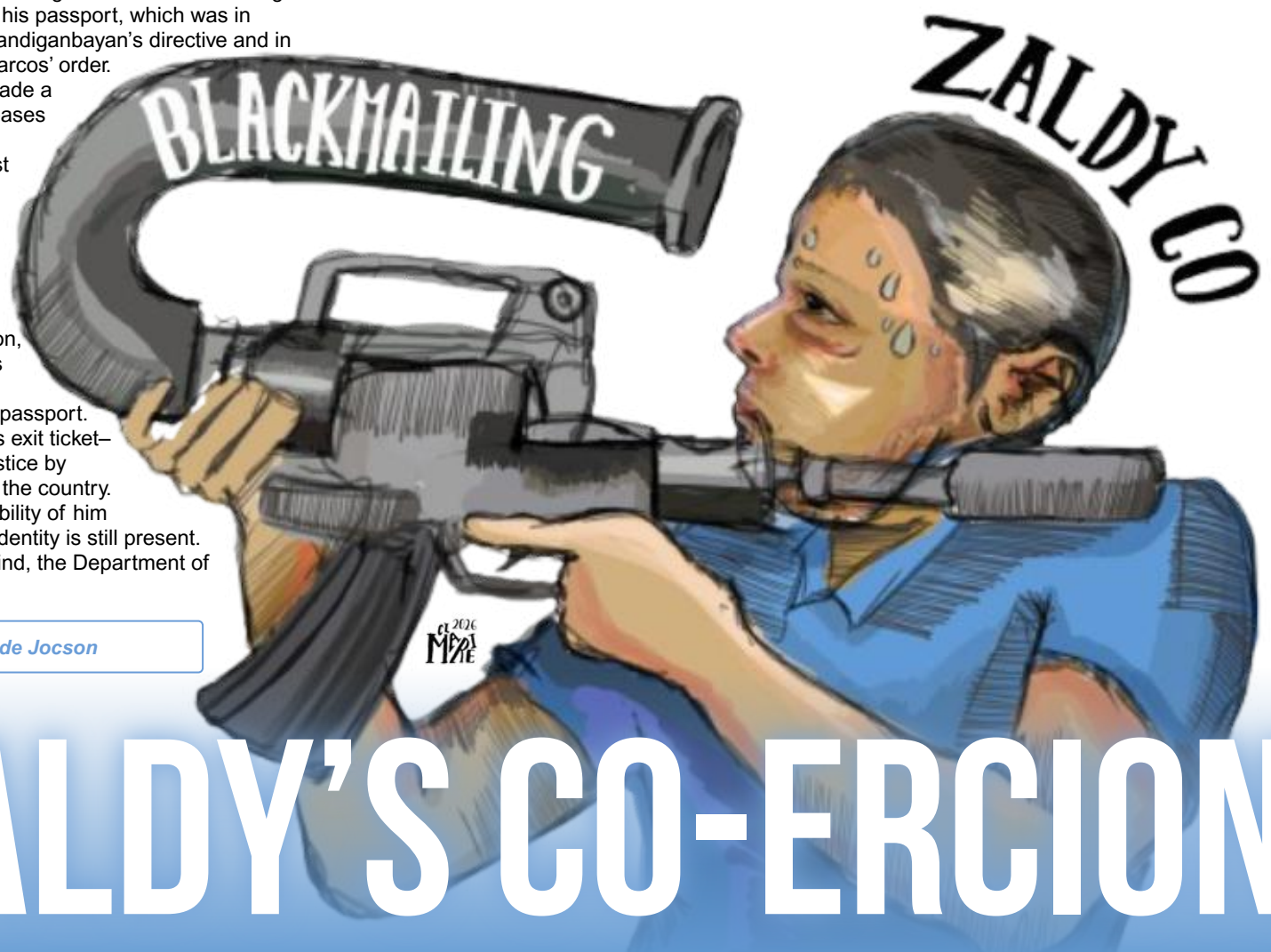
Despite Co's intimidating coercion, Marcos still pushes through with the cancellation of his passport. This passport is his exit ticket–his escape from justice by running away from the country. However, the possibility of him taking up another identity is still present.

With this in mind, the Department of Foreign Affairs must act upon it. By coordinating with Philippine embassies across the globe to monitor his whereabouts and bring him back to the country, he would be to face the consequences of his negligence while being in authority–especially while passing on the budget for the flood control projects, proposed by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

Though he claimed the Php56.4 billion used by the DPWH was immediately delivered to former House Speaker Martin Romualdez, Marcos and Romualdez both denied receiving said amount.

This budget, meant for the well-being and development of the nation as a country prone to natural disasters, especially typhoons, is shown to be held in incompetent hands. The fact that Co's hands were responsible for delivery to Romualdez, which he even denied receiving, speaks more about this fugitive who was once in power.

The government should not act lightly on this —thorough investigations must be conducted, and justice must be imposed upon him. He must be held accountable; only then will this be considered another step of justice for the national government.



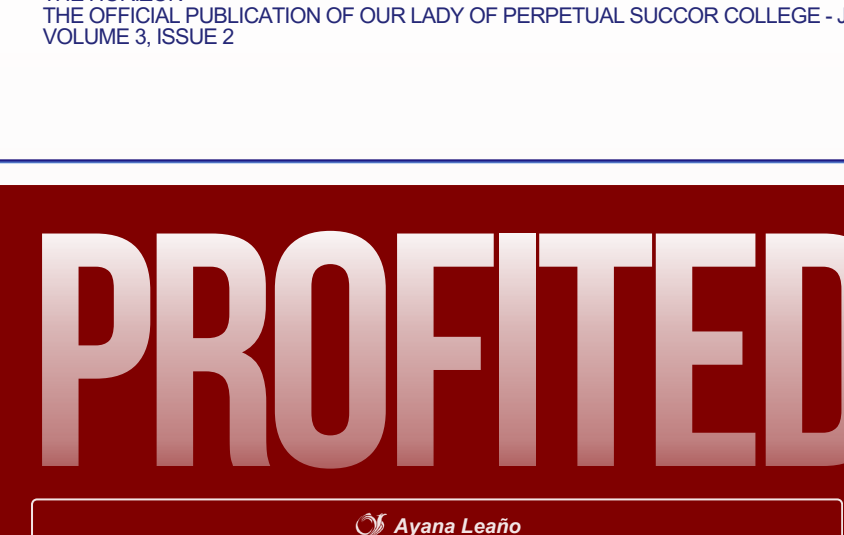
PROFITED DESPAIR

Ayana Leaño

Empathy against inhumanity.
In a nation ruled by unjust systems, humanity collapses, and morality disperses. This is the present reality the Philippines is facing as poverty skyrockets and a lack of empathy imposes. With 50% of the country's population labeling themselves as "poor" based on the Social Weather Stations Survey conducted earlier this year, more are becoming the prime subjects of the so-called awareness known as poverty porn — making them victims of silent exploitation.

As technology advances, so do the disgraceful tactics of deceitful individuals. Through the media, whether written, photographed, or filmed, poverty porn is practiced for the sake of profit. The dire situations of the less fortunate are exploited and displayed for the world to see, garnering the most attention or views.

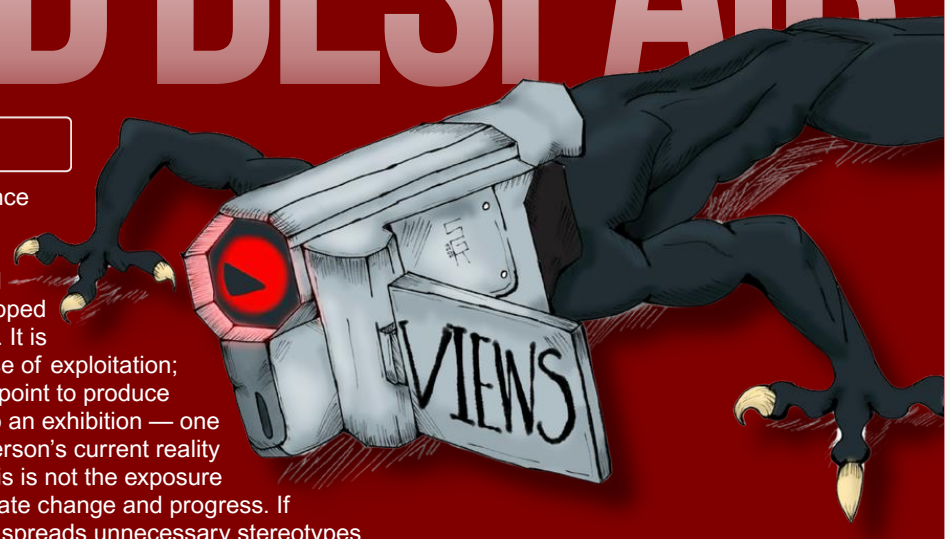
It becomes a money-generating system under the pretense of enlightenment and humanitarian aid, so many hold onto.



The presence of decency and virtuousness is evidently tainted as dignity is stripped from the victims. It is more than a case of exploitation; some make it a point to produce what is closer to an exhibition — one about a living person's current reality and dreams. This is not the exposure needed to facilitate change and progress. If anything, it only spreads unnecessary stereotypes about people living in destitute conditions.

Although it can open minds about others' situations, it also carries the danger of erasing the true meaning of charity. As far as exploitation goes, it purposely appeals to one's emotions in order to feel a deep sense of guilt and responsibility for having a life so far removed from what is depicted. To erase such feelings, others are forced to give, only for it to end up in the wrong hands.

Furthermore, with the Philippines being a leading country in the use of social media, poverty porn is a constant trap that surfaces through its society's feed. Vlogs are the number one medium, as studies from 2024-2025 show that 50-60% of the nation's internet users engage with vlogs. However, it is imperative to note that other people's crisis and pain should not be treated as entertainment despite the availability of such content.



VLOGS ARE THE NUMBER ONE MEDIUM

Such cases further reveal the power struggle between the rich and the poor. It exposes the forced narrative of heroism despite it benefitting the rich ten times more in the long run.

Recognition is given to those who make the content, and not the content itself, that truly matters. Moreover, the records might stay and float in the internet's orbit forever, but the support needed by the impoverished definitely won't. Not when the nation's society chooses to continue relying on band-aid solutions rather than to address the systematic failures that caused this collapse in the first place.

In a poverty-stricken nation, the first to blame is the inequality that surrounds each sector, from healthcare to education, jobs, and more. After all, if fairness is overrun, no one would have to sacrifice their dignity just to receive basic empathy and necessities.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Francheska Barruga

In the Philippines, democracy is considered one of the nation's most significant achievements. It is often praised as the citizens' voice, making a highly significant contribution to the nation's future. Beneath the word 'democracy' lies a great power among the people. The right to choose leaders, the impact of laws in the community, and the urge to fight for justice. We are expected to be the voice of democracy – yet we often become echoes too, muted by power, money, and influence.

During election season, campaign periods are always filled with posters, grand performances, and rambling speeches. Yet all these smiling faces are just a cover-up for every lie and broken promise. Citizens vote not out of hope, but with obligation, confusion, and resignation. Ballots became a symbol of routine — the same platforms, promises, and set of names that would deceive the nation's hope for change.

According to a study conducted by Oxford Academic's scholars, the effectiveness of democracy depends not just on institutions, but strongly on what voters believe about but strongly on what voters believe about them. Negative political cultures can trap democracies in a cycle of short-term thinking and poor long-term policy, even when institutions are capable of better outcomes.

In the Philippines, corruption always arises. Funds for school and proper healthcare were last seen in the politicians' private pockets, used to purchase luxury items, leaving us with poor and a lack medical services of classrooms. Billions of pesos were expected to fund flood control projects; however, flooding is still seen causing million death tolls along the country. These instances reveal how corruption severely weakens public trust and disregards the thought of democracy. Instead of being empowered, people were left wondering – if their voice truly mattered.



DEMOCRACY PLAYS A HUGE ROLE ON DEMOCRACY

When people struggle to find ways of surviving, political awareness becomes a privilege. Vote buying was widespread, and no accountability was taken for it. Democracy cannot function if inequality dictates political choices.

Amidst all these "challenges", this doesn't mean hopeless democracy. Change is still possible if voters choose appropriately and hold accountability among the government officials who are shown to be incompetent. Democracy relies more on the word 'participation'. It demonstrates critical thinking, vigilance, and courage to speak out against injustice.

A democracy that is a 'work on progress' merely mirrors students' life. Just like a nation, growth takes time and effort. Students practice the very values of democracy. Such as actively participating in discussions, student councils, and extracurricular activities which reflect responsibility, accountability, and active involvement. In fact students are not 'too young' to matter. By being critical thinkers, responsible voters in the future, and active citizens today, they help build a nation led by leaders who truly serve the people, including them.

A powerful country rejects false narratives and challenges corruption practices. Democracy will always be a work in progress — only when citizens work tirelessly for what they truly deserve can broken promises be turned into reality, and the nation be led by leaders who genuinely serve the people's hearts.

FAILING EDUCATION

Angela Arcangel

Education is often referred to as the foundation of national development, yet in the Philippines, education is not linked to learning.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), millions of students in the Philippines attend school but are unable to develop basic skills in reading, writing, comprehension, and mathematics. This learning crisis is not new; however, it has reached concerning heights due to current difficulties, as the majority of the students are falling significantly behind in reading and mathematics–threatening both the future of Filipinos and the country itself.

As written in an Inquirer News article, even before the pandemic, the Philippines was already struggling with low performance in global education assessments. Many students were not reading at their intended grade level, and basic skills in mathematics remained weak in numerous classrooms across the country.

However, when Covid-19 happened, the school closure and limited access to alternative learning, particularly among disadvantaged communities, have widened learning gaps even further. The sudden shift to online and modular learning exposed deep inequalities. While some students continued their studies with these alternative ways of learning, many were left behind, and some even stopped studying at a certain point during the pandemic. Even so, the learning crisis is not caused by the pandemic alone. As many Filipinos know, the Philippines is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, topping the World Risk Index (WRI) 2025, and even in previous years. Due to frequent typhoons, flooding, and earthquakes, the school calendars are disrupted every single year. Though class suspensions are necessary for safety, the repeated loss of learning days prevents students from building academic momentum.

The education system in the country also continues to weaken the quality of learning. Many public schools lack enough classrooms, and even the educators themselves face overwhelming workloads, large class sizes, and limited training opportunities. This makes it more difficult to provide targeted support for students who are struggling with their studies.

While efforts such as providing tutors and recovery programs for struggling learners exist, the government must do more—government officials must prioritize early education, strengthen teacher training, and invest more in school infrastructures.

Learning gaps must be addressed as soon as possible. This can be achieved through continuous remediation, providing free tutorials for students, and holding seminars and programs to solve the issue. Education is more than attendance and diplomas—it must empower and motivate students, for they are the future of the country.



THE HORIZON
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOR COLLEGE - JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2



AUTHORITY

STUDENTS' APPROVAL

SOFIA RAÑA

I have always believed that the student council officers held great authority and direct project connections–enough to implement the they have laid out–only for that belief to be shaken when I began experiencing those so-called "authority" and "connections" myself.

"As the saying goes, "great power comes with great responsibility," but that only applies to those in position, to those who have the responsibility, to the student officers. Those they serve—the student body—often hold high expectations while lacking a full understanding of the struggles, limitations, and responsibilities behind these leadership roles. The issue is not stagnant meetings or council inefficiency, but the lack of knowledge and awareness about the processes, limitations, and realities behind student governance."

The journey of a student council officer starts during the party formation, campaign preparation, and the first time they face the student body during their campaign speech. Part of what they say is their future projects and platforms in mind to be implemented when they hopefully win. However, from these early stages, many of the said platforms are already taken for granted as guaranteed outcomes. Suggestions and requests often flood in from the students who are unaware of the approval process—namely the Activity Project Proposal (APP), Request for Payment (RFP), Request Form (RF), and Budget Availment Request (BAR) —and the possibility of revisions that may cause delay or rejections. and Budget Availment Request (BAR) —and the possibility of revisions that may cause delay or rejections.

As the chairman of the Project and Events Committee, I could say that it takes one's decisiveness, thoughtfulness, while still being reasonable, to deliver proposals and request forms that are direct but with clarity. The APP, a comprehensive and systematic document that gives an overview of a project; I would say, is the hardest document to complete. It includes the project title and description; the proposed time and date for the execution, the project's rationale and objectives, its timeline, the roles assigned to each committee, a transparent budget proposal and complete computation, requests for facilities, equipment, props, and services, the evaluation system, and all needed mechanics or particulars in the project. With the APP are other documents that are needed for approval, such as the RFP, RF, and BAR.

Once all documents are completed, the approval stage starts and can take up to 2 weeks, being the fastest, or up to a month at most. While the process may seem long, it reflects the reality we face as it passes through 6 people for approval. It begins with our club moderator, followed by the CSA, then the assistant principals for Administration and or Academics—before proceeding to the Department Principal, with the final decision resting with the School President, Dr. Armida Salvador Samaniego.

Alongside procedural limitations, financial constraints shape how the council makes decisions. All Junior High School students have already contributed ₱50 to the annual budget of the council upon enrollment. While the total amount collected may appear large, it is not only the council that uses it—as it is also used by our school's publication–The Horizon– for external press and journalism contests. Unfortunately, with the significant decrease in enrollees for the school year 2025-2026, it also added to the cause of deflation for this year's overall budget. With those said factors, going all out on one event will sacrifice the amount left to supply he needs of the succeeding ones. The situation only got harder when a new limitation arrived, and we were told to lessen or move away from mass gatherings, as a result of an issue that the school is yet to recover from.

One event that greatly challenged us was the OLOPSC's Teachers' Day Celebration—originally planned as a week-long celebration, but was compressed to a two-hour program only days before its scheduled date. Not only that, but sports events with teachers, friendly competitions, and a mini-me project with teachers were all cut off at the last minute. The project's budget had also decreased significantly as it was not cut up for the BAR and was said to be "too high" for such an event. The council may have had a lot of projects in store for the year, but not all of them will be able to come to life as it takes time, a long process, and extensive analysis of its mechanics and terms.

As the student council president, my team and our moderator face challenges and limitations that hinder our efforts that can carry over to succeeding administrations. Through this article, may a positive shift begin in the relationship between student leaders and the broader student body, having it anchored in trust, understanding, and harmony. Serving as a JHSSO officer made me realize that every decision is shaped by limitations, and behind every delay is a challenge often unnoticed. Perhaps it is time we stop criticizing student leaders for what they fail to do and begin recognizing the efforts and initiatives they manage to carry through.

FUTURE HEROES

JULEYENNE BALIGOD



LEARNERS

The professionals who contribute to the country's well-being were once students showing that consistent learning driven by a dream helps the future of our nation.

With the help of the law, November 17 was officially declared National Students' Day in honor of students' hard work. This was made official through Republic Act (RA) No. 11369, enacted by Senator Bam Aquino and approved by former President Rodrigo Duterte on August 28, 2019. This law was proposed to recognize the role of students in society, especially in leadership and democracy. The date is the same as International Students' Day, which honors students who stood up and didn't stay silent against injustice in history.

As a student myself, hearing there was a day to honor us learners truly made me feel accepted. Students deserve recognition as they play an important role in society and the future of the country. The establishment of National Students Day proved that students are valued, heard, accepted, and respected as part of the nation.

Additionally, this day should not only be a day of celebration. It serves as a reminder to everyone that students are important and that their voices matter. I believe students are not just learners in school, but upcoming leaders who can help our future generations–showing that students are not only studying for themselves but are also helping shape the country.

Students are also recognized because of the long history of standing up for justice and freedom. This was seen during World War II, when students fought bravely against oppression–just like those young people from Hunter's ROTC Guerrillas who refused to surrender and stood idle to the Japanese army but instead created a pack to defend themselves. This proves that students have always been brave and willing to speak up for what is right.

According to an OLOPSCian from Grade 8-LOTW, she believes that students also deserve a day to themselves. With countless students out there struggling in their day-to-day lives, whether it be from something personal or academic, this day publicly acknowledges those students and strengthens them. It makes her heart light and satisfied to know November 17 is a day for them.

Ultimately, National Students' Day is an important reminder that students matter and that their voices should always be heard. With this law, we recognize the hard work, struggles, and contributions of students in society. National Students' Day is more than a celebration—it is a reminder that students are valued, respected, and capable of making a difference. They can create an impact and be the heroes of our country's future.

"Ultimately, National Students' Day is an important reminder that students matter and that their voices should always be heard. With this law, we recognize the hard work, struggles, and contributions of students in society. National Students' Day is more than a celebration—it is a reminder that students are valued, respected, and capable of making a difference. They can create an impact and be the heroes of our country's future."

BYLINE TO TIMELINE: Journalism in the Digital Age

Zavrina Gonzales

A student journalist glides through rows of seats in a packed school auditorium miles away from home. The frenzy of the competition pushes in from all directions, evident from the multiple cameras fighting to get the best angle, and yet they push on. Now, imagine hundreds, if not thousands of campus journalists experiencing this exact moment. Times like these serve as a reminder to November 19, International Journalists' Day, and its purpose: to honor those who carry the responsibility of truth into the public eye.

International Journalists' Day honors the countless brave individuals who put their lives at risk to report the truth and expose injustices in the system, as well as a tribute to the countless student journalists pouring their blood, sweat, and tears into their publication. While journalists mark this day as a moment to celebrate the journalists fighting to cover on the front lines, they do so with renewed calls to defend press freedom and a reaffirmation of their duty to serve the public.

Like a river that grows and splits into new streams, the role of journalism changes along with society. Digital platforms, social media timelines and smartphone screens are now the main channels for what used to be printed pages and nightly broadcasts. Journalists now have to navigate an overwhelming amount of information as fact-checkers, data analysts, and storytellers in addition to covering events.

Nowadays, anyone can become a journalist. Whether you are a random YouTuber doing a deep dive on a major social issue, or a first-year in high school trying out journalism for the first time in an attempt to find your clique. In the modern era, it only takes one click cto publish a post and persuade the whole world to agree with your opinions and mindset.

However, the stream of multiple social media posts encouraging bias, slander, and misinformation often overshadows the growing need for truth and transparency in the nation and our government. With a world as brittle as ours, people on the internet start to lack a sense of social and digital awareness, so it is a journalist's task to verify the facts, provide context, and slow the current for the public to understand what truly matters.

The need for moral and accountable journalists grows as technology continues to change how stories are reported. The river of journalism will continue to evolve, branching into new platforms and reaching wider audiences, but its purpose remains the same: to seek truth, amplify voices and demand liability from those in high positions of authority.

Those who are willing to stand up for journalism's values in the face of ever-evolving trends are essential to its future. As the Our Lady of Perpetual Succor (OLOPSC) community grows, so do their student journalists. Through everyday coverage of school events, journalists recognize that: journalism is more than just writing, it is service. By recognizing International Journalists' Day, we recognize those young journalists who strive to lead with integrity and reveal the wholehearted truth.

Like a river in motion, journalism never stops, shaped by challenges and sustained by those brave enough to continue its course. The tide of truth will remain so long as individuals are prepared to write and express their concerns about the countless problems with society.



All Wrapped Up in the Jolly Spirit

Reanne Mendoza

Christmas parties bring happiness and joy to everyone. Students like us eagerly look forward to receiving gifts from friends and classmates, filling the room with smiles and laughter. We celebrate Christmas for the birth of Jesus Christ and the spirit of giving.

Before that, do you know that Christmas originates from Bethlehem, where Christians believe Jesus was born, and the formal celebration began in Rome, during the 4th Century (c. AD 336). Church leaders in Rome chose December 25 to celebrate Jesus' birth.

From sharing joy, warmth, and laughter with classmates to decorating their classrooms full of ornaments and balloons, OLOPSCians find endless ways to celebrate their Christmas party. In addition to this, they also shared delicious and savoury foods, played fun and thrilling games, exchanged and gave gifts to friends and classmates, and dressed up in fabulous outfits of their sections to make it more memorable.

Windelyn Herrera, the Subject Area Chair (SAC) of Araling Panlipunan (AP), explained how the faculty celebrate Christmas in their way:

> **"The faculty Christmas party was celebrated with a lively Disco theme. All faculty members dressed according to their chosen era—the 60s, 70s, 80s, or 90s—which added excitement to the event."**

The activities that the faculty did were games that were assigned by level, while the raffle prizes were organized by the faculty club. Dancing and fun activities filled the program, creating a joyful and energetic atmosphere, and special awards. All faculty members were delighted, especially because everyone was able to take home a grocery package. The food served was consistently delicious and nutritious, making the celebration even more enjoyable for everyone.

Salvo Selena, a Grade 8 student, expresses her own thoughts on today's Christmas party,

> **"I did get what I needed, like anart set, some markers, mechanical pencils, etc, it was great out of all things. I'm glad people in the exchange gift are dedicated to offering an item that the person had wished for, and it's also a great way of making friends with those who are your partners in this year's Christmas gift exchange. So in general, I'm very satisfied and definitely putting great use to the gift I have been given."**

Celebrating the Christmas party with friends is full of excitement. When it comes to students, they could share happiness and joy and be kind to others, making it smore exciting and enjoyable. The faculty members and the students had fun during the Christmas party because they decorated their classroom and wore fabulous attire to make it more fun and memorable.

FROM SCENES TO STAGE:

Grades 9 and 10 Reenact Literature through Act Attack

Sophia Esguerra

LIGHTS, CAMERAS, ACT ATTACK!

To further let the creativity unveil to the students and deepen their understanding of literature through application of storytelling, the Junior High School (JHS) English Department has revived the Literary Act Attack to the Grades 9 and 10 last December 2 where each section performed a scene from a literary text or film in their respective classrooms.



PHOTO BY SOPHIA ESGUERRA
ENCHANTING PERFORMANCES. Grade 9 students showcased their love for literature during Literary Act Attack last December 2, 2025 by reenacting different literary texts through live performances.

Every section carefully chose their literary scenes as they transformed narrative tales to refined live performances, bringing characters and core messages to life under five minutes. Through the hard work of each student's analytic skills and effective collaboration, students showcased their dedication through acting and creative staging throughout the preparation days.

The Grade 9 sections brought their well-loved films to life, with Amazing Grace (AG) adding their creative flair with its rendition of Wicked, while Bread of Life (BOL) energized the audience with the Greatest Showman; Holy Redeemer (HR) showcased warmth through the wondrous Belle, then Holy Trinity (HT) embraced adventure and courage in Moana, Prince of Peace (POP) delivered a dynamic performance of Avatar: The Last Airbender's introduction, and Wonderful Counselor (WC) closing the batch with music and nostalgia appreciate the impact of it towards their lives—especially during their childhood years—and, to leave behind the messages of the stories which created an impact on them."

Just after the Grade 9 students, the Grade 10 performances were just getting started, with Assumption of Mary (AOM) charming the audience with a colorful musical of Encanto. Solemnity of Mary (SOM) bringing a reminiscence of Grease, Legion of Mary (LOM) delivered a striking adaptation of Epic: The Musical, and Coronation of Mary (COM) highlighting dark elegance in Maleficent. Mother of Good Counsel (MGC) displayed strength through Maya and the Three, Mother of Mercy (MOM) tugged the judges' strings during their performance as Coco, and Our Lady of Grace (OLG) became the epilogue with an innovative vision of The Greatest Showman.

Among the remarkable performances, AOM surfaced as the champion, followed by the first runner-up who were applauded for their energetic execution, SOM, as LOM secured the second runner-up spot after impressing the judges with their strong ensemble performance.

The day of literature closed its curtains with cheers and applause echoing all throughout the classrooms. The Literary Act Attack has proved itself to be more than a competition, but a means of heartfelt gratitude to the old literary texts that we have going to the modern literature of today's youth, amplifying their knowledge in literacy in every way possible.

FROM THE GROUND UP:

Uplifting Local Entrepreneurs Nationwide

Amber Lucea

As the aroma of freshly prepared delicacies filled the venue, the festival buzzed with eagerness as visitors looked through several stalls–anxious to try each one. Orders piled up on one another as overlapping voices of visitors quickly filled up the scene. Between the lively atmosphere and chaotic vibes, the busy road of Marikina City, just beside the festival, continues to bring in visitors excited to see the event.

This scene marks the opening of the Nakakalocal Food Fest at Marikina Town Center, an event that aims to support Filipino Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) nationwide. From November 26 to 30, 2025, this event ran, providing locals with a platform for their businesses annually.

Various stalls across the festival grounds are offering a wide range of products, from foods deeply woven through the Filipino culture to modernized versions of local delicacies. Each stall reflects what they are advocating for, highlighting how local produce could be transformed into something that appeals to all ages.

Rheymart Caliguiran, one of the vendors in this event, shares how opportunities like this help support small businesses to grow and reach their goals in helping the nation. He added that their company aims to support Filipino farmers by using local produce in new products, giving farmers motivation to continue their advocacy.

"Our company began after seeing numerous Filipino farmers wanting to improve their livelihoods. From then on, it became our advocacy to support and uplift them to continue farming as we turn their produce into new products for the market," shared Caliguiran. He expressed how opportunities like this help businesses like theirs. "Locals like us are given opportunities to be exposed, so more people could discover us," added Caliguiran.

These vendors showcase the richness of Filipino cuisine and the connection of each product to the nation's growing culture. Through opportunities like the Nakakalocal Food Fest, Filipino cuisine and tradition are not only celebrated but are also remembered and reintroduced to young generations of the country.

Aside from the vendors, attendees also experience a joyous moment as they explore a wide range of bazaar stalls. For Jerica Tercenio and her friends, their visit became unexpected but enjoyable, offering them a chance to discover various local foods they hadn't tried before.

"It was great overall, it was actually unexpected for us to come and explore this festival. We really still are exploring through each stall," said Tercenio.

Gatherings such as the Nakakalocal Food Fest serve as an eye-opener to Filipinos on the value of supporting one's hometown culture. For students and young visitors, including OLOPSCians, the event offered a firsthand experience of how local businesses work within the industry. It provided an opportunity for the youths to appreciate the Filipino culture beyond textbooks.

As the Marikina Food Fest came to an end, it served not only as a bazaar filled with various foods, but it also became a platform for locals to thrive and promote their advocacies. Events like this not only give local entrepreneurs opportunities but also allow them to grow with the community they proudly represent.

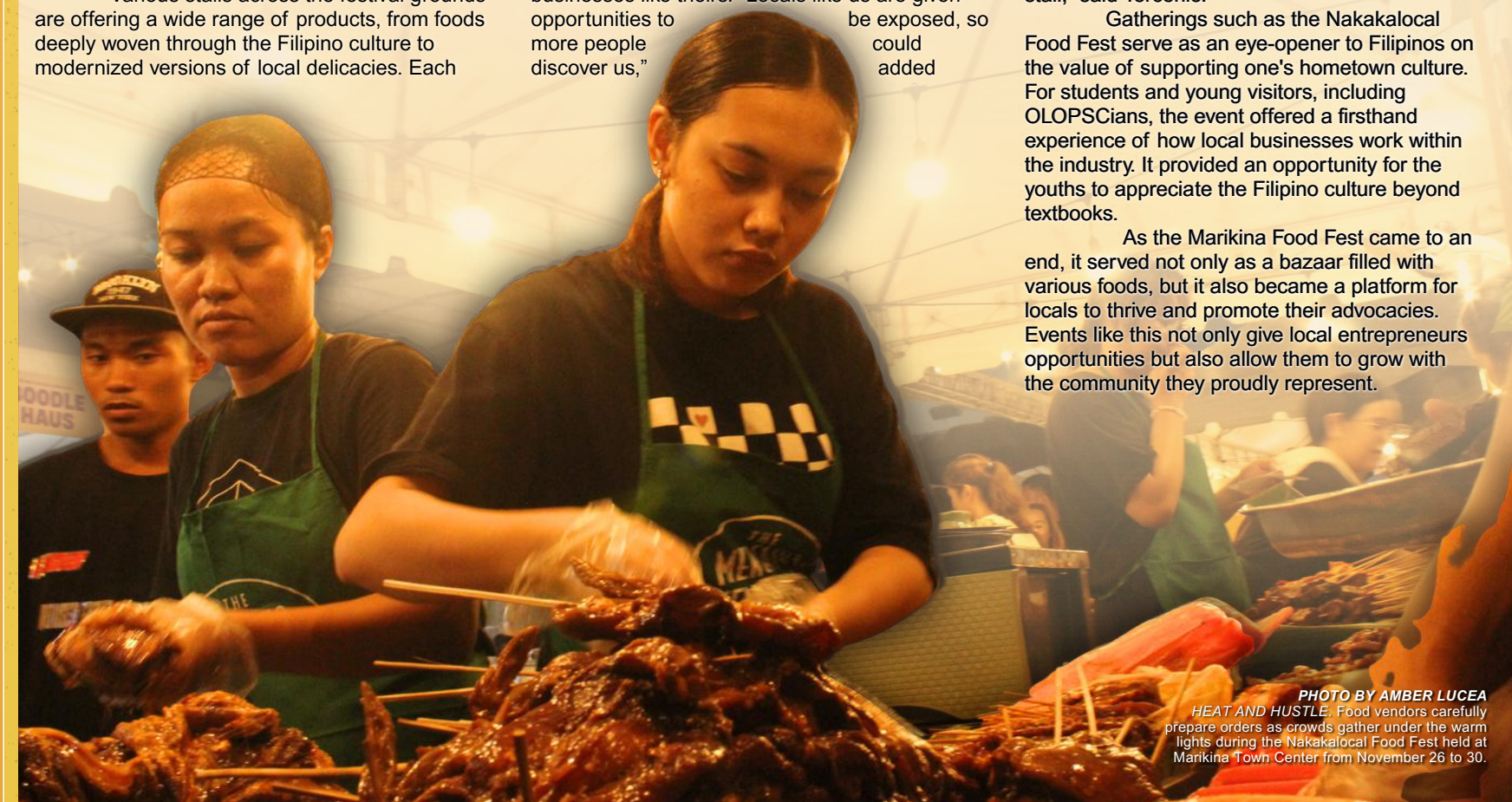


PHOTO BY AMBER LUCEA
HEAT AND HUSTLE. Food vendors carefully prepare orders as crowds gather under the warm lights during the Nakakalocal Food Fest held at Marikina Town Center from November 26 to 30.

José Rizal: The Hero Who Fought Using Words On Paper

Each year, Filipinos mark December 30 as a day of commemoration to honor the legacy of its national hero, Dr. José Rizal. Rizal Day is treated more than a remembrance of his martyrdom but also a reminder of how words can ignite change. Through this, the day became a reflection of our modern-day society.

President Emilio Aguinaldo, who was the first president of the Philippines and a former revolutionary leader, officially declared Rizal Day as a national mourning day on December 30, 1898, to honor José Rizal's death. By the year 1902, it became a legal holiday.

Paging back in history, the Spaniards colonized the Philippines for over three centuries. Their cultures and beliefs deeply etched the people—forcibly erasing Filipino identity. Thereafter, the Spaniards vehemently expressed their prejudice against "indios," whom they contemptuously oppressed and looked down upon. The gap between the rich and the poor further expanded as a social system and hierarchy was established, which eminently gave the government and the church greater control and power.

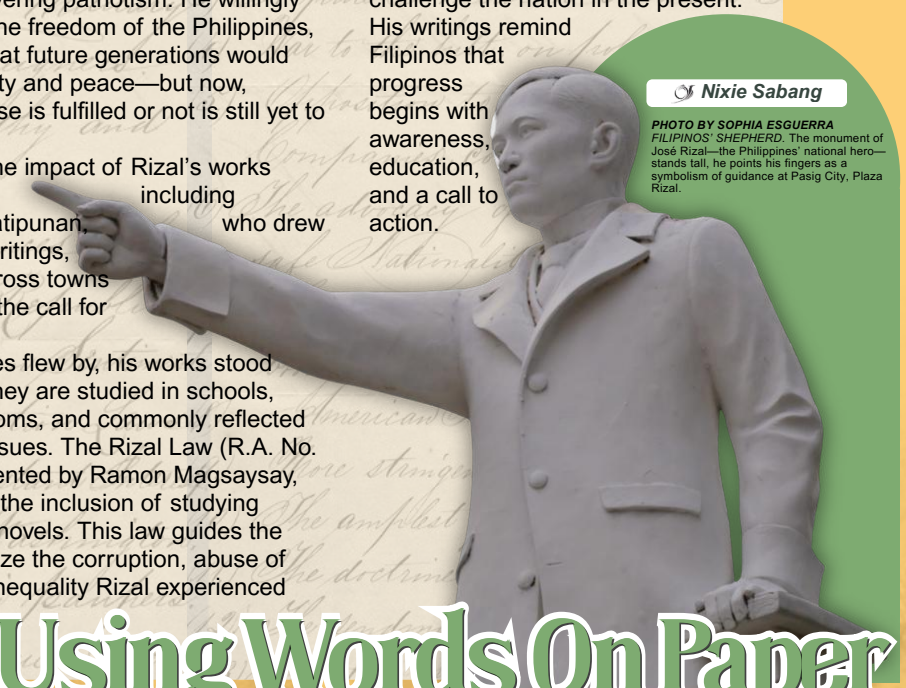
Motivated to guide the suffering Filipinos to emerge in independence, Rizal wrote two novels: Noli Me Tangere (1887) and El Filibusterismo (1891). Written during his years in Europe, the novels' tragedies vividly depicted the Philippine society under Spanish rule. He exposed the corruption, colonial cruelty, and consequences which awakened readers to recognize injustice and ponder on their nation's turmoil.

Centuries later, the Philippines has drawn almost the same idea. Today, themes echo from misuse of public funds, political dynasties, red tape, and social inequality that traps millions in poverty still scream in agony—yet, those above continued to sit down. Although the colonial masters are gone, corruption is still far from gone, now thriving in slow or selective accountability.

Before Rizal's execution, he had written his final poem, Mi Último Adiós, a poem that captured his unwavering patriotism. He willingly offered his life for the freedom of the Philippines, expressing hope that future generations would live equally in dignity and peace—but now, whether that promise is fulfilled or not is still yet to be achieved.

In the end, the impact of Rizal's works inspired reformists, including members of the Katipunan, who drew courage from his writings, uniting Filipinos across towns and strengthening the call for independence.

As centuries flew by, his works stood still in relevancy. They are studied in schools, debated in classrooms, and commonly reflected in modern social issues. The Rizal Law (R.A. No. 1425) was implemented by Ramon Magsaysay, where it mandates the inclusion of studying Rizal's life and his novels. This law guides the students to recognize the corruption, abuse of power, and social inequality Rizal experienced then exposed, which continue to challenge the nation in the present. His writings remind Filipinos that progress begins with awareness, education, and a call to action.



Nixie Sabang

PHOTO BY SOPHIA ESGUERRA
FILIPINOS' SHEPHERD. The monument of José Rizal—the Philippines' national hero—stands tall, he points his fingers as a symbolism of guidance at Pasig City, Plaza Rizal.

Rights That Make Us Human



PHOTO BY RAVI GARCIA
DUE LIBERTY. Children freely play and connect with friends at a community park, enjoying their right to childhood and freedom.

Hara Urbano

From voices raised in protest to hands that come together to craft a policy, from lives bounded by limits to empowered voices that shape outcomes. History has made human rights the umbrella to protect humanity's freedom, equality, and dignity. Under this wide shade, the rights to have an education, to work, to express one's opinions freely, and to live without the fear of discrimination fall under it.

RECOGNIZING THESE RIGHTS

Human Rights are inherent freedoms we have simply because we are human, rights that can not be taken away. Human Rights were formally declared during the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) that began in Paris, France, on December 10, 1948. It was then called the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Eventually, it became the world's most widely accepted document on the subject.

According to the United Nations (UN), 30 rights are grouped to form the 'Human Rights'. They serve as the global standard to protect the equality of all people. The rights cover a wide range of privileges, permissions, and the freedom to choose. The right to live, liberty, security, to learn, to have a religion, and to have an appropriate standard of living.

Locally, before the Philippine Republic was formally established, anti-colonial movements led to the slow build-up of basic human rights in the Philippines. Centuries of foreign rule under Spain, then resisting American colonization until Japanese occupation arrived. Each period of resistance laid out the foundation that was then soon declared as the fundamental human rights in the Philippines.

Historical movements and events had shaped the new Philippine government. After the dictatorship of Former President Ferdinand Marcos Sr. and the proclamation of Martial Law, the formation of the Philippine Republic was made.

Under the 1987 Philippine Constitution, Former President Corazon Aquino issued the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) on May 5, 1987. Aiming to promote a Philippine society where human rights are fully enjoyed by everyone, they are respected, protected, and fulfilled.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE PAST

Throughout Philippine history—the revolutions, wars, and feuds that were won and lost by our country led to the freedoms enjoyed today. These battles are acknowledged to look forward to a well-deserving future for the country—where freedom is meant to be shared and not reserved for the privileged few.

Before the proclamation of the CHR, Filipino society had suffered and experienced the violation and abuse of human rights by the higher-ups, especially during the martial law era. Today, the scar continues to be rubbed with salt.

Even groups of students have started to build a foundation of groups, such as the UP Act Against Corruption Network (UP Action), that aims to show that even the younger generations of youth refuse to stay silent. Reports show that practices like 'red tagging' are used by youth to be labeled as false communist sympathizers.

Those who fight for the rights that should be implemented are not heroes. They are people who refuse to accept injustice as normal. The fact still remains that when the Declaration was signed, it was not an act that was forced by the law—it was optional. And even if more documents and papers are written to be signed, Human Rights are more than just little words on a page.

HELPING HANDS, HOPEFUL FUTURES
Through Services and Solidarity

Sky Chingcuanco

Behind every OLOPSCian lies a heart that beats for compassion, love, and empathy. Raised under the roofs of an institution that values morals along with education, students are taught early on that learning goes beyond classrooms. These ethics all come to life as the school's community comes together, reminding everyone that great minds also come with good hearts.

Guided by these principles, Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College (OLOPSC) established its scholarship and fundraising program, having fellow students, teachers, and non-teaching staff collectively engage in the program to support students with financial needs, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Through collective efforts, the school opens more opportunities for students who struggle financially to continue their education. Beyond its goals, the project allows students to live by the moral values taught by the school while extending their care for the environment across the city.

With the hand of Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao (EsP) coordinators, the Junior High School (JHS) department is set to have designated food, ingredients, and toiletries to donate per section of each grade level as part of the program. OLOPSC commemorates past programs, such as donations set for adopted families from Tumana, by progressing with similar initiatives. By means of these programs, students are brought back to fundraising projects rooted in the school's core values.

Through eco-friendly and value-driven initiatives, students are empowered to practice solicitude, social responsibility, and environmental management. Each effort not only contributes to the needs of scholars but also teaches students the significance of initiative towards global development. Little by little, students are shaped and prepared for the real world they are yet to face. This project allows students to translate moral foundations into concrete action, making service a shared experience for all.

At the heart of it, OLOPSC builds a grounded foundation set on moral values that shape every learner's future. The project becomes a living proof of how responsibility, compassion, and unity are practiced within an institution.

By participating in this program, students learn that small acts of service can build a lasting impact for everyone and the entire city. In the end, the institution continues to form individuals who lead with both mind and heart for service.



PHOTO BY ROSLYN GALANO
RUBBISH TO SUCCOR. Mountains of plastic bottles, cardboard, and crushed cans were donated by OLOPSCians to help the school's scholars.

GRADES 9 & 10 SHOWCASE RENEWABLE ENVIRONMENTAL APPROACHES THROUGH SIP WALL

Kea Sese

According to biologist Richard Dawkins, "Science is the poetry of reality"—it bleeds the ink of knowledge, objectivity, and a reflection on us of what we might find out about our world.

The SIP Wall features a chosen group's study that displays the most fascinating and viable research that may potentially unravel innovative approaches to explore real-life predicaments. Science teachers from the JHS department provided their insights on which groups across Grades 9 and 10 offer novel and sustainable outlooks.

This concept is anchored by the implementation of the SIP, where students are able to shine a light on their curiosity and passion for Science through research studies, investigations, and hands-on experiments utilizing the scientific method. This project, conducted by groups, tackles developing concerns and offers potential solutions to relevant environmental issues by fostering awareness—sparking creativity in students' minds to address these.

Many groups expressed enthusiasm for each of their SIP topics, but two specific groups from Grades 9 and 10 stood out — unveiling the art of Scientific knowledge, through vigor and resourcefulness.

For the Grade 9 level, the Group 3 from Amazing Grace (AG) presents the title: "Creating an Alternative Biofuel Using Fruit Peel Extract". This study demonstrates how waste materials can be transformed into a renewable and combustible fuel by converting fruit peels—especially pineapple peels—into bioethanol. The researchers expect these fruit scraps to perform as a natural alternative to fossil fuels that prevent pollution, while acknowledging that it may not be as significant as a fuel source.

"This topic is not commonly explored in SIPs, making it both unique and innovative. It also addresses two relevant real-world problems at once—waste management and energy sustainability. The idea is also practical, which makes it highly relevant to today's environmental challenges," said Trina Delas Alas, a Grade 9 Science teacher, during an interview.

"We aim to improve the efficiency of our bioethanol production by testing other fruit peels and optimizing factors such as fermentation time and sugar content. We also plan to explore and research better methods to increase ethanol concentration and flammability," highlighted Shana Songco, a student from 9 - AG.

From Group 3 of Grade 10 - Assumption of Mary (AOM), their work titled, "Investigating the Potential of Eco Tiles Made Out of Coco nucifera Bound with Bioplastic from Musa acuminata" spotlights the need for responsible consumption—utilizing natural materials such as banana peels and coconut husks to explore if fruit scraps can be used to construct eco-friendly tiles. The researchers predict that the outcome of the tiles will be cost-efficient, sturdy, and waterproof, while acknowledging that it may still end up fragile, porous, and slippery.

"We intend to provide the necessary information about the final product's abilities through experimentation and testing—focusing on elements such as sturdiness, waterproof ability, non-slip characteristic, and cost efficiency," Ayana Leaño from 10 - AOM emphasized.

Through the SIP Wall, students are able to showcase their scientific expeditions with inclination and critical thinking—guiding their hearts and minds with logic, creativity, and a love for learning each day.



PHOTO BY KATRINA DAR
FROM HYPOTHESIS TO THE STAGE.
Presenters for the SIP Wall stand on stage at the DS Hall as they present their Science Investigatory Project.

GRADES 7 & 8 GRASP THE INNOVATIONS OF SCIENCE THROUGH SIP

Lorraine Herrera



PHOTO FROM ABS-CBN
UNFILTERED FAUCETS.
Grade 7 students explore local water sources for biological hazards that may endanger the public.

From the very first semester through the last, students work on their Science Investigatory Project (SIP) to discover and create innovations that help solve everyday problems. These SIPs help students use and understand the scientific methods daily, giving them a glimpse of how the world around them works through Science.

Showcasing these SIPs are the science teachers—Michelle Morante (Grade 7), Angelique Lee (Grade 8), and Angela Villegas (Grades 7 & 8)—who chose interesting and innovative projects to see how students learn and grow through their SIP.

One of these outstanding projects is entitled "Invisible Threats: Water Pollution and its link to Public Health," which is done by Group 3 of Grade 7 - Ark of the Covenant (AOC). The researchers' study will evaluate the quality of water from different communities to see how clean the water truly is. The researchers have hypothesized that multiple water sources contribute to water quality, thus having an impact on cleanliness. The results of testing water from different places, or the quality of the water sources, may vary, and so will the community's livelihood.

Their project aims to raise awareness about the importance of having clean water in different communities. This study not only shows how clean the water is in different neighborhoods, but it also presents how discrete access to clean water is in said communities.

Another project to boast about is entitled "Comparing Power Output of Different Soil Types through a Microbial Fuel Cell Experiment" by Group 4 of Grade 8 - Blessed Comforter (BC), wherein the researchers will use different types of soil to create a power output and see which soil will produce the most power. The researchers predict a significant difference in the amount of electricity generated by microbial fuel cells that use the different types of soil—in the null case (meaning no change), the microbial fuel cells may have no effect.

The objective of their project is to create a strong power output of electricity using soil without harming or damaging the environment, thus providing a potential new renewable energy resource, while being an effort to slowly combat world problems like climate change or pollution.

By the end of these projects, the researchers will face their most anticipated moment, their defense. This is where the researchers will display their SIP to their fellow classmates and teachers, who will also act as their judges after the researchers present the project. The researchers will be asked questions by the teachers or the panel about their study to see if they truly understood or succeeded in their project. Their performance in presenting the project and their response to the questions will define their grade.

In being one of the ones who teach and help to students for their SIP, Angela Villegas, a Science teacher for Grades 7 & 8, said

"SIP finds a way to be able to explore what students learn inside the classroom and use it outside the classroom, like for example, there are Science Investigatory Projects that I'm handling that involves making natural cleaning agents, so they encounter cleaning agents everyday but because of their lessons in Science they wanted to find out if they can create this naturally where in they could. So the bottom line is that SIP is like an avenue for students to be able to use the things they learn inside the classroom outside for a more realistic purpose."

These Science Investigatory Projects (SIPs) help students to enhance their critical thinking skills and develop their minds through problem-solving skills using the scientific method, thus letting them explore the world of science in their everyday lives.

BRIDGING STUDENTS AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE AGE OF AI

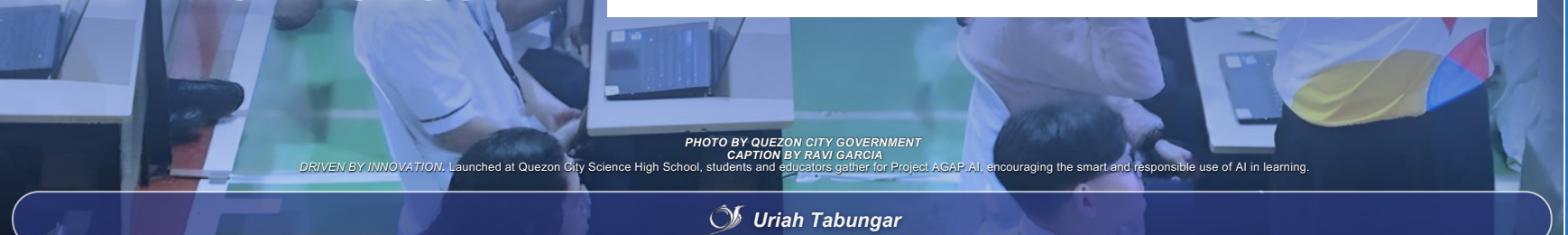


PHOTO BY QUEZON CITY GOVERNMENT
CAPTION BY RAVI GARCIA
DRIVEN BY INNOVATION. Launched at Quezon City Science High School, students and educators gather for Project AGAP.AI, encouraging the smart and responsible use of AI in learning.

Uriah Tabungar

Within the bustling halls of the Quezon City Science High School, a concept long confined to academic projects and research papers stepped onto the national stage on January 9.

The project Accelerating Governance and Adaptive Pedagogy through Artificial Intelligence (AGAP.AI), created by graduates of the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), was officially launched–marking a major advancement in how the Philippines integrates technology into education. It reflects the country's growing commitment to preparing students, schools, and communities with the skills and knowledge needed to meet the challenges of the modern technological era.

Its creators envisioned a framework for Filipino learners and educators to adjust to the expanding influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in everyday life, during the Innovation Overture of the Master in Business (MIB) Program.

Derived from the Filipino word: agapay, meaning "to support" or "to accompany", AGAP.AI stands as a supportive partner, guiding learners and educators through their lifelong learning and development.

The Department of Education (DepEd) introduced it as a flagship initiative aimed at promoting the ethical, responsible use of AI in basic education, led by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and DepEd Secretary Sonny Angara.

This launch emphasized a common belief: AI should support—not replace–human learning, creativity, and critical judgment.

According to Angara, the Department of Education aims to engage up to 1.5 million participants nationwide, including 1.5 million learners, 300,000 teachers, and 150,000 parents, with the program to be implemented with 12 sessions in phases throughout 2026, ensuring structured and progressive learning.

It is said to be positioned to serve multiple audiences: learners eager to understand how AI works, teachers to integrate AI into lessons, and parents to be guided in ensuring safe and wise use of technology at home.

In addition to the launch of the flagship program, a speech was delivered by President Marcos Jr. emphasizing the Philippine government's commitment to teacher empowerment, responsible AI use, and adaptation to technology in the future.

> **"We are also investing heavily in our teachers. Through AI-focused training modules, educators will be equipped to teach AI responsibly and creatively, whilst at the same time keeping up with the developing new technologies as they come down the pipeline," *said Marcos.***

To support this large-scale goal, AGAP.AI is built on a science-based framework composed of three key pillars: AI in Education (how to teach), Education on AI (what to teach), and AI for Education Systems (support services). This program also focuses on several core areas, including AI fundamentals, real-world usage and implementation, as well as critical concerns such as AI ethics, privacy, and security, while promoting responsible teaching practices that prepare students for an AI-driven future.

Rather than merely teaching students to use AI tools, it encourages them to understand how these systems work, how they process information, and how their outputs can influence decisions.

In OLOPSC, the students should be responsible in promoting ethical use, digital responsibility, and critical thinking as AGAP.AI continues to set an example that all learners – regardless of school type – can benefit from as the country moves toward a more technology-driven future. This project will provide students like OLOPSCians with the chance to develop skills such as data awareness, critical thinking, and problem-solving to ensure that students are empowered and enabled for the future.

In the age of AI, the future belongs to informed and responsible individuals. By choosing to use technology wisely and responsibly, Filipino learners can ensure that AI remains a tool for progress and human-centered innovation.

100 YEARS OF GLOBAL REVOLUTION: EVERYTHING WENT QUANTUM

Hara Urbano

From oil lamps that once dimly lit up rooms to glowing lightbulbs that illuminate the biggest cities, and from carrier pigeons that travel through distances to deliver messages to mobile cellphones. The global revolution of quantum science and technology has been influential in creating innovations and enhancing current knowledge to improve daily living.

Technology has played a significant part in the formation of the digital age. When it first appeared to the English in the 17th century, it was defined as a discussion of 'applied arts' only. Until modern times came, and by the early 20th century, it restated itself as a term for processes, growing a range of means, inventing tools and partnerships, machines, and embracing pure innovation—beginning with the creation of basic instruments that are widely used today, such as wheels, fire, and stone axes. And its most continuous work of art—the internet.

Technological progress advanced, and society's understanding of nature was pushed beyond what the naked human eye could see. Society needed an explanation to what kind of wonders are being made and can be made. This gave rise to the birth of quantum science, a field that focuses on studying the behavior of energy and matter.

Quantum technologies continue to drive exciting discoveries of the 21st century. This led to the creation of the global initiative to promote worldwide alliances and address critical challenges in science and technology. On June 7, 2024, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) officially made 2025 the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology (IYQ). In line with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the IYQ aims to cultivate international partnerships.

Scientists describe the IYQ as a 'call to action' to bring quantum science beyond research laboratories and integrate it into society and the global economy. To let the rising generation of students who want to be aspiring leaders in the field of science see the relevance of how the IYQ aims for more collaborations with inspiring figures. Quantum science has been the foundation for more research to be made because of inspiration from previous discoveries—giving rise to essential inventions that are needed in this modern world, such as mobile smartphones, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machines, electricity, and advanced healthcare devices.

Beyond everyday conveniences, quantum science continues to thrive in critical and emerging advancements, such as continuous computer program developments. As these technologies continue to be implemented, the IYQ offers its invitation of curiosity among future scientists and encourages them to go beyond the barrier of discovery and shape the next era of technological revolution.

The discoveries and inventions shaping the modern generation have made profound impacts across multiple fields such as the science and education industry. In this fleeting environment, the rising generations including students play a vital role in adapting, understanding, or even innovating these technological changes.

Envisioning an ever-evolving world and society, the future of quantum science and technology will be placed in the hands of humanity. It will be full of potential and have obstacles to overcome. It is important not to abuse the use of technology by spending longer than the prescribed time and neglecting real-life responsibilities, as its true purpose is to improve lives rather than harming them.

Creations that continue to be developed today can still bring advantages and disadvantages in how the system runs. Including healthcare advances, increased productivity, but also job displacements and privacy risks. Especially the new programs that are being coded, such as AI, and inventions like the mobile smartphone. While these technologies significantly enhance efficiency, their limitations can highlight the need for responsible and ethical evaluation.

The development of quantum science and technology will continue to reshape the modern world with its benefits and drawbacks will also come along. Although with its early advancements, they can highlight the importance of innovation and the strive to keep learning.

Looking ahead, this ultimately reinforces the role of future scientists, and leaders to students. OLOPSCians in particular. In order to fulfill their future-ready mission which is to inspire excellence, and shape leaders. With guidance from their educators, they will be able to highlight their own skills and explore the world of innovation on their own.



PHOTO BY MARIE ETCHEGOYEN (UNESCO)
CAPTION BY RAVI GARCIA
SHAPING GENERATIONS. Scientists and leaders from different countries gather to discuss the role of quantum science in shaping future technologies.

MONEY FOR INNOVATIONS TURNED INTO PROFIT

Lorraine Herrera & Clyde Ngo

In today's time, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has grown in different innovative ways. However, instead of being as exciting as it sounds, the lack of profit has made leading companies resort to investments that have created a bubble that is growing every day.

The AI Bubble is a theorized stock market bubble where rapid investments in AI affect the broader economy, amid the AI boom. The theory started around January 2025, when DeepSeek released a successful Chinese-made chatbot, which resulted in the stock of other AI companies dropping, such as Nvidia, who dropped by 17% in a day.

Because of this, the AI Bubble has grown. Large companies like OpenAI, Nvidia, Advanced Micro Devices (AMD), Microsoft, and Oracle have been investing heavily in each other, making economies look powerful by climbing the charts when in reality, it's all just a mask.

The model of the circular investment goes like this: Nvidia and AMD make Graphic Processing Units (GPUs), which power the data centers OpenAI is building, where then Microsoft and Oracle invest in them.

As a consequence, debt has also increased. Morgan Stanley analysts estimate that the debt used to fund data centers could reach one trillion dollars by 2028.

By 2025, many economists, analysts, and commentators were openly discussing whether the market was in a bubble phase or if this buble would pop, much like how the dot-com bubble did in the 2000s, from the rapid expansion of the internet.

The dot-com bubble burst because of the eagerness of investors investing into internet-related companies, which triggered a recession that caused the fall of many internet companies. Thus, much like the AI Bubble, once it bursts, the will system breaks and many people will lose their jobs and investments.

Professionals oppose the possibility of an AI Bubble, stating that the rapid growth in stock prices was caused by sustained profit growth in earnings. Other investors like from JP Morgan argue that the AI Bubble is too "premature," stating that the growth does not meet the criteria for a financial bubble. Despite all of this, OpenAI has been projected to run out of money by mid-2027.

Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI, believes that the AI Bubble is ongoing, with how investors are "overexcited" about AI, stating "Are we in a phase where investors as a whole are overexcited about AI? My opinion is yes. Is AI the most important thing to happen in a very long time? My opinion is also yes."

Not only does it affect the stock market, it also affects consumers. The price of Random Access Memory (RAM) has gone up, which is important for the Central Processing Unit (CPU) to access information instantly, thus enhancing system responsiveness.

This caused AI datacenters to demand Double Data Rate fifth generation (DDR5) RAM, which offers growth that can connect to multiple data assets with higher speeds compared to other models. Along with High Bandwidth Memory, which is relevant for data-intensive tasks in training AI.

With the extreme demand of data surging up, it triggers costly effects to RAM, boosting by 200-400%, especially for Dynamic RAM for it is a more developed version of RAM as it stores the main memory of computers fast and also better for active data. Since the spike, it causes new devices and computer upgrades to be more expensive or for the performance to have low quality and older technology.

As technology starts to greatly affect daily interactions, its cost rising because of the AI Bubble is heightening the problem, affecting actual developments and even innovations just because of prices. This goes to common folks also, like students trying to study, workers trying to do their jobs, and people just simply browsing the internet.

Situations like this are a reminder to know where and what money is being spent on and to not trust companies like these with their words. This is so that people can actually contribute to actual innovations and have their money's worth, so that technology can grow not because of profit but evolution.



UWAN DEVASTATES PH, NETIZENS SEEK SIERRA MADRE'S PROTECTION

Clyde Ngo

Five days after the last calamity of Typhoon Tino, Super Typhoon Uwan (internationally named Fung-wong) struck the Philippines, causing even more widespread evacuations while damaging agriculture and infrastructure last November 9.

The typhoon made its first landfall at Dinalungan, Aurora, on November nine, where it then exited on November 10, before re-entering on November 11. Uwan lasted within the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) for a total of four days.

According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), the typhoon had a peak diameter of about 1800 km, a sustained wind speed of 185 km/h, gusts of 230 km/h, with the lowest central pressure being 950 pascals.

After the calamity, a total of 33 people died, 88 were injured, three were missing, and 2,242,319 people were affected. The total amount of damages amounted to 4.92 billion pesos, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal No. 5 was hoisted in areas in and near Aurora, while the rest of Luzon was warned with Signal No. 4. Moreover, the National Capital Region (NCR) and its neighbors experienced Signal No. 3.

"Buong pwersa ang administrasyon ni Pangulong Marcos Jr. sa pag-aksyon sa mga lugar na tinamaan ng Super Typhoon Uwan at Typhoon Tino. Alinsunod ito sa mandato ng Pangulo na personal na alamin ang kalagayan ng mga residenteng tinamaan ng magkasunod na bagyo," said by Claire Castro, Palace Press Officer and Communications Undersecretary.

Castro also said that the President reached out to agencies to continue rehabilitation efforts, while he ensured that medical responders who were hit by the previous typhoons were also taken care of.

According to the PAGASA, Sierra Madre weakened the super typhoon into a typhoon, distorting the structure as it passed through the mountain range.

NETIZENS EQUIPPED WITH AI: SIERRA MADRE'S SPECTACLE

Numerous netizens, primarily on Facebook, posted videos created through Artificial Intelligence (AI), turning Sierra Madre into a patriotic protector of the Philippines, while other videos made her go against Typhoon Uwan, personified into a beast.

A deleted reel from AngCool Baybyahero PH on Facebook garnered viral attention, as Sierra Madre says, **"Gagawin ko ang lahat para maprotektahan ang aking bansa,"** while destroying Typhoon Uwan in the process.

Many users described this video as funny and cringey. In contrast, other users argued that it's hypocritical for the video to have been created using AI, arguing it damages the environment through excessive water and energy use.

Though Sierra Madre is cast as the "Shield of the Cagayan Valley", it was not able to stop torrential rains, floods, or landslides, especially when forests are stripped—as said by the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), "the loss of trees doesn't just endanger wildlife; it erodes the Sierra Madre's very ability to stand as the valley's shield."

Sierra Madre is not just a natural shield—it is a biodiversity-rich landscape where countless identities are seen, such as the Philippine Eagle, the critically endangered national symbol of the Philippines, as shown by the Department of Natural Resources (DENR).

As AI progresses, it can be a double-edged sword—on one side, it has potential for reducing greenhouse emissions through optimizing energy demand and innovating methods in decarbonization across all sectors. On the other hand, its own emissions can exacerbate them. As climate change continues to worsen, higher sea temperatures can mean more extreme typhoons.

Typhoon Uwan, Sierra Madre, and AI represent the growing need for sustainability. These videos can serve as a message about the suffering of the mountain range. As many users pointed out, the deforestation done by illegal logging and mining can weaken the protection, making the Philippines more vulnerable than it already is.

33 DEATHS

88 INJURIES

3 MISSING

2,242,319 AFFECTED PEOPLE

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS: RAISING ADHD AWARENESS

Ravi Garcia



Some individuals struggle every morning—they forget tasks, skip steps, or leave things unfinished. Even these simple routines can feel overwhelming. However, these struggles might be more than just being forgetful or careless. They could be signs of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)—a common neurodevelopmental disorder that affects individuals of all ages.

ADHD, a disorder that affects how the brain develops and functions, can impact an individual's life in many aspects—including daily tasks, relationships, and performance at school. People who have it also struggle with regulating their emotions and focusing. These challenges do not just affect their mental health and social belonging but also their academic performance.

An estimated number of four million Filipinos are affected by the disorder, as per the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA). Although it is prevalent, others continue to perceive people with ADHD differently because of myths and misconceptions.

FILIPINOS WITH ADHD ARE OFTEN CALLED "PASAWAY" OR "TAMAD" FOR STRUGGLING WITH TASKS OR HAVING DIFFICULTY CONTROLLING THEIR BEHAVIOR.

Individuals with ADHD lack proper support and understanding because of these misconceptions. As a result, they may also be diagnosed and treated late, having the risk of facing long-term complications, substance abuse, and mental health issues.

Although ADHD has no cure, its symptoms can be managed with proper support and intervention. Doctors prescribe medications like Methylphenidate, which can help improve focus and control behavior. Therapy is also advised as it teaches skills such as time management and emotional regulation. Furthermore, counseling offers the emotional support people need to better understand what they are going through.

To combat this, ADHD Awareness Week is observed in the Philippines every third week of October to raise awareness and break social stigmas regarding the disorder. It is led by the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) along with other government agencies such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the ADHD Society of the Philippines (ADHDSP).

The global campaign, ADHD Awareness Week, also focuses on seeking better support systems and health care access.

Raising awareness about ADHD is essential in reducing social stigmas and building an inclusive community, especially in school. When more people understand the disorder, they learn how to show empathy and respect to those who have it. Students with ADHD could also feel embraced rather than judged, empowering them to thrive and confidently grow into better individuals. With greater awareness, students learn to support one another and create a school environment where everyone feels accepted and valued.

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DIGITAL THREATS: HARVARD GETS HIT BY CYBERATTACKS

Liam Vallente

Due to insufficient security measures, Harvard University was reported to have been targeted by a cyberattack that involved unauthorized access to systems containing sensitive academic, financial and personal data and extorted victims via data dissemination threats last November 18, 2025.

Primary concern of users of Oracle E-Business Suite (EBS) and organizations that rely on it is that attackers found a zero-day exploit in the Oracle E's Business Suite (EBS) that can be remotely through the internet without requiring user authentication, meaning the attacker can access the Oracle E's Business Suite system before a patch is in place, increasing the risk of exploitation.

Harvard and the Clop ransomware for users of EBS is cited as an example that facilitates the compromise of enterprise systems.

The university emphasized that this is not merely an issue for Harvard, as Oracle EBS clientele have had to deal with the same challenges, and even though the investigations are still in progress, the repercussions are reportedly focused on a singular administration.

Harvard's case, along with incidents affecting organizations in London highlighted how the Clop ransomware targeted EBS users by facilitating the compromise of enterprise systems that store large amounts of sensitive academic, financial and personal data.

Harvard quickly patched the vulnerable system and investigated the breach to see what data was affected. They also likely improved their security monitoring and protection measures to prevent future attacks.

The US and UK governments issued alerts warning that the attacks threatened data security and critical systems, while FBI officials urged affected organizations to apply security patches immediately to prevent data theft and system compromise.

When asked about the importance Zairine from 7-HOP said "Knowing about this incident can warn OLOPSCians that cyberattacks can heavily affect schools by putting student data and school systems at risk." This shows that no one is safe from cyber threats and that OLOPSC could possibly be at risk.

Attacks at recognized establishments are risks OLOPSC and OLOPSCians may understand when using digital systems and when online safety is a concern. Schools and individuals may suffer data loss and operational damage because of risked systems due to unpatched software discrepancies.

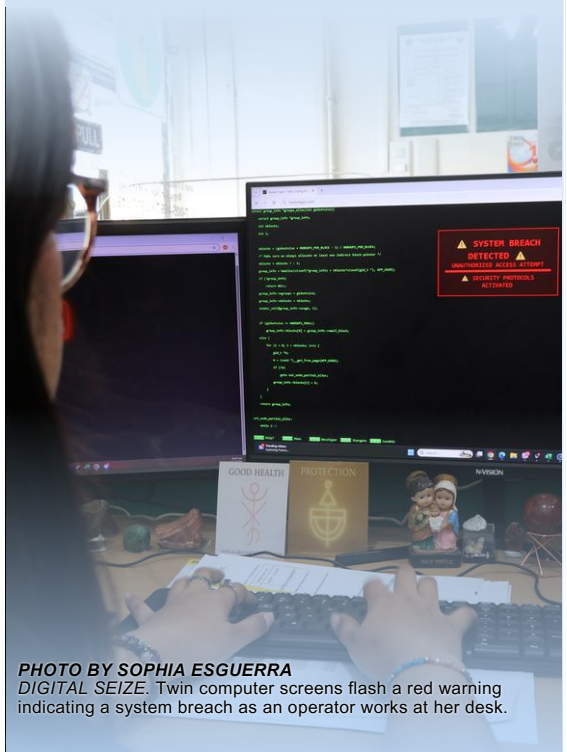


PHOTO BY SOPHIA ESGUERRA
DIGITAL SEIZE. Twin computer screens flash a red warning indicating a system breach as an operator works at her desk.

72 MALARIA-FREE PROVINCES: WHY VIGILANCE STILL MATTERS



PHOTO BY JAMES GRIFFITHS (THE GLOBE AND MAIL)
CAPTION BY RAVI GARCIA
UNITED FOR SAFETY. Fighting malaria across rural areas, health workers and volunteers work together to conduct a monthly malaria testing to ensure community safety and prevent outbreaks.

Kylie Lim

Seventy-two out of 82 provinces in the Philippines have been declared malaria-free; however, this does not mean the disease has been fully eradicated, according to the Department of Health (DOH). The DOH-Center for Health Development (DOH-CHD) urges the public to remain vigilant and continue practicing preventive measures.

The Philippines celebrates Malaria Awareness Month every November to emphasize the importance of prevention. The World Health Organization (WHO) states that malaria is a parasitic infection spread by infected Anopheles mosquitoes. These mosquitoes carry Plasmodium parasites, which cause the disease and can lead to life-threatening illness. The disease mainly spreads through the bites of infected female mosquitoes—it can also be transmitted through blood transfusions or contaminated needles.

Malaria can affect anyone, but infants, young children under five, pregnant women, individuals with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) are especially at risk. The common symptoms of malaria that appear 10-15 days after being bitten include fever, headache, and chills. For some individuals, symptoms may be mild, making early testing important because the infection can be hard to detect.

Most malaria cases are concentrated in Palawan, with many families at risk. Residents of nearby provinces and travelers are also encouraged to take precautions. The peak of malaria cases was in 2023, when the DOH Research Institute for Tropical Medicine reported 6,248 cases and 11 reported deaths, which was a 90 percent increase compared to the year 2022. This shows the need for continued prevention to keep malaria-free areas safe.

Families can protect themselves by using mosquito nets while sleeping in malaria-prone areas, applying mosquito repellents, and wearing protective clothing, especially after typhoons or heavy rains, where there's a rise in mosquito breeding grounds. The WHO recommends the RTS, S/ASO1 malarial vaccine and antimalarial drugs such as atovaquone-proguanil to treat infections.

Although the Philippines has made progress in reducing malaria cases, the disease remains an issue that shouldn't be overlooked. For OLOPSCians, staying informed about malaria and its preventive measures is important, as students and families play an important role in reducing malaria transmission. Malaria Awareness Month reminds the public to stay alert, informed, and continue preventive practices to reach the DOH's 2030 goal of becoming malaria-free.

ECOLOGY OF LOSS: THE PHILIPPINE EAGLE'S SHRINKING HOME

Zavrina Gonzales

Rulers of the skies, victims of humanity.

The Philippine Eagle has spread its majestic wings over the forested lands of the Philippines for many years. It was long known as a symbol for national identity and freedom when it was given the title of the country's official bird; however, it is currently fighting for survival due to the destruction of its natural habitat.

With its population declining, protecting this predatory bird is more crucial than ever. As alleged by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), it teeters on the brink of extinction, with less than 500 mature individuals estimated in the wild and highly specific habitat needs that are increasingly unmet due to sprawling deforestation.

These ecosystems quickly turned into isolated patches, as an eagle pair may require thousands of hectares just to raise a single chick. But nowadays, many forests can barely provide a fraction of that required space. As it diminishes the habitat available, its effects lead these eagles closer to human habitation, thereby increasing the probability of interactions that can threaten the survival of these birds. Electrocution caused by power lines, pesticide use, and lowered populations of their own prey, influenced by their habitat, emerge as possible dangers as well.

Even though there is no known predator of the Philippine Eagle, it becomes endangered because of its biggest natural predator: mankind. Human activities of logging, mining, and agricultural development consume a constant amount of forest where these eagles survive. While mankind is left with no choice as it is inclined to economic success rather than protecting nature, it leaves its mark on the survival of the Philippine eagle.

In response to the rapid decline of the Philippine Eagle, conservationists are using science-based approaches to save species from extinction. Organizations such as the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) work closely with biologists to rehabilitate injured eagles, manage captive breeding programs, and release individuals back into protected forests.

"The commitment extends far beyond the eagle itself, encompassing extensive efforts in culture-based conservation, reforestation, habitat restoration, and forest protection to guarantee the survival of not only the Philippine eagle but also the diverse flora and fauna, and the community within its habitat," stated Felicia Atienza, the president of PEF, in an interview with the Manila Bulletin.

Atienza also stressed the significance of community participation in conservation, reaching out to communities through sustainable livelihood initiatives, environmental education, and other awareness programs in trying to relate community needs to environmental protection.

Modern conservation science uses GPS telemetry and habitat distribution models to identify areas of high conservation priority. Range habitat modeling has revealed that a mere fraction of suitable eagle habitat is currently contained within a protected area, thus indicating a pressing need for improved forest protection policies.

The tragedy is not inevitable; it is because of human decision. While the destruction of the forest lands continues, the Philippine Eagle is caught in the crossfire of development. It is no longer simply a species worthy of respect in terms of admiration; it is a species that requires immediate commitment in defending the remaining rainforests in the way of conserving efforts against development.



PHOTO BY THE PEREGRINE FUND
CAPTION BY REANNE MENZODA
EAGLE POPULATION NOW. The number of endangered Philippine eagles decreased due to the rising cases of deforestation and hunting, with some being displayed in public or private areas.

OLOPSC TAEKWONDO PLAYERS DOMINATES OLYMPIA CHAMPIONSHIP

Sofia Landagan



PHOTO BY FRANKIE BARRANCO II
CAPTION BY AMBER LUCEA
KICKING OF THE YEAR. Frankie Barranco successfully bagged the silver medal during the QC CPJ Taekwondo Championships—proudly representing OLOPSC's pride at Ateneo De Manila University on February 1.

The Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College (OLOPSC) jins took home multiple awards after representing the school at the Olympia Taekwondo Championship Festival held at Ayala Feliz last November 30, 2025.

Frankie Barranco II in the Grade 7 level from Ark of the Covenant (AOC) won a gold medal in the wood breaking category and another one in Kyorugi. On the other hand, Veneliz Tuaño from Gate of Heaven (GOH) also won a gold medal in the same category.

Tuaño shared the hardships she faced, stating how her coach made them do hard training in preparation for the festival. They focused more on headkicks, body kicks, targeting, blocking, sparring, and stamina, which led to constant jogging before drills.

"I tried to force myself to control my heartbeat, to control my breathing, before the fight, my hands and feet were cold, my face was pale. I overcame it by thinking of positive things instead of negative things that might just lead me to lose just because of nervousness." She added, expressing how she felt throughout the competition and how she overcame it all despite the pressure she was under.

Furthermore, at the Grade 8 level, Xaire Del Rosario of Lord of Pardon (LOP) secured two gold medals—one in the Kyorugi division and one in the Wood Breaking category. On the other hand, Lord Antonio of Blessed Comforter (BC) also earned a gold medal under the Kyorugi category.

Antonio expressed how the training was challenging for him due to his lack of flexibility. He emphasized his intentions to further improve his stretching routines. He also added that he had no further issues regarding the training, only struggling with exhaustion.

"Nung competition lang talaga mismo nahirapan, dun talaga nakakapagod. Ibang iba sa training kasi nagiisip ka pa ng gagawin mo," he added.

With the Olympia competition ending, Barranco continues to train hard for his next competition on January 31 in Quezon City.

FRANKIE BARRANCO II

- GOLD MEDAL - WOOD BREAKING
- GOLD MEDAL - KYORUGI

MARIKINA TOWN CENTER BRIDGES PARTNERSHIP, SUSTAINABILITY WITH FLC

Nixie Sabang

A newly constructed football field in Marikina Town Center hosted a match between Kaya Football Club and Adhika Football Club last November 26, 2025, marking a warm welcome to athletes and Marikeños who are interested in football.

"Our original training venue is in PAREF Northfield School for Boys in Antipolo City. This is our first time here, it's a perfect turf for training, considering that the ground is flat and in good condition," Jace Alacarde, a co-coach from Mariners Football Club, shared his experience.

Football clubs such as La Famiglia, Rizers, Basileus, and Mariners all radiated the same energy and thoughts about the new field.

Athletes from the Mariners Football Club shared the same excitement as well.

According to the players, the field had less mud, was more leveled and flatter, the runs and techniques were better, and the field was really beautiful and very suitable for training.

Federal Land Communities (FLC) formed a partnership with Marikina City to instigate an innovative beginning for a sustainable yet developing city.

Marikina City had been chosen as one of the few ten masterplanned townships governed by FLC. A structured layout contrives the prospect of inaugurating projects for the town's betterment and provides an interactive and healthy community. Projects such as renovating the BlueWave Mall and constructing more sports fields (pickleball, badminton, volleyball, etc.) are currently being planned out and in process.

"We aim to develop a complete community, which is why we built the football field to complement the residential property and in recognition of Marikina's love of sports," said Federal Land President Jose Mari Banzon.

Mayor Maan Teodoro confirmed that the town will continue progressing now that the floods have lessened. Consequently, opportunities to create bigger and safer spaces in Marikina are provided to families and to the physically active youth.



PHOTO BY CAMILLE ROSARIO & PINTEREST
LOVE FOR THE GAME. The Marikina LGU welcomes the rise of the sport 'Football' through the construction of its own field.

WINGS IN MOTION

PHOENIX SOARS PAST BLUE EAGLES TO CLAIM PAYA SILVER

Tiffany Arcellana

The Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College (OLOPSC) boys' volleyball team glided to a silver finish against Ateneo De Manila University (ADMU), 25-21, 25-19, in the Philippine Athletic Youth Association (PAYA) Volleyball tournament at Xavier School, last November 16, 2025.

Relentless from the start, the Phoenixes surpassed the Blue Eagles in a straight set, 2-0, as OLOPSC's fervent display of dominance forced ADMU's wings to weaken—sealing their victory.

"We observed our mistakes from our games against Ateneo, then communicated with each other by applying everything our team trained for, resulting in us winning the game for silver," Setter Von Alexander De Guzman emphasized.

Late into the game, OLOPSC asserted dominance on the court with commanding teamwork, 25-19, claiming the victory for the match.

The Phoenixes stood their ground at 24-19; however, when Jerome Casas stepped in with a jump serve, everyone held their breath as continuous receives unfolded. Nevertheless, the Phoenixes soared as the Blue Eagles slowed down and made a receiving error, 25-19.

As soon as ADMU began to surge forward into set two, 16-19, De Guzman delivered a formidable service ace to keep Phoenix in the game, 17-19.

Moving on to the middle of the second set, 12-13, was a constant neck-to-neck battle. Every time the Blue Eagles attacked, the Phoenix quickly charged back with intensity, 16-17.

The second set started with OLOPSC in control; however, the Blue Eagles were able to build a 2-6 lead, capitalizing on OLOPSC receive errors. Despite this, the Phoenixes stood firm and caught up, tying their scores for a 10-all.

Early on, the first set kicked off with both teams showing their pursuit of the crown. In the final moments, Phoenix refused to back down and opened their wings with full force to fly with relentless effort, 25-21, winning the first round.

The OLOPSC Volleyball boys continue to train rigorously for the upcoming PAYA League that consists of players 16 and under.

PHOTO BY CHRISSPORTS

THE HORIZON
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOR COLLEGE - JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

UNSUSTAINED EQUALITY

Rachelle Arcangel

Win after win, medals after medals, the varsity teams of the Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College (OLOPSC) are constantly pursuing greatness in every match they partake in. And yet, they still scream the same phrase in unison: *"We want more training!"*

One of the physical sports teams that mostly feels this absence of training is the badminton varsities, for they are not allowed to train at all inside the school's grounds—hence forcing them to train by themselves even though they finally have a coach.

Some volleyball players also expressed dissatisfaction regarding their schedule—stating that they also lack in training due to some practices exceeding the given duration.

"Madalas po nag-oovertime po kami and yung ibang overtime po namin umaabot ng one hour," Makayla Umali, a volleyball varsity, stated.

More problems are present in the school's varsity teams—mostly the players who don't get much attention nor support from the school compared to other physical sports teams such as volleyball and basketball.

Many believe the school should be more fair and give equal attention to the sports teams they have. **Supporting a team does not only mean giving them funds—it includes enabling them to unleash their full potential by helping them train harder as they represent the school in various competitions.**



PHOTO FROM MARIKINA PRIVATE SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION, INC. FACEBOOK PAGE
CAPTION BY CAMILLE ROSARIO
FACING WAVES. Swimmers stroke through the Swimming Division Meet, earning medals in different categories.

CREATING MILESTONES

RAMIREZ BRINGS HOME HONORS FROM SWIMMING DIVISION MEET

Rachelle Arcangel

After finishing her last lap, Jaysie Ramirez of 8-Lord of Pardon (LOP) rejoices as she successfully qualified for the National Capital Region (NCR) meet after once again giving the Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College (OLOPSC) Junior High School (JHS) multiple medals during the Swimming Division Meet last December 10 and 11, 2025, at the Marikina Sports Center.

Ramirez earned a total of three gold and four silver medals for freestyling in various pool lengths, reaping the reward for all the hardships she faced.

"I want to say thank you to the people that supported me in my journey, especially to my coaches, friends and my family. They gave me a reason to push myself to meet my goals by being there by my side no matter how hard situations get," Ramirez expressed.

She also stated that this achievement doesn't solely belong to her, for she couldn't have achieved such results without her coach, Mar Casas.

Like all athletes, Ramirez experienced a moment of nervousness before the competition. Even so, motivating herself from the support of her coach and fellow teammates, Ramirez rose to her feet and courageously faced the pool and other athletes from various schools.

Other than Ramirez, Riza Nadunza from the Senior High School (SHS) Department also won seven golds in the same event.

Currently, the swimming team is training to represent both OLOPSC and Marikina in the NCR meet at Rizal Memorial Complex on February 16-20.



PHOTO BY PVL, GALLERYE
CAPTION BY SOPHIA ESGUERRA
AT THE NET. Petro Gazz's player, Mar-Jana Phillips, rises for a spike as Creamline's defender, Isabel De Leon, goes up for a block during a high-flying battle at the net during the 2025 Premier Volleyball League (PVL).

STRIPPED OFF CROWN PETRO GAZZ DETHRONES 10-TIME CHAMPION CREAMLINE IN PVL QUARTER FINALS

Jian Ronquillo

Out with the old, in with the new!

Dethroning the 10-year defending champions, Petro Gazz Angels strips off the crown from Creamline Cool Smashers and keeps them outside the Premier Volleyball League (PVL) podium for the first-time ever with a 25-23, 25-19, 16-25, 25-14 win in the quarter finals of the 2025 PVL Reinforced Conference, earning the final seat at the semi-finals, at the Araneta Coliseum last November 24, 2025.

"Ako naman, kung ano yung binigay sa akin ng coaches sa loob ng court, 'yun yung ginagawan ko ng paraan—yung tiwala din sa akin ng mga coaches na ginawa akong opposite," said Myla Pablo of Petro Gazz, the star player of the match despite not being part of the starting six lineup.

Petro Gazz triumphed 3-1 against Creamline after the Angels continuously led the match—applying relentless pressure and keeping the Cool Smashers off balance from start to finish.

The Angels, a point away from winning the match, 24-12, Petro Gazz's Chie Saet flew as she opened the final play with her service, turning into a short rally as the Cool Smashers received the ball. Pablo, waiting on the side, closed the match as she hammered a heart-wrenching spike for Creamline, 25-14.

Clinching the win, Pablo–conquering the match with 26 points–expressed in a press conference that when Jules Tolentino gave her the last point, she knew she had to end the match right there, as the trust her teammate gave her the determination to win.

Still at the fourth set, Petro Gazz continued to assert dominance as they took on the lead, 11-7, with Pablo breaking through Creamline's so-called formidable blocks.

Locked at 9-7, the court comes alive as a heated rally emerges—save after save and attack after attack—with both teams refusing to let the point slip away. Lurking at the back row, Petro Gazz's Brooke Van Sickle springs into action and delivers a vicious spike after a set from Tolentino, wrapping up the rally at 10-7.

Early into the fourth set, a grueling exchange comes into play, though it comes short as Pablo once again delivers a devastating spike, opening the set like how she ended the match, 1-0.

Transitioning into the third set, Creamline finally jump-started the match, 1-0, after Cool Smasher Kyle Negrito opened the game with her service. While Petro Gazz successfully received the ball, they were left stunned as the Cool Smashers blocked Angel Jonah Sabete's powerful spike.

Midway through the same set, with both teams tied, 10-10, Petro Gazz turns the tide by a point as Brooke Van Sickle forcefully breaks through the defense of the Cool Smashers, 11-10.

Late into the third set, a long and blazing clash once again emerged with Creamline only needing two points to secure their first win in the match, 16-23. Reducing the numbers, Cool Smasher Tots Carlos closes the gap between the game point as she breaks through MJ Phillips of Petro Gazz, 16-24.

Fortunately for the Cool Smashers at set point, Pablo once again smashes the ball into the antenna, which resulted in a fault, gifting Creamline the third set at 16-25.

From the get-go of the second set at 2-2, another rally erupts with both teams launching relentless attacks and defending with fierce determination, refusing to surrender the point. However, Pablo smashes a thunderous spike through the joined hands of Cool Smasher's Michelle Gumabao and Pangs Panaga, resulting in 3-2.

In a nail-biting match within the same set, 24-19, Pablo proves she is not just an offensive threat, but also rises on defense, shutting down a vicious spike from the Cool Smashers and closing the set, 25-19.

In the first set, Creamline and Petro Gazz were neck-to-neck, exchanging points back and forth, leading to a tie at 6-6 early on.

However, Petro Gazz continued to surge, reclaiming control and shifting the momentum to secure the opening round, 23-25.

Conquering the win against the 10-time champions, the Petro Gazz Angels charged to the semifinals, clashing with the Akari Chargers in a nail-biting five-set match, ultimately clinching their spot in the finals.

Advancing to the finals against ZUS Coffee, the Petro Gazz overcame an early deficit, though they fought back relentlessly and eventually secured the victory.

Despite having rekindled its legacy of excellence in the finals of the tournament last November 30, the Petro Gazz Angels announced a leave of absence from the PVL ahead of the 2026 All-Filipino Conference.

PH ATHLETES REIGN SUPREME

TEAM PH TITLED AS TOP SPORTS ACHIEVER, CLAIMS SEA GAMES GLORY

Sofia Landagan

Throughout numerous sports, members of Team Philippines collared 50 golds, 73 silvers and 154 bronze medals in the 33rd Southeast Asian Games in different battlefronts at Metro Bangkok and neighboring provinces of Chonburi and Songkhla in Thailand last December 9-20, 2025.

After raising the flag high and winning events while representing the country, the Philippine Southeast Asian Games (SEAG) team earned the title of Philippine Sportswriters Association's top achievers for December 2025.

The Philippines' football team captured the country's first-ever gold win, dethroning eight-time winner Vietnam, 6-5, in a penalty shootout after a tense 0-0 draw in the final.

EJ Obiena won a four-peat in pole vault in record fashion. 16-year-old athlete Naomi Cesar, who led a five-gold, seven-silver, 19-bronze tally for the team—showcased themselves by scooping up the largest medal haul in the sport.

Under the swimming division, representative Kayla Sanchez made her opponents quiver with her brilliant debut—outshining other players with three mints and five silvers in the 4x100 meter freestyle relay.

In the Practical Shooter court, Rolly Tecson dominated with four golds, five silvers and five bronzes. Sanchez, alongside his teammates, contributed a 3-9-2 haul, while the modern pentathlon aces delivered 3-3-1, and the triathletes bantered by double-gold and triple-silver earner Kira Ellis, who showcased a 3-5-2 debut. Meanwhile, gymnast Carlos Yulo recorded a 3-2-7 tally.

The Philippines Blu Boys swept their division with a 12-0 win over Thailand. While Blu Girls won their 11th consecutive title against Singapore, 4-1 in SEAG's Softball return.

Gilas Pilipinas Basketball men asserted their dominance on and off the court to retain their five-on-five gold medal, 70-64, while their female counterparts reclaimed the title at Thailand's express, a tight final score of 73-70. Both teams played against the host nation.

In the baseball area, the Pinoy Batters swung big and proud after they received their third consecutive gold medal, dominating the sport with a score of 5-3 over Thailand at the Queen Sirikit Baseball Stadium in Pathum Thani.

With pitcher Romeo Jasmin delivering 10 strikeouts over eight innings, Relevuer Amiel de Guzman slammed on Thailand by getting the final three outs. De Guzman blew the last two batters which led to their win.

Just after entering the WTA finals and Miami Open semis, the Tennis court spread fire as Alexandra Eala ended a drought with her win in the Women's singles against Mananchaya Sawangkaew of Thailand. 6-1, 6-2.

Eumir Marcial seized in the ring as PH representative, earning the gold medal against Maikhel Muskita of Indonesia, 4-1, at the SEA games boxing competition.

On the Volleyball court, Alas Pilipinas Women members Sisi Rondina, Bernadeth Pons, Sunnie Villapando, and Dij Rodriguez cut off Thailand's chances of winning in doubles. With Rondina and Pons sweeping up Thailand in a two-set game, 42-32.

Meanwhile, Rodriguez and Villapando also dominated to seal the historic run in a two-set match against Thailand's Tanarattha Udomchavee and Rumpaipruet Numwong, 38-34.

On the other hand, Marck Espejo of the Alas Pilipinas Men delivered a resilient performance, leading his team out of a daunting two-set deficit to secure a bronze medal against Vietnam in a five-set match, 112-104.

The star athletes continue to rest and train for further competitions, such achievements added a fiery boost to the end of the year—they reflected the dedication, determination, and long-term commitment that an athlete inputs. They continue to train and work hard for their respective upcoming matches, forever carrying the title as top sports achievers.

GREEN ARCHERS RISE AGAIN

LA SALLE SEALS REDEMPTION ARC, DOMINATES UP IN UAAP BASKETBALL

Sofia Landagan

After clinching the semis against National University (NU), De La Salle University (DLSU) Green Archers were hailed as UAAP Season 88 champion after taking down the University of the Philippines (UP) Fighting Maroons in an eight-point deficit, 80-72, last December 17, 2025, at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City.

Mike Phillips of Green Archers soared high as the Most Valuable Player (MVP), leading with 25 points, 18 rebounds, and 1 assist. On the other hand, Rey Remogat led the Fighting Maroons with 21 points, three rebounds, and two assists.

"I cannot express my gratitude. They were lining up for hours, and I was also just looking at our rookies, and they were my motivation. 'Di ka rin mapapagod because hindi ako naglalaro para sa sarili ko. Naglalaro ako para sa mas malaking bagay," Phillips said in an interview.

With four more minutes remaining in the game, DLSU trailed 64-67 after a follow-through three-pointer shot from UP's Regomat. La Salle answered back with an eight-point surge from Mason Amos, Vhoris Marasigan, and Mike Cortez to seize a lead, 72-67

UP's Regomat later trimmed down the deficit to three with tough teardrop shots, 72-69, but Kean Baclaan and JC Macalalag from DLSU shot timely two-pointers to push their team ahead by four more points, 76-72.

"It's the hardest to win, but having our team at my side is really a blessing because I can be vulnerable with them and tell them, 'I'm tired, I'm worried, and I have so much anxiety.' And they carried me," Topex Robinson, the lead coach for the Green Archers, mentioned during an interview.

Reyland Torres of the Fighting Maroons attempted to force a three-pointer with just 30 seconds left to catch up to DLSU, but the Green Archers' Amos and Baclaan sealed the game with free throws, 80-72.

La Salle marks their 11th championship in the UAAP basketball division, becoming the second team in basketball league history to win the trophy as the fourth seed just after National University during Season 77.

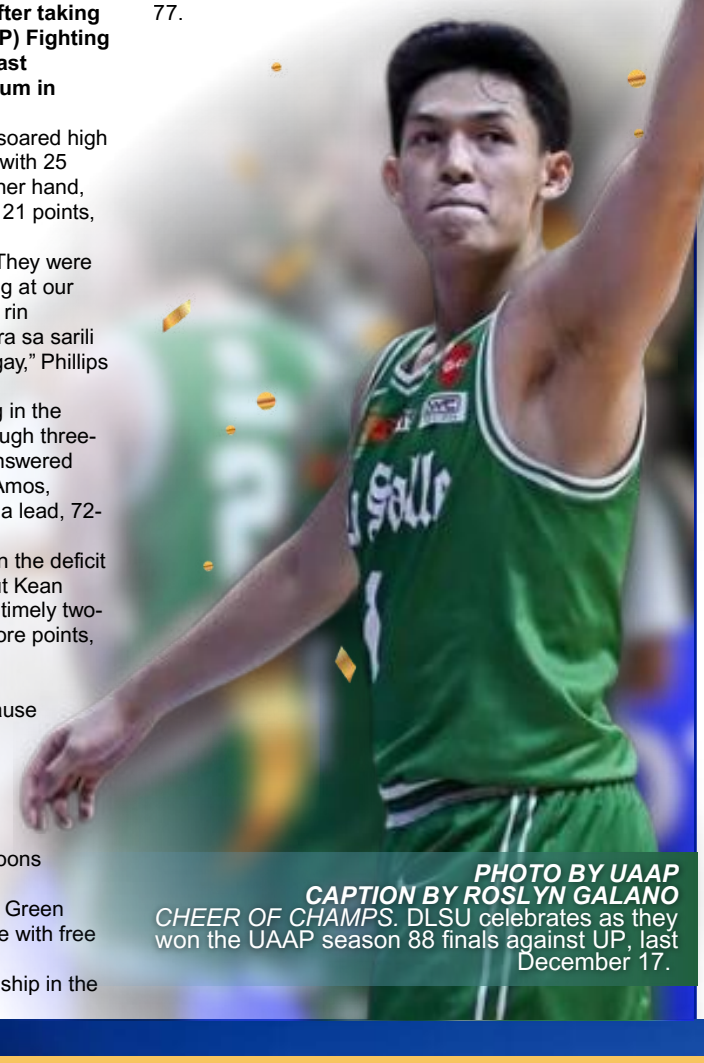


PHOTO BY UAAP
CAPTION BY ROSLYN GALANO
CHEER OF CHAMPS. DLSU celebrates as they won the UAAP season 88 finals against UP, last December 17.



PHOTO BY SPORTS TV PHILIPPINES
CAPTION BY AMBER LUCEA
DAGGER THREE. ASG boys' basketball game ended with a remarkable three-pointer that successfully bagged the championship during the 14th ASEAN School Games last November 22, 2025.

Rachelle Arcangel

PHILIPPINES DEVOURS BRUNEI AT 14TH ASG GROUP A MATCH

The Philippines showered Brunei with three-pointers, devouring them with a 126-39, during the 14th Asean School Games (ASG) boys' basketball Group A match at Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, last November 22, 2025.

Ending the match with their powerful three-pointer, 126-39, the Philippines proceeded to battle Singapore and Malaysia, successfully bringing home the champion title.

"Mission accomplished kayo! Beyond the medals, your grit and discipline reminded us why we must keep strengthening school sports and supporting every young Filipino athlete," Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Sonny Angara stated.

Matt Jerrick Cayetano of Ateneo de Davao led the team with 34 points, with 21 from his seven three-pointers. Overall, the Philippines made a total of 17 three-pointers during the game.

In a large gap of 118-32 during the fourth quarter, Brunei was already on the losing side, yet they still managed to give their all before the time ran out, making a 4-7 rally until they surrendered with a 122-39 score.

As the third quarter started, 86-22, Cayetano immediately took a shot, welcoming the quarter with three points, 89-22.

Even so, Brunei still refused to back down and gathered their strength and also scored a three-point shot, 89-25.

Yet, despite their efforts, it was not enough to cover the 64-point gap, relying solely on free throws to score most of their points in the preceding game.

In total, the Philippines made 11 fouls throughout the game. Meanwhile, Brunei only had five fouls, six fouls less than the Philippines.

Philippines continued to dominate as the game went on, exhibiting a dunk during the second quarter, further widening the gap to 84-22.

Defusing Brunei's will to fight, Philippines scored continuously, making a 16-2 run to start off the match.

The Philippines started strong, having their first point with a three-pointer from Cayetano.

FROM SIDELINE TO SPOTLIGHT

THE RISE OF FILIPINAS IN SPORTS

Sofia Landagan

After centuries of being sidelined in the sports community, long marked by discrimination against women—Filipina athletes rise to the top and break boundaries by rewriting history with multiple awards that signal a significant shift in the nation's sports arena.

Groundbreaking athletes such as rising tennis star Alexandra Eala and weightlifting idol Hidilyn Diaz emerged as national figures after leaving a deep mark in Philippine sports history. Diaz made a record by clinching PH's first Olympic gold medal last July 26, 2021, while Eala made waves on the tennis court in the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) singles and a remarkable run to the preliminaries of a WTA 1000 tournament.

With the Winter Olympics 2026 ongoing, 17-year-old Tallulah Proulx became the first Filipina to qualify and represent the Philippines in the Winter Olympics in the alpine skiing sport happening on February 14-18, 2026, under the Women's downhill category.



PHOTO BY INQUIRER (CRISTOPHE ENA), SUNSTAR
CAPTION BY REANNE MENDOZA
TRAINING GROUNDS TO GREATNESS. Every athlete--such as Hidlyn Diaz, Alex Eala, and Tallulah Proulx--starts with a spark, and with dedication, guidance, and support, that spark grows into a victory that will inspire the next generation.

The rise of female athletes was more evident on the grand stages of the Olympic Games and the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games, as they have grown to be the most gender-equal sporting event in the world, with many Filipina women striving and delivering standout performances, which proved women's strength, skill, and resilience across a wide range of sports.

At Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College (OLOPSC), the core values of compassion, respect, and holistic development are heavily instilled. Within training grounds, young minds are nurtured to embrace gender sensitivity and challenge long-standing norms in sports by shaping spaces for young athletes to defy stereotypes.

Not only that, OLOPSC continues to empower future Filipina athletes to pursue greatness regardless of stereotypes or gender norms, while encouraging students to recognize greater inclusivity and equality, especially in the sports community.

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HORIZON

PURSUING TRUTH, UPHOLDING INTEGRITY, LEADING BEYOND.

PHOTO BY PABOSO PHOTOGRAPHY, OLOPSC PHOENIX FB CAPTION BY ROSLYN GALANO

DOZEN CHAMPS. OLOPSC's Men's volleyball varsity team was able to bag medals and a trophy during the MARIPRISA awarding last November 8, 2025.

HOME OF THE SOARING PHOENIX

SPORTS LEGACY

OLOPSC ATHLETES SHINES AT MARIPRISA 2025 AWARDING

Tiffany Arcellana

Bringing determination, discipline, and school pride, the Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College (OLOPSC) emerged as shining victors during the Marikina Private Schools Association (MARIPRISA) Awardings. A prestigious event that was held in Teatro Marikina last November 8, 2025—honoring excellence in student athletics.

Multiple awardees were recognized across different areas of sports, including swimming, basketball, chess, and Taekwondo.

THE AWARDEES

Jaysie Ramirez from 8 - Lord of Pardon (LOP), who dominated swimming with a gold medal each in 50m, 800m, and 1500m, and two silver medals in 300m and 400m, all in freestyle.

Furthermore, the OLOPSC Phoenix Basketball team claimed gold at the MARIPRISA games, seizing the championship. Their coordination and skill on the court helped secure the team's victory. Team players included Lanz Gregory Hanopol of 10 - Our Lady of Grace (OLG) and Richard Ico IV of 10 - Mother of Good Counsel (MGC), together with Jian Carlo Cayosa and John Joseph Andres from 10 - Mother of Mercy (MOM).

In the field of chess, one sole victor arose. Andrei Karl Roy Adriano representing 9 - Prince of Peace (POP) grabbed a bronze medal in the individual category.

On the other hand, Taekwondo awardees also brought recognition in the boys' Kyorugi division with Frankie Barranco II from 7 - Ark of the Covenant (AOC) and Xaire Ryden Del Rosario of 8 - Lord of Pardon (LOP) earning a bronze medal, while Lord Alexandre Antonio from 8 - Blessed Comforter (BC) and Kian Arcaes Rosales of 10 - Mother of Mercy (MOM), took home a silver medal.

Additionally, in the Kyorugi girls' division, Lara Erica Cerdena coming from 10 - Solemnity of Mary (SOM) also claimed a silver medal.

MARIPRISA Awardings were held to appreciate student-athletes who excel in both sports and character, motivating peers to balance academics, extracurriculars, and personal discipline, which serve a guide and inspiration.

The success of OLOPSC athletes at the MARIPRISA Awardings 2025 goes beyond medals, highlighting each student's dedication to excellence. Through sweat and diligence, they build a legacy of pride to prove that hard work can lead to lasting success.