



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION IV-A CALABARZON
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF BATANGAS

Advisory No. 127, s. 2024

November 12, 2024

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

23rd Word Cup and Eight Masterclass

School publication advisers (SPAs) are invited to participate in the **23rd Word Cup and Eight Masterclass** in Boracay, Aklan, on December 5-7, 2024. This masterclass caters to the needs of teachers as SPAs.

Participation in public and private schools shall be subject to the no-disruption-of-classes policy stipulated in DepEd Order No. 9, s. 2005 entitled “Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged Time-on-Task, and DepEd Order No. 66, s. 2017, Policy on Off-Campus Activities.

For complete details, please refer to the attached information file and contact:

- Eugenio Sonny O. Calapit, EdD, EnP
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LVI/23rd WORD CUP AND EIGHT MASTERCLASS/ R2-138366/11/12/2024



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Telephone:(043)722-1840 / 722-1796

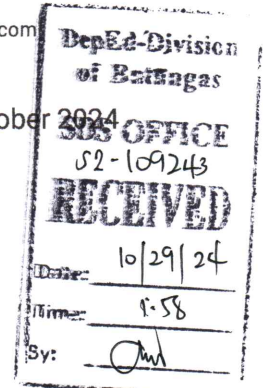
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12 October 2024



MARITES A. IBAÑEZ
Schools Division Superintendent
Batangas
deped.batangas@deped.gov.ph

Dear:

We are excited to invite your school publication advisers (SPAs) to participate in our **23rd Word Cup and Eighth Masterclass** in scenic Boracay, Aklan. As a premier professional development opportunity, this masterclass caters to the needs of our teachers in their roles as SPAs. Additionally, we welcome your top students who are passionate about honing their skills under the guidance of experienced practitioners.

Our workshops utilize a learning-by-doing approach, bridging the gap between theory learned in the classroom and practical, real-world experiences. On **December 5-7, 2024** we will offer our innovative experiential training method and provide an engaging and effective way to cultivate lifelong skills in communication and journalism.

To ensure that your teachers and students can benefit from this unique opportunity, we kindly request that the Division Office **cascade the information** regarding the event. Ideally, we hope this can be funded through the school MOOE or In-Service Training funds, as permitted under Section 17 of the special provisions for the DepEd budget, which covers other learning and development interventions.

The wider dissemination of this opportunity would greatly support the participation of your teachers and learners. As educational leaders, you have the chance to introduce your team to the only authentic journalism training workshop in the Philippines and Asia.

Interested participants can register through this link: <https://bit.ly/23rdWordCupPH>. For further inquiries, please contact me at wordcup.philippines@gmail.com or 0954 190 2247. You can also find more information on our Facebook page, Word Cup Associated Editors Co.

We look forward to your favorable consideration of our request and hope to welcome your SPAs, academic leaders, subject area teachers and campus journalists to this enriching event.

Thank you for your time and support.

Warm regards,


EUGENIO SONNY O. CALAPIT, Ed.D., EnP



23rd Word Cup Philippines		
Matrix of Activities*		
5 December 2024 (Thursday)		
2:00 PM	Check-in for participants with additional night	
2:00-5:00 PM	Distribution of IDs & kits (bag with pen & paper)	
6 December 2024 (Friday)		
7:00-8:00 AM	Distribution of IDs & kits (bag with pen & paper)	
8:00-9:00 AM	Opening Program & Press Briefing	
9:00-10:00 AM	News Writing (NW) <i>Pagsulat ng Balita</i>	
10:00-11:00 AM	Mobile Journalism (MJ)	
11:00-12:00 PM	Photojournalism (PJ) <i>Pagkuha ng Larawan</i>	
12:00-1:00 PM	Press Conference & Lunch	
1:00-2:00 PM	Feature Writing (FW) <i>Pagsulat ng Lathalain</i>	
2:00 PM	Output deadline NW, MJ, & PJ participants (PressCon coverage) Check-in for participants without additional night	
2:00-3:00 PM	Interview/data gathering/story development/photoshoot for FW, MJ, PJ Topic for FW: Outdoor/community or PressCon Topic for MJ & PJ: Outdoor/community	
2:00-3:00 PM	Editorial and Column Writing (ECW) <i>Pagsulat ng Pang-ulong Tudling at Kolum</i>	
3:00-4:00 PM	Workshop (for ECW participants)	
4:00 PM	Output deadline ECW & FW participants	
4:00-6:00 PM	Feedback session (for ECW, FW, NW, MJ, & PJ participants)	
6:00 PM	Output deadline for MJ & PJ participants (Outdoor coverage)	
6:00-7:00 PM	Dinner	
7 December 2024 (Saturday)		
8:00-9:00 AM	Copyreading & Headline Writing (CHW) <i>Pag-uulo at Pagwawasto ng Balita</i>	Watercolor Painting for Beginners (New!)
9:00-10:00 AM	Workshop (for CHW participants)	
10:00 AM	Output deadline for CHW participants	
10:00-12:00 PM	Feedback session (for CHW, MJ, & PJ participants)	
12:00 PM	Check-out for participants without additional night	
12:00-1:00 PM	Lunch	
2:00-5:00 PM	Awarding Ceremony <i>Word Cup Ambassador Award (School Paper Advisers)</i> <i>Word Cup Institutional Ambassador Award</i> <i>Recognition of Exemplary Work</i>	

* subject to change

Visit our Facebook Page for updates: <https://facebook.com/associatededitorsco>



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DETAILS OF REGISTRATION

The objectives of the press coverage and national contest are to:

1. Enhance the writing, broadcasting and photography skills of teachers and students;
2. Develop skills in mobile journalism;
3. Provide insightful feedback on outputs;
4. Recognize and award exemplary work, and;
5. Publish quality outputs in national media.

Contests are optional and open to elementary, junior and senior high school, tertiary students and school paper advisers, language and communications arts teachers, department heads, school heads and public information officials.

Registration and payment of participants who did not sign up online and distribution of kits and IDs will be on **5 December 2024 (3:00 to 5:00 PM)**

ACTUAL SEMINAR-WORKSHOP is on **6 to 7 December 2024** at Faith Village Gardens **Boracay Station 3**; Activities/Venues may be subject to change.

Rooms are non-exclusive (male and female may/may not combine in a room). Rooms can accommodate 6-10 persons, first come, first serve basis.

Participants of Mobile Journalism are encouraged to bring their video cameras and/or laptops installed with video editing applications.

Participants of Photojournalism are encouraged to bring cameras or cellphones.

Participation fee per person is shown on the next page.

WORD CUP AMBASSADORS AWARD

All Institutional Ambassador Awardee aspirants need to submit a one-page briefer on the programs/accomplishments of the school in campus journalism for the last three years. If previous Word Cup participant, a testimonial (one-minute video-message) on how the workshops have helped individuals or schools may also be submitted in addition to programs/accomplishments.

In addition, to be an institutional bronze ambassador awardee, a minimum of 10 participants are expected to attend, 15 for institutional silver awardees and 20 for institutional gold awardees.



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23rd Word Cup Philippines Participation Fee per person	
Early bird <i>Payment made on or before 30 October 2024</i> <i>Inclusive of overnight stay on 6 December</i>	₱6,500
Regular <i>Payment made from 31 Oct. to 1 December 2024</i> <i>Inclusive of overnight stay on 6 December</i>	₱7,000
Additional night stay <i>For 5 or 7 December night</i> <i>No meals included</i>	₱500 per night
Meals 6 December (Day 1): AM and PM snacks, lunch, and dinner 7 December (Day 2): Breakfast, AM and PM snacks, and lunch	
While no Word Cup event has ever been re-scheduled or cancelled, in case of force majeure and government pronouncement, forfeiture or price adjustment of fees shall take effect. For own cancellation, automatic forfeiture applies, subject to appeal.	
Participation fees may be deposited to: BDO Account Number 012330 081983 Account Name: Word Cup Associated Editors Co.	

LINKS to Published Articles on the 21st Word Cup Philippines:
Manila Times

Students to hone journalism skills in Subic

OVER 150 campus journalism aficionados are set to sharpen their pens in Subic, Zambales, over the weekend to roll out and re-echo the learnings they would receive in a masterclass session with industry practitioners.

For its 22nd Word Cup National Journalism Contest and 7th Masterclass on Aug. 23 to 25, 2024, the organizers have arranged a press conference and masterclass exchange visit where participants can gather information, practice writing and hone their reporting skills in preparation for the event. Word Cup organizers visited the Ateneo de Manila University in Subic for a pre-activity demonstration.

Numerous 15- to 20-year-old students who reside at the campus had shown their skills in a survival training by showing how to start a fire using bamboo sticks in just under two minutes.

In the on-site demonstration, Ateneo and his group had the opportunity to earn themselves 2,000 pesos per person.

"We need to work for the [de-

partment of] Journalism. Now we need much visitors for us to gain," he said in Filipino.

Students in attendance who speak fluent Tagalog and can also engage foreign tourists with conversational English.

"I have also gone to school," he said, highlighting their prior education of many cultural practices driven by those learned in school. "We also got inspired by following times of Catholicism."

Going by the Christian name Vilamson, Ateneo has been doing this work for nearly two decades.

"We're happy to have visitors here at Peninsula, especially since very few had been coming over the last week," he said in Filipino.

The exclusive demonstration to the Word Cup team returned



Delegates from various schools around the country gather once again for the 22nd Word Cup National Journalism Contest and 7th Masterclass in Subic, Zambales, from Aug. 23 to 25, 2024. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

what he and his group will be doing on Saturday, August 24, with participants from all Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) regions, including several LGU public information officers.

A competition has also been added to the annual Masterclass to spice up the outputs which centers on nature preservation, promoting cultural understanding and peace.

The prizes and evaluation sessions shall be held Saturday and Sunday at Subic Bay Tourism Hotel.

"The need for cultural understanding is important in education as this serves as a tool where we engage a highly diverse audience," said Rogelio Calapit, coordinator of the Word Cup Associated Editors Co. that decades ago with Pulitzer Prize candidate, the late Clara Center III, of the Associated Press (AP) Manila.

"With our creative skills as journalists, we can help our students come out of the school with a better understanding of their own culture," said Calapit.



The British Council gathers its International English Language Testing System partners to celebrate the previous year's achievements on Aug. 2, 2024. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

British Council pays nod to IELTS partners

The British Council (BC) held its highly anticipated Annual Events Partner Conference to celebrate its partners for its decade of contributions and achievements in the previous year, which it used as a "steering" session.

The year's event on August 2 was themed as the "Year of the 90s" to commemorate the British Council's 90th anniversary, marking a significant milestone in the BC for the first time, centered on its partnerships beyond IELTS partners including those in sports and other key stakeholders.

As part of an innovative event format that helps maximize the English language skills — reading, writing, listening and speaking. Developed by BC, experts in language testing, after its introduction in the last year, it was a success.

IELTS stands for International English Language Testing System, an international standardized English language proficiency test for non-native English speakers. It is a popular English language proficiency test for higher education and global migration, with

enrollment achievements over the past years.

According to the British Council, its partners have played a crucial role in creating global opportunities for many Filipinos through the IELTS.

With 20 IELTS on the computer and 12 IELTS on paper test locations across the Philippines, BC said it continues to make IELTS more accessible to Filipinos, with plans to open more test centers this year.

During the event, the 2024 National Partner of the Year was the 93 Nara IELTS Review and Tutorial Center, while the 2023 Partner of the Year was the EC Migration Visa Processing Services, Center for Private International Language Studies, Inc., Great Language Center, De Jesus-Beltran & Co World English Inc., How-English Language Academy, MLD Mexican Review Center, Fine International Academy Inc., Reliance Learning Hub, and Vireo Learning Hub.

Our partners are the cornerstone of our success. Their dedication and hard work have enabled

MMDC, Concentrix prop up working students

MAPUS (Malayan Digital College) 2024, the digital hub, has not only grown in the Philippines, together with its partner, a global provider of customer experience solutions and technology, Concentrix, a global provider of customer experience solutions and technology, is collaborating to develop and study programs that aim to address the Philippines labor market's needs for employment, improve quality of education and work-life balance and support for working students, and produce more skilled professionals.

As noted by report by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) released in February 2024, there are 1.4 million unemployed Filipinos as of December 2023.

The talent shortage and high unemployment rate in the country may lead to several issues, such as a poor education system, lack of relevant job opportunities, and lack of skills or skills toward graduates. "Southwest Asia 2 Regional Exams Manager Samantha Smith said.

"As we look to the future, we are excited about our plans for 2024. We are committed to strengthening our presence in the Philippines and continuing to provide unique, tailored support to our partners. Together, we will build our success stories and explore new horizons to further empower individuals through English language assessments," Exams Business Development Manager Vella Calogon said.

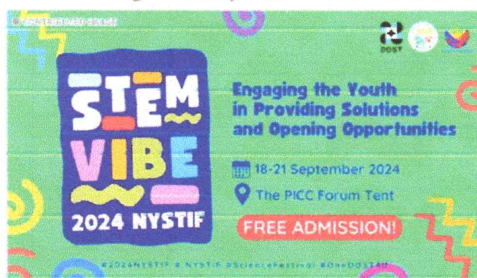
BC is the UK's international organization for cultural relations and educational opportunities and is accessible at www.britain-council.org.

For more information, visit www.almadua.com or BC's Filipino Council Philippines on Facebook and Instagram.



Mapus Malayan Digital College students. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

DoST brings back youth science fest to promote STEM careers



Engaging the Youth in Providing Solutions and Opening Opportunities

18-21 September 2024
The PICC Forum Tent
FREE ADMISSION!

The National Youth, Technology and Innovation Festival (NYSTIF) organized by the Department of Science and Technology (DoST), will return for its annual edition on Sept. 18 to 21, 2024, at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) Forum Tent in Pasig City.

DoST said the festival would allow the youth to experience science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in a vibrant, interactive, fun and engaging (NYSTIF) was and inspire them to pursue careers in these fields.

"With the theme 'STEM VIBE: Empowering the Youth in Providing Solutions and Opening Opportunities,' this science festival aims to enhance youth experience and awareness of science, technology, and innovation, DoST said in a media release.

"We're offering all our youth an exciting and engaging festival of various science and technology (Sci-Tech) exhibits, projects, competitions, and all other activities where the youth can participate," said DoST Undersecretary for Science and Technical Services Marlene Subagan in an interview with the DoST Science and Technology Information Institute.

This year's activities will cover various Sci-Tech topics, including Molecular technology, science communication, technology, health technology, data analytics, food and nutrition, 3D printing, and science and art of lenses.

Science is a platform to showcase the Sci-Tech achievements of DoST, the 2024 NYSTIF will also feature exhibits by the various department agencies to highlight the Filipino youth and maximize their science knowledge.

Visit the NYSTIF Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/nystif2024 and the NYSTIF website at www.nystif.dost.gov.ph for more information. (TNT)

Inquirer: Uptrend in science museums investment to benefit DepEd learners
<https://bit.ly/InquirerOn21stWordCup>

Sep 12, 2024 INQUIRER.NET Today's Paper

NEWS GLOBAL NATION BUSINESS LIFESTYLE ENTERTAINMENT TECHNOLOGY SPORTS OPINION

LATEST NEWS STORIES HEADLINES METRO REGIONS NATION WORLD CDN NEWSLETTER

REGIONS

Uptrend in science museums investment to benefit DepEd learners

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



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

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

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

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

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

EDITOR'S PICK

MOST READ



GLOBAL NATION
Trump falsely accuses Ohio immigrants of abducting, eating pets



GLOBAL NATION
Wildfires around Los Angeles blanket city in smoke



GLOBAL NATION
Key takeaways from Kamala Harris-Donald Trump debate



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



BUSINESS
Meralco hikes power rates by 15¢/kWh this September



ENTERTAINMENT
Manny Jacinto among nominees for People magazine's Sexiest Man Alive

TAGS: Journalism

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Manila Times: 'Campus journalism can boost interest in science'
<https://bit.ly/ManilaTimesOn21stWordCup>



Word Cup Association Co-Executive Director Eugene Sarmiento (left) welcomes participants in the 21st Word Cup National Journalism Conference and Contest at Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City, on May 9 and 10, 2024. Campus journalists take videos and photos of the event as a reference for their reports. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'Campus journalism can boost interest in science'

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

Roon-Cristobal, under faculty at the University of the Philippines Diliman (UPDil) College of Development Communications, saw the need for scientists and those in the applied sciences to speak more publicly while challenging campus journalists to serve as "ambassadors" to bring interest in the field.

"Science communication and education helps inform policy-making and provide sound basis for decision-making," he said.

The Word Cup held at Ateneo de Manila University on May 9 and 10, 2024, is called the theme "The Role of

IST summit advances church heritage conservation

THE University of Santo Tomas (UST) is leading the National Summit of Church Archives and Heritage Workers starting May 9 to 11, 2024, at the Santa Rosa Annex, 2nd Floor, Extension Garcia Fardes OP Building.

The summit has covered its courses and religious activities, faith activities, diocesan church offices, and religious organizations. Those appointed and directly involved in achieving their mission in an academic and professional capacity building event aimed toward the conservation of church archival heritage.

It will recognize the Society of Ecclesiastical Archivists of the Philippines (SEAP) membership from across the nation, reinforce the involvement of the archdiocese, diocesan religious activities, parishes, and religious communities in the implementation and fulfillment of the Church's social pastoral mission, and emphasize the pivotal role of archivists and heritage workers, and promote knowledge and skills in managing the Church's cultural heritage assets.

National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) Chairman Victorino Manuel presided over the event and delivered a special message.

On the first day of the summit on Wednesday, UST President of Civil Law Dean Nida Divina delivered the keynote address on "Intellectual Property Law - Application to Ecclesiastical and Archival Records and Documents." Prof. Regalado later discussed "The Status Quo of the Catholic Church Heritage in the Philippines" and Conservation on Cultural Heritage Resources Secretary Ar Alan Tolentino tackled "Archives and Canon Law."

Archdiocese of Manila Chancellor Fr. Rufus Martinez spoke on "The Integrity of the Work of Diocesan Chancelleries, Parish Secretariats and Archivists," with SEAP National Committee on Archives head Emma Mariano-Beo led the "Pastoral Dimension of Ecclesiastical Archives," and Vice Delegates from the National Archives of the Philippines and Viana Rodriguez from the Office of the Philippines Archivist.

Also included were lectures from Fr. Jesus Alvarado on the "Archives of Capangpan de Oro" to be headed by the discussion on "Diocesan Archives."

Meanwhile, St. Wilfrid Bernardino Publishing OP from the St. Catherine of Genoa Archives in New Jersey led the "Digital Moving Forward Workshop and Planning session."

Concluding the first day, National Summit will be a coordinated Mass with Deaconess Hilary Marie Castro as the main preacher and host.

Event enhancement will be in more information. **TMT**

BuSU hosts intl education summit in Malolos

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SUMMIT 2024

Sustainability for Quality and Excellence Through Transformational Outcome-Based Education

MAY 14-16, 2024

Speakers include: Gaudioso, Employment and Capability; and "Index of OBE"; William speaks to speak on "Quality in Education Through OBE"; Magno University Institute for Digital Learning Dean Jonathan Magno will talk on "Transformational OBE: Challenges and Benefits"; and "Designing OBE: Innovatively Instructional Materials and Methods and Strategies"; Magno University professor and vice president of Education Research and Learning Development Center Pingso will talk on "Assessing Educational Skills and Competencies and Providing Feedback"; and Philippine National University professor Alice Yrines will speak on "Empowering Learning and Faculty Learning and Sustainable Quality Education"; The 122/224 is expected to gather participants across the academic, particularly members of the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges, government service and non-governmental organizations to discuss the crucial role of OBE in driving positive change and innovation in higher education.

ANTONIO G. PAPA

MMSU prof wins Swiss Invention silver

ASOCIETY member of the Marikina State University College of Industrial Technology (MSUIT) won one of the prizes in the International Exhibition of Invention Competition in Geneva, Switzerland, on April 17 to 19, 2024.

Professor Zaldy Fernandez received an award from the Geneva International Exhibition of Invention (GIEI) for his highly patented device and needs to learn from his global scale.

Dr. Fernandez's invention is a multi-fuel dryer, which is a practical solution for many, small and medium enterprises with diverse processing needs.

Expected to be highly profitable and reflecting on the significance of the achievement, Fernandez said, "Winning the silver medal at the renowned GIEI Geneva International Exhibition (GIEI) serves as evidence that my invention yielded the best result."

MSUIT President Darby Aguirre commended the international accolade, emphasizing that "the significant accomplishment is a testament to the university's commitment to advancing local and sustainable innovation."

Lead by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the Office of the President, Fernandez also created machinery designed to enhance the livelihood and efficiency of farmers and fishermen.

Dr. Fernandez's invention has been recognized and named by his local, regional and national research symposium.

LEANDER C. DOMINGO



Bulacan State University professor Zaldy Fernandez receives a silver award from the 2024 International Exhibition of Invention Competition in Geneva, Switzerland, on April 17 to 19, 2024. He has innovative equipment multi-fuel dryer, a 2022 National Invention Contest and Exhibition winner device offering a dual function of drying and baking for various products. CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

NATIONAL SUMMIT OF CHURCH ARCHIVES AND HERITAGE WORKERS

2nd Floor, 4th Building, UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS, ERMITA, MANILA

May 9 - 11, 2024

REGISTER: www.ust.edu.ph/ust/ust-ermita/ust-ermita-2024

CONTACT US: archives@ust.edu.ph | 632-8143-9022 | 632-8953-4214 (local)

Speakers include: National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) Chairman Victorino Manuel; Archdiocese of Manila Chancellor Fr. Rufus Martinez; UST President Nida Divina; SEAP National Committee on Archives head Emma Mariano-Beo; Philippine National Archives; and Viana Rodriguez.

The University of Santo Tomas hosts the National Summit of Church Archives and Heritage Workers, gathering archival and cultural organizations in the country for courses and practice church heritage from May 9 - 11, 2024. CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

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

Environment News
Thursday, May 30, 2019 8:27

Boracay RENAISSANCE

A year after its closure, what now?

Text by JONAHANES L. CRONA

There is always an expectation when it comes to Boracay. No doubt, it is the country's most famous (or some would say, infamous) island, mostly relying on top-of-mountain destinations and vacation spots. Therefore, it came as a bit of a surprise to those who have been in the island that the six-month closure and rehabilitation was implemented amidst opposition.

Visitors to Boracay once again after a year of its closure.

April 24, 2018, Boracay, we can see a striking difference. The island - especially the beachfront - is much cleaner. There is a sense of community but there are also the occasional violators.

During the past Word Cup held in Boracay, we invited select participants - students and adults - to share their photos and words on how they see the new Boracay. They see hope but they also believe that the task is not to let Boracay be not just a beach.

MARLBERT SUNGIL - Tourists enjoy admiring the boat tourists ride their vessels as viewed from the White Beach which has expanded from up to 25 meters from the shoreline. The photo was taken by 14th Word Cup Philippines Boracay participants, mostly school paper advisers and campus journalists from across the country under the theme, 'Prospects of a Balanced Ecology and Tourism Development: Opportunities and Challenges in Boracay and Beyond'. Photo by Esther Sandra S. Maribata, Capistrano Hill Elementary School.

BE HUMANS, NOT PLASTIC

Text by MARIN JULIUS D. FUENTES

Malay's Municipal Ordinance No. 385 prohibiting the use of disposable plastic items among hotels, resorts, restaurants and business establishments is proof that the local government of Malay, Aklan has learned its lesson. Nevertheless, despite the six-month-long 'highlanders' ultimatum during the island's rehabilitation, plastics are still freely accessible in some souvenir stores, convenience stores and food stalls.

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

Bin campaigns identify the harm plastic bags can cause, including how it affects aquatic animals through 'ingestion and entanglement.' Even when plastic products break down, the plastic lives on as smaller elements that get into the ecosystem with long-term negative effects.

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the ban implemented by Malay is correct but business admits that the ban is just a form of 'suggestive' as single-use plastics are still visible.

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

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

Climate change and ecological degradation are global problems for which there are no simple nor simple solutions. If our 'fascination' with plastic will again transform Boracay island into a dump site, then we are bound to fail - wasting money, resources, effort and time.

Let us all become humans. No to plastic!

The author is a teacher at Monguison Elementary School in Romo City, Cagayan. A school paper adviser for 12 years, he is president of the Association of School Paper Advisers of Schools Division Office of Negros Occidental, Division Office of Negros Occidental.

CHALLENGING ENHANCEMENT

Text by ANNA MARIE D. PIGNONA

After six months of being placed under rehabilitation, Boracay opened its doors in December 2018. The closure was indeed a success and momentum for it was considered as the rebirth of a better Boracay. The repairs of the sewerage system and the made together with the standardization of how hotels and resorts should manage their waste are part of the things that the government has done that has temporarily disrupted the business in the area.

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

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

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

DESERVING BORACAY

Text by DOLORES L. CARBON

Let us all become tourist police. Let us become information multipliers. These were the words of Dr. Al Oroño, the Deputy Ground Commander of the DENR National Task Force Boracay as he urged responsible tourists to share their stories about the rehabilitation of the island.

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

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

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

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

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

The author is a head teacher of Monguison Elementary School in Romo City. She is a school paper adviser and has taught English for 10 years.

SUSTAINING PARADISE

Text by MADRA JOSEPHINE A. PLEÑOS

At first, Boracay's sustainable tourism was a long shot. But it was worth trying and perhaps worth discussing.

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

The Task Force Boracay has been very firm in implementing its rules to ensure sustainable tourism practices in the island. It may be able to do so until April 2020 when the two-year implementation of the program will conclude. But even if Filipinos will have a clear direction on what sustainable tourism is all about, could the ordinary Juan de la Cruz follow the rules even when no one is watching?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE HUMANS, NOT PLASTIC

Text by MARIN JULIUS D. FUENTES

Malay's Municipal Ordinance No. 385 prohibiting the use of disposable plastic items among hotels, resorts, restaurants and business establishments is proof that the local government of Malay, Aklan has learned its lesson. Nevertheless, despite the six-month-long 'highlanders' ultimatum during the island's rehabilitation, plastics are still freely accessible in some souvenir stores, convenience stores and food stalls.

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

Bin campaigns identify the harm plastic bags can cause, including how it affects aquatic animals through 'ingestion and entanglement.' Even when plastic products break down, the plastic lives on as smaller elements that get into the ecosystem with long-term negative effects.

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the ban implemented by Malay is correct but business admits that the ban is just a form of 'suggestive' as single-use plastics are still visible.

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

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

Climate change and ecological degradation are global problems for which there are no simple nor simple solutions. If our 'fascination' with plastic will again transform Boracay island into a dump site, then we are bound to fail - wasting money, resources, effort and time.

Let us all become humans. No to plastic!

The author is a teacher at Monguison Elementary School in Romo City, Cagayan. A school paper adviser for 12 years, he is president of the Association of School Paper Advisers of Schools Division Office of Negros Occidental, Division Office of Negros Occidental.

CHALLENGING ENHANCEMENT

Text by ANNA MARIE D. PIGNONA

After six months of being placed under rehabilitation, Boracay opened its doors in December 2018. The closure was indeed a success and momentum for it was considered as the rebirth of a better Boracay. The repairs of the sewerage system and the made together with the standardization of how hotels and resorts should manage their waste are part of the things that the government has done that has temporarily disrupted the business in the area.

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

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

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

DESERVING BORACAY

Text by DOLORES L. CARBON

Let us all become tourist police. Let us become information multipliers. These were the words of Dr. Al Oroño, the Deputy Ground Commander of the DENR National Task Force Boracay as he urged responsible tourists to share their stories about the rehabilitation of the island.

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

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

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

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Climate action now

By JOHN RYAN M. SACOT

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

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

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

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

In addition, a 2018 report from PAGASA revealed that there will be an increase in annual mean temperature which shows a large amount of warming year per year. This change is being driven by increased carbon dioxide and other human-made emissions.

The global effects of climate change can be seen in the increase of sea levels where 25 cities are found to be highly vulnerable in a one-meter sea level rise. According to a 2017 study by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), this will

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

'effectively flood cities around the world.'

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

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

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

Are you ready to take action now?

Jacot, 16, is a PROMS student of the Colegio de Inzunza-Delegacion in Marikina, Cebu

EDITOR'S NOTE During the 18th Word Cup held in Cebu, various journalists and school paper advisers all over the country carried the spirit of journalism and broadcasting, and to listen to experts on various topics such as mental health and climate change. After the talk, participants were invited to submit or print on their reaction on climate change. Here are four of the best ones. —Johnnie L. Chua

No one is spared

By JONATHAN B. EMBANUEL

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

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

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

According to Senator Paolo from the Climate Change Commission, under the Paris Agreement,

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

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

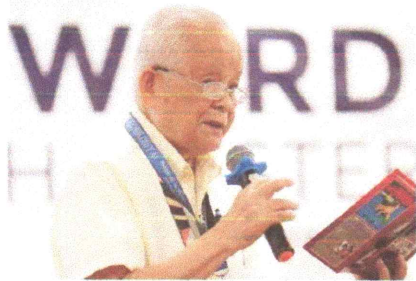
"The commission is doing extensive information campaigns using all media platforms, symposia, and trainings on the effects of climate change, and to also relay things which can be done to deal with this issue," he said.

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

Without doubt, the issue now is beyond the use of fossil fuel, industrial revolution, levels of carbon dioxide, nor heat-trapping gases and global temperatures. The segment now must be beyond the portals of forests burning, coral reefs dying, and water supplies shrinking.

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

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



Write about climate change

Dr. Crispin C. Maslog, author and columnist at Solves.net, explains to participants, composed of campus journalists and school paper advisers, how to report on climate change in the talk, "Engaging Various Stakeholders in the Climate Crisis" held during the 18th Word Cup in Cebu. (Photo by Jimmy A. Domingo)

Take the first step

By RI LANSANG

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

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

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

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

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

In his talk, climate change resource speaker and author of his book, Dr. Crispin Maslog, shared his insights and expertise on climate change.

Maslog encouraged the young journalists to use the "power of the pen" in combating climate change.

"Be involved, take it as an issue, and write in publications," Maslog said.

Actions speak louder than words. It is an adage that has continued to prove that it is easier said than done.

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

Words are empty if not coupled with the right actions.

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

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

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

No classes, yehey?

By HVELLE P. VILLANUEVA

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

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

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

This was supported by Senator Paolo from the Climate Change Commission, who underscored Maslog's point. Typically, the Philippines encounters about 21 typhoons a year. Though the typhoons visiting the archipelago have lessened in

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

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

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

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

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

Villanueva, 26, is a communication arts student from Laguna of the Philippine-Cavite



Learn what PH is doing vs. climate change

Participants of the 18th Word Cup interview Senator Paolo (seated) of the Climate Change Commission to clarify how the Philippines which contributes a meager 0.32 percent compared to China's 28 percent and the US's 16 percent of greenhouse gas emissions can reduce 1.5 degree by more than half without sacrificing industrial growth. Countries are racing against time to limit rising global temperatures due to the greenhouse effect. Stratching this additional two-degree threshold can lead to irreversible threat of sea level rise of one meter due to the unabated melting of polar ice. (Photo by Eugenio Anselmo Noel C. Calupit III of Marikina Science High School)



Saving a critical wetland to promote ecotourism

HAVEN IN THE METRO

Text by PATRICK HUBERT B. BAYATO

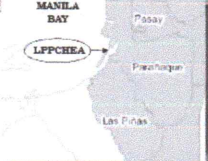
Within the busy concrete jungle that is Metro Manila, one would not expect to find a haven for migratory birds just right at the south of Manila Bay. This area is called the Las Piñas-Paralague Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA), a proof that a highly urbanized place could still open some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

Finding itself by being listed in the Ramsar Wetland of International Importance, the 178-hectare LPPCHEA caters to more than 5,000 migratory birds which consider the latter as a rest stop from tedious migration over the months of August to July.

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

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

It is also important to note that infrastructure development is gaining ground in the area which could affect the health of the 16-hectare mangrove



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



The impact of urban expansion towards the country's economy is undeniably significant. Urbanization entails with it the promise of increased employment, average international ties and a more equitable economic growth. But should this prosperity be at the expense of the environment?

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

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A DPWH worker, one of 40 personnel assigned at the LPPCHEA, gather garbage, mostly plastics and household non-biodegradable wastes which wash ashore from the Las Piñas and Paralague river tributaries, Cavite and Batangas areas. (Photo by Jean Hope Baltazar of Titay MS, Zamboanga Sibuyan). Left: On average, since the Manila Bay rehabilitation which kicked off in June, these workers and volunteers collect at least 50 sacks of trash weighing 6 to 7 kilograms when dry. (Photo by Sea Nery 1. Espinosa from V. Mapa High School, Manila)

GREEN IS IN!

Eco responsibility

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

Corporate-led forest restoration program cited by CSR group

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

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

"This recognition is a big honor for us because it comes from our peers who have their own laudable CSR programs as well," said Atty. Allan V. Barcega, head of EDC's CSR group.

Planting trees and growing them have been an integral part of

sustaining the geothermal reservoir in EDC's geothermal reservation for over 40 years. In 2008, the company launched Birhi to expand the program by using science in planning and rescuing threatened native trees. A total of 96 threatened native tree species have been prioritized for this search and rescue program as their numbers have been dwindling, with some even believed to be extinct.

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

Moreover, around 9,523 hectares of forest land within and surrounding EDC project sites has been rehabilitated. This is equivalent to about 4 million seedlings planted all over the country in partnership with 500 farmer associations whose members are incentivized for helping EDC grow and maintain its Birhi areas.

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

Another good example of successful strategic partnerships is the 10 Million Trees in 10 Years for a Greener Negros (10M in 10) project, one of the finalists in the 1st CSR Guild Awards' Outstanding CSR Collaboration Project category. 10M in 10 is a movement that EDC initiated in 2011 to grow back the forests in Negros Island by planting, growing, and maintaining 10 million trees in 10 years.

As of 2018, 10M in 10 has already planted over 6.2 million trees with the help of its 136 stakeholder partners.

(insert letterhead)

Advisory/Memorandum No. _____ s. 2024

In compliance with R.A. 7079 or the Campus Journalism Act of 1991, this advisory/memorandum is issued for the information of officials, personnel/staff, teachers and students as well as the concerned public.

23rd Word Cup Eighth Journalism Masterclass and Ambassadors Awards

The 23rd Word Cup Philippines Eighth Journalism Masterclass and Ambassadors Awards is a practitioner-led professional development and training workshop designed to enhance the writing, photography and digital storytelling skills of teachers and students. The program aims to recognize outstanding work and produce quality outputs suitable for publication in national media.

This national event shall be held at Faith Village Gardens, Station 3, Boracay, Malay, Aklan on Dec. 5-7, 2024. Attached are the event objectives, activity matrix, contest mechanics and registration details.

Participating academic leaders, school officials, teachers and school paper advisers shall ensure that classes remain uninterrupted by utilizing appropriate learning modalities. Student participants are required to secure travel and medical insurance as well as consent/waiver form from their parents or guardians.

Funding for this activity shall be charged against the SEF, MOOE, and other available fund sources subject to the usual budget and accounting rules and regulations.

For more details, contact **Eugenio Sonny O. Calapit**, Ed.D. EnP through 0954-190-2247 or email wordcup.philippines@gmail.com.

NAME
Superintendent