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ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022

# *The Bedan Rear*

The Official Student Publication of San Beda University Senior High School



# THE BEDAN ROAR

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# WELCOMING MESSAGE

**MRS. TERESITA T. BATTAD**  
**PRINCIPAL, IBED**



Dear Bedan Community,

A new normal school year has begun! Welcome to another great school year 2021-2022!

The Integrated Basic Education Department of San Beda University is steadfast in providing the best quality online education to our students. Our successful efforts as a University have been recognized as we continuously and consistently focused our energy, efforts, and resources on providing and enhancing our online distance learning experience over the course of the pandemic. If there is one thing that the pandemic has not changed, it is our steadfast commitment to fulfill our mission as translated in this year's academic theme, "Upholding 500 Years of Filipino Catholic Faith and Education." May we commit ourselves to accept the urgent challenge of strengthening our commitment to share, spread, and live up to our Catholic social mission at every level of Catholic education and faith formation as members of our educational institution and our own communities. May this also be seen and acted upon in our personal, spiritual, and communal lives. Ultimately, may this reflect our relationship with God and our neighbors as we genuinely spread our love and service to one another just as how God has done for us. As God's beloved, may we all open ourselves in the awareness that we are gifted to give amidst these challenging times. We are called to reach out and build relationships of love and justice for San Beda, our country, and God.

This is a wonderful honor to the university that recognizes our commitment and hard work to hold the best and high-quality Benedictine Education amidst this pandemic. As a University, we will continue our work in strengthening the hallmarks of Benedictine education in the curriculum and instruction and our duty of upholding 500 years of Catholic social mission at every level of education and faith formation towards the goal of achieving the targets and implementation of Sustainable Development Goal #4 (SGD#4) which aims to ensure inclusivity and equitability of quality education to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. As duty-bearers, we are one in this shared societal endeavor of protecting, respecting, and fulfilling the right of education that will enable the holistic human development rooted in mutual understanding, tolerance, friendship, and peace.

In this new normal, we remain firm in our mission to adopt the best practices to surpass all challenges in this paradigm shift. I know these are tough times, but we shall continue to move forward guided by our desire to uphold our mission of catholic faith and education as we are truly gifted to give. We will consistently strive for excellence, creativity, and innovation as we put more effective academic plans and safety protocols to keep everyone safe and sound so that we can continue to learn and grow.

San Beda University-Integrated Basic Education Department is committed to the students' achievement and holistic development. We are determined to be the best that we can be. Head-strong, stay safe, and always keep your faith in God. I miss you all and I am looking forward to seeing you the soonest.

That in all things God may be glorified.

# WELCOMING MESSAGE

**PHILIP JOSHUA F. LEE**  
***President, Senior High School  
Student Council A.Y. 2021-2022***



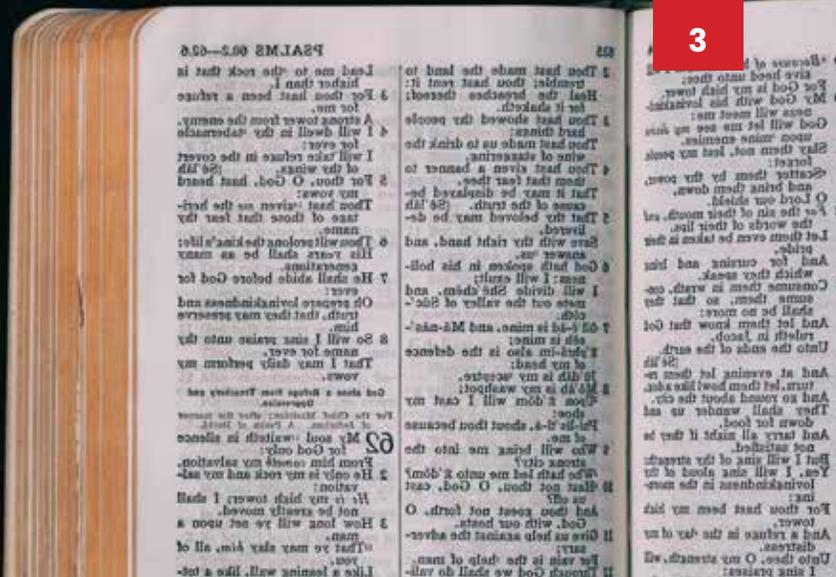
On behalf of the Office of the Senior High School Student Council, as President, I, Philip Joshua F. Lee, would like to extend a warm welcome to the whole Bedan Community to an exciting start of the fresh cycle of a new school year.

We arrive at the shore of this academic year floating high on the wave of the extraordinary two-year success of Online Distance Learning for San Beda University. The said setup commenced last September 2020 and is still ongoing to this day in providing high-quality education and interactive student activities. This accomplishment demonstrated what we could do together—Trustees, alumni, parents, and friends; academic leaders, faculty, staff, and students—when we are aligned in pursuit of a common purpose. We still have much to do, and I am excited to work with all of you to build on this tremendous achievement.

Whenever I envision the Bedan Community, I see a youth of excellence; I see minds of benevolence; I see people equipped with the machinery to turn the pages to a new society where the problems that pre-existed no longer hang over the heads of others. I see a generation of people poised for greatness, lead with focus, and driven by purpose. Remarkably, the previous Student Council has organized and completed well over numerous student projects, collaborating with administrative leaders, student organizations, and the entire student body. In addition to the highlights of the previous academic year, we, the current Office of the Senior High School Student Council, look forward to another year of excellence filled with opportunities to show our passion and continual desire of making a difference for the greater good of the Bedan community. We are devoted to empowering, engaging and influencing various sectors of our community to improve the quality of education for the entire Bedan community. We have much to be grateful for and excited about for the upcoming year and beyond! I am honored to be with you in support of our shared purpose.



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500 YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE PHILIPPINES



# 'Sa mga letra ng Doktrina': Paano hinubog ng Pananampalataya ang pagkamamamayan ng mga Pilipino sa ika-21 siglo

Ni Patricia Yumol

**M**ahigit 100 taon na ang nakalipas matapos mapasakamay ng mga dayuhan ang Pilipinas. Subalit, sariwa pa rin sa puso't isip ng mga Pilipino ang mga alaalang nagmarka sa kasaysayan ng bansa. Sa kabila ng pait na dinanas ng mga Pilipino ay may biyayang nagkukubli sa likod nito. Isang biyaya ng pananampalataya mula sa Doktrina ng Kristiyanismo—na nagpalaya at nagpamulat sa mga Pilipino hanggang sa ika-21 siglo.

## Binhi ng pagmamalasakit

Sa mahigit 86% ng mga Pilipinong Katoliko, marami na ang pinagtibay ng paniniwala na nagsilbing tulay upang ipahayag ang pakikipagkapwa-tao sa lipunan. Gamit ang aral mula sa Bibliya, tila patuloy na nananalaytay sa dugo ng mga mamamayan ang mga hakbang na ipinakita ni Kristo.

Tunay na nagsilbing gabay ang Doktrina upang maituwid ng mga Pilipino ang kanilang mga layunin at misyon sa bayan. Bilang bahagi ng simbahan, tungkulin nilang kalingain ang kanilang mga kapwang nangangailangan. Sa pagdurugtong ng buhay, ika nila, mapatutunayan mong may pagmamalasakit ka sa lupang sinilangan.

## Nagkukubling kahulugan

Ngayong makabagong panahon, higit na naging malalim ang kahulugan

ng pananampalatayang ipinamana ng mga Kastila. Hindi lamang sa relihiyon mababatid ang kahulugan ng 'pananampalataya.' Para sa iba, ito ang salitang lubos na gumising sa kanilang diwa upang maaninag ang katotohanang kinahaharap ng bansa sa kasalukuyan.

Sapagkat ang pagmamalasakit ay katuwang ng pananampalataya, batid nito na sa kahit anong paraan ay maaaring maipakita ang pagmamahal sa kapwa. Gayon na ang Pilipinas ay sumasailalim sa matinding hamon, lumalago ang samahan ng mga Pilipinong dala ang tinig upang itaguyod ang karapatan at kalayaan ng bawat mamamayan.

Kabataan, nakatatanda, may kakayahan, maging ang mga nasa laylayan. Ano man ang kanilang estado sa lipunan, taglay nila ang nagkakaisang hangarin ang makipagkapit-bisig sa panahon ng walang katiyakan.

## Modernong pananampalataya

Tulad ni Maria Ressa na isang mamamahayag, taglay niya ang paniniwala na ang katotohanan ay siyang magpapalaya sa bayan. Sa pamamagitan ng pagsusulat, layunin ni Ressa na maipagtanggol ang mga inosenteng biktima ng kawalan ng hustisya at kasinungalingan.

Gayundin, narito ang mga alagad ng bayan tulad ng mga kawani ng edukasyon, kalusugan, at iba pang kagawaran na nananampalatayang ang pandemyang ito ay may hangganan, at sa tulong ng kanilang mga kamay ay maililigtas ang mga Pilipinong nag-aagaw-buhay.



Bawat sektor ng lipunan ay may kaniya-kaniyang pananalig na pinanghahawakan. Sa patuloy na pagbabago ng panahon, hindi maipagkakaila na ang pananampalatayang ipinamana ng mga Kastila ay higit na lalawig at magsilbing pundasyon ng pakikipagkapwa.

Saklaw man ng relihiyon o ng iba pang dimensyon, iisa lamang ang ipinahihiwatig ng mga letra ng Doktrina—ang maimulat ang mga Pilipino at maipadama ang tunay na diwa ng pagmamalasakit sa kapwa, magkaiba man ang kanilang pananaw sa salitang 'paniniwala'.



## Kapangyarihang Taglay ng Malikhaing Pag-iisip, Lapis, At Papel

Ni Jhon Alray Angustia

Sa patuloy na pag-ikot ng mundo at mga pagbabagong dulot ng teknolohiya, hindi maikakailang isa pa rin sa pinakamabisang paraan upang mapatatag, at mapagkaisa ang lahat ay sa pamamagitan ng pagsulat. Subalit, hindi rito natatapos ang layunin ng pagsulat, sapagkat nagsisilbi rin itong ningas upang maipalaganap ang pananampalataya at pakikipagkapwa-tao sa buong mundo.

### PAGBABALIK-TANAW

Tatlong libong taon mahigit na ang nakalilipas nang magsimula ang sistema ng pagsulat dito sa mundo. Mula sa simpleng pagtatala ng mga datos at mga impormasyong makatutulong sa susunod na henerasyon, naging instrumento ang pagsulat upang mapanatili, mapagyaman, at maipalaganap ang kulturang siyang nagbibigay ng pagkakakilanlan sa mga tao. Sa paglipas ng panahon kung saan nakabuo na ng isang kongkretong sistema ng pagsulat, hindi pa rin nagbabago ang layunin at silbi nito, tila ba isa itong ipinapasang sulo na mas nagliliyab sa bawat henerasyong humahawak dito.

### PAGSULAT SA PAGPAPATATAG NG PANANAMPALATAYA

Hindi maikakailang malaki ang naging gampanin ng pagsulat sa pananampalataya ng mga tao. Kung

hindi dahil sa mga nasusulat na banal na teksto ay tiyak na walang sino man ang maniniwala lalo na at nakabase ngayon ang persepsyon ng mga tao sa mga kongkretong ideya at ebidensiyang kanilang nababasa.

Kung hindi dahil sa mga naisulat na kuwentong naglalahad ng kadakilaan ng Diyos ay mananatili tayong mangangapa sa madilim na kwebang magpapababaw ng ating pananampalataya.

### PAGSULAT PARA SA KAPWA

Lingid sa kaalaman ng nakararami, malaki rin ang ginagampanan ng pagsulat upang mapanatili ang kaayusan na siya namang nagpapabuti sa lagay ng bawat tao. Sa tulong ng mga naisusulat na ordinansang nagpapabago sa kaisipan at aksyon ng mga tao, nakagagawa ang bawat isa ng isang lugar kung saan nangingibabaw ang katarungan, respeto, at pagiging makatao.

Mahalaga rin ang mga naisulat na mga kwentong nagsisilbing salamin natin sa kung papaano tayo magiging isang mabuting mamamayan na siyang tagapagtaguyod nang maayos na pakikitungo sa bawat makakadaupang palad natin.

Dagdag pa rito, ang pagsulat ay isa sa mga naging mitsa natin upang makamit ang demokrasyang

tinatamasa natin ngayon. Kung wala ang pagsulat, magmimistula pa rin tayong mga ibong nakakulong sa hawlang gawa sa pinagsamang pang-aabuso at pagkaganid sa kapangyarihan.

Sa huli, patuloy man ang paglago ng mga sistemang mas nakapagpapadali sa ating buhay ay hindi pa rin nito matatabunan ang katotohanang naging punla ng karunungan, tagapagpatuloy ng kultura, at tagapagpatibay ng pananampalataya ang pagsulat. Higit pa sa lahat, nagsilbi rin ang pagsulat bilang instrumentong nakapagpalaya at nagturo sa ating mga tao ng mga paraan kung paano natin gagawing maayos at makatao ang mundong ating ginagalawan.



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# THE FIRST DAY OF FRUITFUL LEARNINGS

BY HANNAH GRACE OLAVIDES



**O**n the first day of another school year, the familiar feelings of various emotions resurface to the people who face it. For instance, labeling the first day as daunting may be a universal truth of what some may experience, whereas others face the day with the indifference of fuel-filled excitement.

Given all the involuntary pumps of cortisol, endorphins, adrenaline, or dopamine in our body, we need to admit that we may not have complete control of what courses through our veins to dictate how we feel. Feeling nervous is a common thing, in a matter of relief, making it possible to understand and encourage one another to alleviate it. Another is happiness, for, through anticipations of facing new things and experiences with people, the situation gets labeled as a wonder of a brand-new opening to a fresh start.

Regardless of how we may feel, these are natural reactions that we must accept and not let overwhelm us. Important-

ly, we must remember that we come together to experience the same situation facing the first day of classes. Through this mutuality, we can help one another to feel at ease by maintaining a balance of jitters and joy to get us through this experience.

After all, our daunting emotions may only present themselves on the first day, which we will eventually overcome. Upon arriving at the actual day, we meet with the various realities that come our way. Apart from the experience we got accustomed to with face-to-face classes, an online distance learning setup offers us a new challenge. The first day of classes becomes a reality check as we expect to adjust to attending classes and impose learning through the online, digital setup.

As individuals with essential roles to play in our academic institution, San Beda University, we now hold a responsibility to maintain good behavior and a positive performance in accomplishing our duties. Indeed, this

first day embarks on the start of a brand-new journey filled with learning, growth, and memories that we may find to live long in our minds and hearts.

Facing the second year of online distance learning, we return to continuously strive to adjust and settle for resourceful learning with strong hearts and brave minds. In a brand-new journey, we shall do our best and offer all things we do to glorify God. With that, let us now open doors to fruitful experiences and possibilities of another successful academic year 2021-2022.



# BEDAN NEWS

FIRST ISSUE 2021-2022

## SBU-R SHS COMMUNITY CELEBRATES NATIONAL TEACHER'S MONTH 2021

BY ABIDAVE HERNANDEZ

Last October 6, 2021, the Senior High School unit of the San Beda University-Rizal campus utilized the ZOOM Cloud Meetings application to celebrate the annual National Teacher's Month 2021, it was successfully led by Gianna Silverio and Luke Dinoy, both from the Grade 12 STEM strand.

It was an eventful occasion, as student representatives from grades 11 and 12 created a video performance showcasing their abilities and skills in dedication to Bedan educators and administrators. Finally, a simple game called "Pictophonic" was organized after the event. Three images were provided in the game, and these serve as clues for a word that the teachers must answer and put in the Zoom chat box. Mr. Christian Veloso, Mr. Daryl Reyes, Ms. Louise Villalon, Mr. Christian Caro, Ms. Estefanie Lumbré, Bb. Janualyn Suba, Gng. Maribel Lim, and Mr. Alvin Esperancilla were among the eight teachers who won each round of the game.

Moreover, the council of presidents and interim student council created a padlet for teachers and administrators after the event. Even though the event was held on a digital platform, it was memorable enough to make teachers and administrators feel loved and appreciated during these trying times.

## BEDANS NOW CHOOSY, THANKS TO NEWLY ORGANIZED VOTER'S EDUCATION WEBINAR

BY YLEC JURIEL TABARA

The Senior High School-Rizal Bedan community participated in the recently concluded symposium about Voter's Education hosted by the representatives from Pinas Forward PH to advocate for proactiveness and mindfulness when it comes to choosing the next set of leaders in the Philippines, as part of the Community Engagement Week virtual activities spearheaded by the San Beda University IBED-Social Action Program.

The webinar commenced with an interactive motivational activity wherein students were encouraged to express their thoughts and feelings towards the different situations involving the negative use of social media, especially in this time of the pandemic.

As the discussion progressed, more information about the continuous circulation of fake news, the difference between a "leader" and "pinuno," as well as the people behind the production of fraud publications were added to the knowledge of several students, all while linking them to the main topic: How can voters choose the most eligible candidate as a new leader for the country?

Several details such as information literacy in this time of upcoming elections and how citizens should be responsible in acquiring information and other credentials that may influence others into considering candidates.

The voter's education does not only provide solutions to halting misinformation, but it promotes the freedom of voters to choose the best candidate for them to take the government position upon thinking critically about who may be eligible to cater not only to themselves, but the majority as well.

With that, registering to vote is not enough to contribute to change, rather, it is of utmost importance that the youth are well-informed about the best qualities and intentions a true leader should have. Hence, this

exceedingly relevant forum will open the eyes of many people, and in turn, achieve unfeigned change.

Change begins with the power of the mass, and they too have the ability to end it.

## SBU-R GCO LAUNCHES LIFESTYLE TUTORIAL WEBINARS

BY JULIANNE ASHLEY VILLENA

The San Beda University-Rizal Guidance and Counseling Office (GCO) organized "Kwentuhang Bedista", a Zoom/Facebook (FB) Live webinar series where selected Bedans shared tutorials of their hobbies/lifestyles, last October 11 to 15, 2021.

Baking, stargazing, vegetable gardening, podcast making, and vegan living were the topics for each day of the webinar series. Each talk was held every 3:00 - 4:00 P.M. of the allotted week.

The event served as part of the Mental Health Awareness Month Campaign 2021 with the theme, "Padayon Bedista: Manatiling Matatag na May Buong Kalooban".

The following members of the Bedan community who practiced the respective hobby/lifestyle were invited as the speakers for their respective programs:

- Basics of Baking: Ms. Triza Mannag (Grade 10 Guidance Counselor)
- The Beauty of Stargazing: Sir Jun Cajigal ("Bedan Society of Young Astronomers" Founder)
- Vegetable Gardening for Beginners: Sir Julius Gerona (Physical Education Coordinator)
- How to Start Your Own Podcast: Sir Ian Magallano (Grade 10 Araling Panlipunan Teacher) and Ms. Cleo Loque (SBU Alumni)
- Vegan Living: Ms. Zandy Ponce-Hitchon (Kinder/English Teacher)

All members of the Bedan community were invited to the event, even if participation was voluntary.

Those who registered attended the Zoom link, while non-registered participants were able to view the event via Facebook live on the "SBU IBED Guidance and Counseling Office" page.



## BEDAN STUDENTS TO MAXIMIZE ONLINE DISTANCE LEARNING WITH THEIR SECOND YEAR OF ATTENDING VIRTUAL ROARIENTATION

BY JHON ALRAY ANGUSTIA

The Senior High School Office of Prefect of Student Affairs launches the Roarorientation 2021 on Friday, September 10 to further develop the Bedan student's online class engagement, disciplines, and outlook. The program aims to refocus and remind students on how they can maximize Online Distance Learning (ODL), given its second year of implementation.

The program starts with the Senior High School Science Area co-ordinator Mrs. Sophia Compañero's introduction of online distance learning and its features. There was a brief recall of the subjects being offered by the ABM, HUMSS, and STEM strands during her discourse.

Furthermore, the newly revised criteria for academic awards, and graduation honors for the seniors were then discussed by Mr. Dante Salazar. He also emphasized that with the new standards, the school administrators expect that more students will be able to achieve their academic goals at the end of the school year.

Meanwhile, the Grade 12 Assistant Prefect of Student Affairs for Discipline, Mrs. Arlene Noble reiterated various rules and regulations that will guide students in meeting behavioral standards, which aims to promote a safe environment for all members of the Bedan community.

Moreover, the Assistant Prefect of Student Activities, Mr. Roman Cubacub, focuses on the importance of having co-curricular and interest clubs for the holistic development of the students. He also explained various steps for those students who want to create a club of their interest.

The Grade 12 guidance counselor Mrs. Ela Deniega used the opportunity to promote different programs that will help Bedans in the online learning set-up, as well as opening the services of the Integrated Basic Education Department (IBED) Guidance and Counseling Office in assisting graduating students that concerns the processing of different requirements for college applications, all while anchoring the school's vision to create globally competitive individuals. "We will not do batch applications because we want every student to be independent, as the school's mission and vision, we want to create globally competitive individuals," Ms. Deniega emphasized.

The head of the Learning Resource Center, Mrs. Gloria Melendres, then highlighted the online library database that contains thousands of resources accessible to the students through the school's website.

Lastly, student community engagement is still an utmost priority as Mr. Christian Caro of the Social Action Program (SAP) reviews various activities that focus on public service through webinars and donation drives.

Ms. Josephine Adriano, the SHS Prefect of Student Affairs, then concluded the program with message of hope, boosting the spirits of the Bedan learners and pushing them to make the most out of their last year at San Beda University.

"The reason for this orientation is to refocus and remind everyone to take all the opportunities that can help you in making your last year here in San Beda the most colorful year," Ms. Adriano stated.

## PADAGOS 2021: SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CLUB RECRUITMENT

NI ELMER MARONILLA JR.

Hinahangad ng Unibersidad ng San Beda ang paghubog sa mga Bedistang may buo na pagkatao, ganap na Kristiyano, tunay na Pilipino, at mga mamamayang may kakayahang umangkop sa hamon ng daigdig kung kaya sa pangunguna ng Konseho ng mga Mag-aaral ay nagsagawa ng Club Recruitment para sa mga mag-aaral sa Senior High School- Rizal na may pamagat na "PADAGOS 2021: Senior High School Club Recruitment"

Ginanap ang Padagos 2021 noong Nobyembre 23, Miyerkules, mula 9:00 AM hanggang 12:00 NN sa pamamagitan ng Zoom conference. Ito ay may temang "Patuloy na Paglalayag sa Makabagong Panahon" para sa taong panuruan 2021-2022. Layunin ng gawaing ito na mabigyan ng oportunidad ang mga Bedista upang maipamalas at mahubog ang kanilang mga kakayahan, abilidad, at talento sa pamamagitan ng pagsali sa mga co-curricular at interest clubs.

Nagsimula ang programa sa presentasyon ng mga Co-curricular clubs. Nauna ang pagpapanood ng isang minutong promotional video at sinundan ng imbitasyon ng mga kinatawan mula sa bawat organisasyon.

Matapos itanghal lahat ng mga Interest Clubs, nagbigay ng mga panghuling paalala si Philip Joshua F. Lee, ang Pangulo ng Student Council. Natapos ang programa sa pag-iwan ng mensaheng mula sa mga tagapagpadaloy, "Mga Bedista, PADAGOS! Sa kabila ng lahat ng pagsubok na ating makakamtan, sa mga panahong nahahirapan, huwag na huwag tayong magsasalita nang tapos, kundi tayo ay mag PADAGOS."

Administrative Clubs	Co-curricular Clubs	Interest Clubs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Council (SC)</li> <li>• Commission on Elections (COMELEC)</li> <li>• Peer Facilitators Group (PFG)</li> <li>• iBedan Scholars Guild</li> <li>• Serviam Society</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bedan Association for Biology (BAB)</li> <li>• Integrated Organization of the Natural Sciences (IONS)</li> <li>• Math Afficionados</li> <li>• Math for Life Society</li> <li>• Elite Math Circle</li> <li>• SBU Young Accountants</li> <li>• SBU Teenpreneurs A &amp; B</li> <li>• Red Cross Youth Society A &amp; B</li> <li>• Bedan Literary Creatives (BLC)</li> <li>• Researchers Guild</li> <li>• Legio Verbum Society</li> <li>• Bedan Computer Society</li> <li>• Bedan Environment Philosopher's Organization (BEPO)</li> <li>• Psychology Society</li> <li>• Heritage Conservation and Art Society</li> <li>• Kalinangan sa Talastasang Filipino (KATAFIL)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Bedan Roar-Rizal (TBR)</li> <li>• Bedan Pastoral Council (BPC)</li> <li>• Red Staccato Strings</li> <li>• Redz-in-Beat</li> <li>• Makatang Bedista</li> <li>• Senior High School Band</li> <li>• San Beda Junior Red Corps</li> <li>• Bedan Harmony</li> <li>• Bedan Theatre Guild (BTG)</li> <li>• Red Click Productions (RCP)</li> <li>• Bedan International Relations Organization (BIRO)</li> <li>• Family and Consumer Sciences</li> </ul>

# BEDAN WRITERS ENGAGE IN CAMPUS JOURNALISM GOING DIGITAL

By Mila Samantha Lee



**O**n October 13 and 15, 2021, The Bedan Roar Rizal, in collaboration with The Cub Recorder, organized their first webinar workshop, entitled "Fact or Bluff: Empowering Bedan Writers through Digital Campus Journalism in the New Normal." The program was hosted by Julianne Villena and Abidave Hernandez. With the themes "Campus Journalism in the New Normal" and "Digital Journalism: Platform Models, Issues, and Best Practices in the Context of Campus Media," the workshop sharpened the knowledge and skills of the student journalists on fact-checking, layouting, and the basics on campus journalism.

"These stories are bound to create social change," as the saying goes. Campus journalism entails more than just writing and publishing, these issues hold such great power to face the unpredictable future circumstances to investigate, especially during the pandemic. Journalism opens the eyes of those who choose to ignore pressing issues, and it could affect its readers with words. Therefore, journalism should not be situational, as one of the main takeaways from the webinar is to focus on the effect of the matter on the public. In this way, the stories do not only go to the reader's mind but speak to their heart.

Although the set-up has gone online for the past two academic years, student journalists have gotten the hang of it despite this period of adjustment. Digital journalism is a big step to the future as it allows aspiring writers and media people to practice and showcase their specialties in times like this. There are multiple media outlets and platforms to continue prevailing stories to the readers, although one must be careful with the knowledge they wish to spread. Campus journalism never goes silent because it always echoes the voice of the unheard and desire to speak up about the issues and matters taking place across the globe.



Ni Elmer Maronilla Jr.

**N**aganap ang Virtual Living Rosary para sa taong 2021 na binuo ng mga piling estudyante, guro, at administrador mula sa iba't ibang yunit ng San Beda University-Rizal Integrated Basic Education department (SBU-R IBED) noong ika-29 ng Oktubre 2021 upang ipagdiwang ang Buwan ng Banal na Rosaryo noong buwan ng Oktubre.

Ang birtuwal na programa na may temang 'Pueblo Amante de Maria: Journeying with Mary for 500 Years of Christianity' ay pinamunuan ni Ginoong Jeremiah P. Reyes, guro ng Theology sa Junior High School Unit. Ito ay sinimulan sa pagpapakahulugan sa salitang 'Rosary' na ang ibig sabihin ay koronang rosas (crown of roses). Ayon kay Ginoong Reyes, si Maria ay nagpapakita sa iba't ibang tao kaya naman sa tuwing binabanggit ang 'Aba Ginoong Maria', sila ay nagbibigay ng magandang rosas sa kaniya. At kapag pinagsama-sama ang mga ito sa bawat butil ng rosaryo ay makabubuo ito ng koronang rosas. Ang rosas ay tinaguriang reyna ng lahat ng bulaklak at ang rosaryo ay nagsilbing rosas ng lahat ng debosyon, kaya naman mahalaga ang pagdarasal nito lalo na sa mga deboto. Bago ang pagdarasal, tinalakay rin ang mga sumusunod: kahalagahan ng pagdarasal sa bawat misteryo ng banal na rosaryo sa ating buhay bilang isang Kristiyano, paano tayo nito mapalalayo sa trahedyang at sa gawi ng mga makasalanan, paano nito mapalalakas ang pananalampataya ng bawat tao sa Panginoong Hesukristo lalong-lalo na sa gitna ng pandemya, at ang pinakamahalaga sa lahat, paano nito maibabahagi ang kaluwalhatian ng Diyos.

Sa pag-usad ng programa, naghandog ng panimulang awitin si Bb. Kamille De Castro, isang guro sa Senior High School Unit, ang 'Awit sa Ina ng Sto. Rosaryo'. Kasabay nito, nagsimula na rin ang panalangin sa pangunguna ni Gng. Teresita T. Battad, ang Principal ng Integrated Basic Education Department (IBED). Ang pagninilay sa bawat misteryo sa Misteryo ng Hapis (Sorrowful Mystery) ay pinangunahan ng mga mag-aaral, guro, at administrador sa iba't ibang departamento at yunit: Grade School, Junior High School, at Senior High School. Sa pagtatapos ng Living Rosary, nagbigay ng kaniyang basbas si Fr. Angelo Ma. S. Legal, OSB. Ito ay nagtapos sa pamamagitan ng pagpapatugtog ng kantang 'We Give Our Yes', ang temang awitin ng ika-500 taon ng Kristiyanismo.

Bago matapos ang programa, nagpasalamat si Bb. Maria Imelda M. Yusores, tagapag-ugnay ng Christian Living mula sa Grade School at Junior High School Unit, sa presensya at pagbabasbas ni Fr. Angelo Legal, sa tulong ng Prefect of Academic Affairs at Assistant Prefect of Activities, sa lahat ng Subject Coordinators, sa mga estudyanteng kumanta upang haranahin ang ating Birheng Maria, sa lahat ng estudyante, guro, at administrador, sa ICTC, sa lahat ng bumubuo sa komunidad ng San Beda, at sa Mahal na Ina.

## SBU-RIZAL CONDUCTS INDUCTION OF STUDENT COUNCIL A.Y. 2021-2022

By Sid Arman Candido

**A** new batch of Senior High School Student Council officers that were composed of the LABAN party candidates has been showcased through the Oath-Taking Ceremony and Student Council Induction last October 20, 2021 with the theme "empowerROARed to lead".

As the elections of the Student Council were over as the Senior High School student body have decided their set of leaders for the rise of a bright new school year, the newly elected officers took their oath, as their fellow students were able to watch through their respective homeroom classes. The program commenced with the usual morning assembly line-up led by the selected students of Grade 12 - STEM 5 St. Attilanus. The said events led to the Opening Remarks by the External Vice President of the Student Council, Edrian Maureen P. Dellosa. This was followed by the presentation of symbols in courtesy of selected members from the Senior High School Rizal Commission on Elections (COMELEC). Next was the most awaited event of all the presentation of the New Student Council Officers and their taking of the Pledge of Commitment. This tradition serves as an indication that they will be the new line of excellent and dedicated Bedans that will lead this school year towards brilliance.

After the oath taking was the congratulatory remarks by the Integrated Basic Education Department Principal, Mrs. Teresita T. Battad that was received through an acceptance message by the new president of the Student Council, Phillip Joshua F. Lee. A blessing was then conducted by Rev. Fr. Paul Ma. M. De Vera, OSB. Further announcements were made by the Office of the Prefect of Student Affairs, and the program ended with a closing prayer by the Internal Vice President of the Student Council, Gayle Ayyette C. Barrera. This program gives Bedans new sense of hope as the newly selected leaders of the Student Council will be able to continue the Bedan legacy as they walk alongside students within the steps to attain greater heights of goals and aspirations for this academic year 2021-2022.

# TOP 5 PH PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES PRESENT THEIR ADVOCACIES

By Raphael Miguel Gonzales

With the 2022 elections months away, the leading presidential candidates according to a Pulse Asia survey conducted during December 1-6, 2021, have expressed their planned programs, advocacies, and platforms once they get elected. With Senator Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa and Senator Bong Go withdrawing their candidacies for the presidential position, the following are the leading figures in the upcoming 2022 elections, with a promising name entering the presidential race.

With the campaign period only weeks away, presidential interviews have begun, first with Jessica Soho's 2022 presidential interviews wherein the leading presidential aspirants, excluding Bongbong Marcos who did not attend, were present to answer questions about their opinions, stances, advocacies, and platforms, should they be elected as the president of the Philippines. In the following week, television host, Boy Abunda, conducted one-on-one interviews with all the leading presidential candidates.



**BONGBONG MARCOS**

**Ferdinand Marcos Jr.**, former senator and son of former President Ferdinand Marcos, was the top choice in the survey, accumulating more than half of its overall percentage. Despite facing protests and call for his disqualification, the former senator is still running for office, alongside Davao Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio, daughter of current president Rodrigo Duterte who is now running for vice-president, bringing forth a Marcos-Duterte tandem. Marcos and his party, Partido Federal ng Pilipinas, proposed plans to address the problems of several sectors in the country and a long-term plan that will benefit Overseas Filipino Workers, with the initiative to bring OFW's back home, given that they should not be "driven by necessity" but a choice. In an interview with Boy Abunda, Marcos believes that mining to be a "very valuable source of revenue for the government" and in compliance with the law, he believes it can help in economic recovery. On the issue of vaccination, the pandemic, and poverty in the country, Marcos proposes "Jobs for Jobs," with an initiative to have most of the workforce vaccinated and translates to a safer condition to work. On the issue of drugs, he believes that drug addicts should be treated as patients, that are "in need of a cure." When asked about corruption, Marcos argues that corruption is a human condition, that his solution is mitigation of corruption and an efficient government. Lastly, on his opinion regarding the dispute concerning the West Philippine Sea, Marcos chooses to achieve a bilateral agreement with China, continuing engagements with the said country.

**Maria Leonor Robredo** followed Marcos' spot with 20 percent. She promises that the drug war of the current administration will still be in effect but with a "different approach" as she aims for the country to focus more on rehabilitation and prevention in contrast to the current administration's "bloody" approach, adding that she plans to assign a Dangerous Drug Board or DDB as the interagency committee on illegal drugs. In contrast to Marcos' favor of mining operations, Robredo seeks to regulate mining, where she mentions the Land-Use Bill, which designates no-mining zones. Robredo also emphasizes that the locals of these mining areas should benefit from it, especially the indigenous people. When asked about the pandemic and poverty, she expresses a "sense of urgency" in responding to the pandemic. Robredo proposes stimulus grants for small businesses, access to capital and low-interest loans that are payable, and access to the market. In the question of OFW's, Robredo emphasized fixing the economy which translates to giving them a chance of better jobs in the country. On the issue of national debt and corruption, she plans to increase the country's Gross Domestic Product, fix the government, and regain the trust of the population, where she states that she will legislate mechanisms to prevent corruption and advocate for transparent governance with the filing of a full-disclosure bill. On other questions, Robredo is in favor of legalization of medical marijuana, prohibiting political dynasties, peace talks with the CPP-NPA-NDF, and returning the Philippines as a member of the ICC. On the question of death penalty, Robredo is firm on her stand against death penalty and the lowering the age of criminal liability.



**LENI ROBREDO**



**ISKO MORENO**

**Francisco Moreno Domagoso** placed third with an 8 percent vote. He stated that he aims to bring back "normalcy" should he get elected as president. Furthermore, he added that he wants every Filipino to be able to go out freely as he promises that every single one from the population will be vaccinated or get booster shots, either by December 2022 or six months after the start of his administration. Moreno mostly uses his term as mayor of Manila as example and evidence, such as his response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which he also adds that his approach on the country will be the same as his approach on Manila. Moreno also plans to create an agency tasked with finding a cure for the virus. In his presidential advertisement, he promises promising adding that he will decrease fuel and electricity taxes by half, continue the "Build, Build, Build" program of the previous administration, prioritize on building more hospitals, schools, houses, and jobs. He also emphasized that he also supports the infrastructure projects during the Marcos presidency, also citing Lee Kuan Yew as an example. Alongside his vice-presidential candidate, Dr. Willie Ong, Moreno aims to focus more on the health sector for the economy to reopen and has also stated that he will elect Ong as health secretary if he wins presidency. On the "Pabor or Hindi Pabor" segment of Jessica Soho's interview, Moreno is in favor of prohibiting political dynasties, peace talks with the CPP-NPA-NDF, POGO operations, and returning the country as a member of the ICC.

**Emmanuel Pacquiao Sr.**, senator, and recently retired boxer is tied with Isko Moreno with also 8 percent of the total results. Pacquiao vows to not be a "traditional politician" or "trapo" should he be elected as president. During his Pangasinan visit and distribution of goods and assistance to the locals, Pacquiao also stated that he will focus more on generating jobs and improving the economy alongside fighting corruption and justice for Martial Law victims. In the recent Jessica Soho Presidential Interview, Pacquiao opposes death penalty, for now, until judicial reform and a jury system is in place, as he is still a firm believer on capital punishment. When asked about if he is ready to be in position as the country's highest position while being labeled as "inexperienced," Pacquiao argues that his decade-long experience in politics is enough. In the topic of drugs, Pacquiao, who revealed himself as being a former "naïve" drug user, says he will continue the war on drugs, but in the right way, giving people a chance to defend themselves. Moreover, when asked about his solution, Pacquiao believes in punishing the manufacturers of illegal drugs, stating that the government should show ferocity in handling the problem of drugs in the country. On the "Pabor or Hindi Pabor" segment of Jessica Soho's interview, Pacquiao is in favor of prohibiting political dynasties, peace talks with the CPP-NPA-NDF, POGO operations, and returning the country as a member of the ICC.



**MANNY PACQUIAO**



**PING LACSON**

**Panfilo Lacson Sr.** will strongly abstain from electing political connections in cabinet if elected president, being against political dynasties, stating that he will only elect individuals into cabinet with those that qualify for Lacson's criteria and those that have the same qualities as Senator Tito Sotto, Lacson's running mate and vice-presidential candidate. In a recent interview with Jessica Soho, Lacson stated that he has tempted power and that he "knows how to handle" power, that he is not a corrupt and abusive government official and on the issue of death penalty, Lacson, previously a consistent and firm believer and supporter of death penalty, is now against death penalty, backing up his stance from a Netflix movie as his "awakening moment." Lacson also advocated for a more scientific approach in addressing the nation's health crisis, most notably the current pandemic, without enforcing strict lockdowns that have detrimental effects on the economy. Lacson also promised that he will not employ military solutions and strategies in tackling national issues and the current COVID-19 pandemic. He seeks to change the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4P's) and reinvent cash assistance programs of the government, stating that these programs must be "with a purpose," arguing that the cash assistance or "ayuda" must be "productive" in nature. On the "Pabor or Hindi Pabor" segment of Jessica Soho's interview, Lacson is in favor of prohibiting political dynasties, peace talks with the CPP-NPA-NDF, POGO operations, and returning the country as a member of the ICC.

# The Last Hurrah: SONA 2021 Simplified

BY CIARA JANE ABUGAN

**A**fter nearly six years in service, President Rodrigo Duterte delivered his last State of the Nation Address (SONA) at Batasang Pambansa on the afternoon of July 26, 2021, in which he has given a report of the accomplishments under his term, with consideration to other things that are yet to be done.

"To offer free education – it's there already. The universal health care, andiyan na po. The fight against illegal drugs, criminality, and corruption"

President Duterte proclaims that as his term comes to a close, he has "less visions, but more remembrances", focusing on achievements especially in regards to his major projects such as the War on Drugs, the Build-Build-Build Program, Business and Economy, Military and Criminality, International Relations, and COVID-19 Response. Compressing nearly three hours' worth of information into a single article, below are the highlights of the chief executive's final SONA:

## On Drug War

A notable and controversial project of the Duterte Administration is its war on drugs,

with the president offering promises to eradicate the nationwide drug problem in six months. This was not the case as Duterte concedes that there remains a "long way to go" in the efforts for this movement.

"Our unyielding campaign led to the surrender of millions of drug dependents and neutralization, capture, and prosecution of thousands of drug personalities"

"While we have made great strides in ending rebellion and insurgency in various parts of the country, we still have [a] long way in our fight against the proliferation of drugs,"

## On Build-Build-Build

Major ground has been covered by the administration's Build-Build-Build Program, making headway notably in the transportation field. The president reports a reduction in wait time in between trains, decreasing the 'misery of public commuting'. He adds that this was possible through the comprehensive tax reform program that "enabled us to fund critical infrastructure programs"

Although the chief executive cites other projects beyond Metro Manila, saying they are "pursuing several high-impact projects" and that they have "brought equitable development". Development projects mentioned in the speech were the Marawi Rehabilitations as well as the Sorsogon City Coastal Road.

## On Business and Economy

"We also sought to make long lines a thing of the past by streamlining government processes", mentions Duterte in regards to the implementation of the Ease of Doing Business Act.

According to the president's address, only under his leadership did farmers gain back billions-worth of coco levy funds collected by the late President Ferdinand Marcos. This, as stated by Duterte, was done through the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act. A row between water brokers and the government has also been mentioned,

Duterte saying he fought "vested interest" in the water sector with his political capital.

## On Military and Criminality

Multiple notions surrounding the military forces of the country have been reported in the SONA, namely; the passage of the military pension reform bill that raises salaries of military and uniformed policemen, Duterte's desire for free legal assistance for the aforementioned personnel, and his commendations on the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC). The president further comments to "kindly shoot them dead" in regards to communists and the country.

In other issues, Duterte's final address to corruption is an acknowledgement and a concession, considering the concept to be an unstoppable endemic in governance. His administration also ruled the case against the channel of ABS-CBN for tax evasion.

## On International Relations

"In [the] international arena, we have rigorously pursued an independent foreign policy, centered on the promotion and protection of our core national interest.", says Duterte, adding that the country would proceed to collaborate with other nations and seek conducive partnerships. He asserted that the Philippines would push for what is rightfully theirs, and that they would "fight for what is rightfully due to the Filipino people"

Regarding the disputed area in the West Philippine Sea, Duterte warns the country and asks "Do you want war against China?".

## On COVID-19

President Rodrigo claims that the Philippine economy was well on its way to be among the world's fastest-growing economies if it weren't for the pandemic. To this, there has been a vast increase in COVID testing and facilities with over 9,000 facilities established. It's been said that the nation cannot afford more lockdown periods, therefore citizens are encouraged to take vaccinations whilst being patient for the provision of such.

"Rest assured that we will exert every effort to restore the lost livelihood of our countrymen" said Duterte in response to pandemic effects to the country.



# Senate investigates irregularities in pandemic deals with Pharmally

BY KYRIA ANDREA SERVANDO

**A**fter corruption allegations due to anomalies in audit reports, the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee launched an investigation to probe the apparent misuse of pandemic funds.

Central to this controversy is the government's multibillion-peso contract with start-up company Pharmally Pharmaceutical Corporation, entered by the Procurement Service-Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM) on behalf of the Department of Health (DOH). As the investigation progresses, red flags are raised pertaining to the deals and personalities affiliated with the company.

Pharmally was incorporated and registered in the Securities and Exchange Commission last September 2019, yet in less than six months after, the company was able to secure the government's biggest contracts to supply personal protective equipment (PPE). To this day, they have acquired a total of more than 10 billion pesos in contracts granted by the PS-DBM.

This sudden rise to the top was made possible amidst Pharmally being a start-up company with a capital of only P625,000, and virtually no track record, credibility, nor source of funding to be able to supply the demands indicated in the billion-peso contracts with the government. Several private auditors, accountants, and tax

experts flagged this activity as unusual. Senate hearing resource person and certified public accountant Mon Abrea pointed out that a 44,149% increase in assets, from P625,000 to P7.2 billion, is not normal.

Upon deeper examination of the transactions between the PS-DBM and Pharmally, it was found that the government chose to procure the products of Pharmally despite most of them with prices almost twice as much as those offered by local manufacturers and other bidding companies.

**"44,149% increase in assets, from P625,000 to P7.2 billion, is not normal."**

During the same hearing, links of Pharmally officials to former presidential adviser and lawyer for economic affairs Michael Yang were revealed. Senators Franklin Drilon and Panfilo Lacson hinted their theory that this procurement scandal is a pre-meditated case of graft and plunder. This was supported by a video footage uploaded back in March 2017 showing a meeting between Michael Yang, Pharmally

Officials Huang Tzu Yen, Huang Wen Lai, and Lincoln Ong, together with President Duterte and Bong Go.

This revelation led to the opening of a formal investigation with the Office of the Ombudsman on the transactions of the government with Pharmally for possible accounts of graft and plunder.

Pharmally officials were then mandated to appear in the senate hearings to cooperate with the investigation. During the following hearings, several anomalies surrounding Michael Yang and the officials of Pharmally were revealed. In one of the hearings, Senator Hontiveros disclosed a statement from a Taiwanese official confirming that the Pharmally Executives, Huang Tzu Yen and Huang Wen Lai are wanted in Taiwan for crimes involving their company as well. It was also found that Yang, who previously denied his connections to the company, actually served as their guarantor and financier, lending the company more than 7 billion pesos to fulfill one of their contracts with the PS-DBM. Senator Hontiveros pointed at Yang as the common denominator among all parties involved in the Pharmally procurement scandal.

Presently, the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee continues to investigate more allegedly misdirected and misused funds and expenditures linked to Pharmally Pharmaceutical Corporation.



## House approves P5.024 trillion for 2022 National budget

BY ALICE JOANNE PARANAS

**T**he House of Representatives approved the proposed P5.024 trillion 2022 national budget last September 30, 2021. It is the final budget enacted in the Duterte administration.

With a vote of 238-6 and no abstention, the House Bill 10153, or the General Appropriations Bill (GAB) was passed and approved by the chamber.

Following the certificate of urgency made by President Rodrigo Duterte, the version of the bill was also accepted in the second and third readings on the same day.

House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco positively remarked on passing the bill within the chamber's imposed deadline.

**"Immediately after the proposed budget was submitted by the President on August 23, we immersed ourselves in the serious work of reviewing and scrutinizing the budget of all government agencies. We tackled every issue, heard every concern, and clarified every ambiguity,"** Velasco said.

"This fiscally responsible budget offers a blueprint to help the country recover fully and effectively from the devastating effects of the pandemic and chart a better path forward," the house speaker emphasized.

Passing and approving the national budget in a timely manner lessens delays with government projects, especially amidst the pandemic situation.

As the 2022 budget is divided and allocated to different sectors, social services received the largest portion of the budget with P1.922 trillion. This is followed by the economic services with 29.3 percent or PHP1.474 trillion, the general public services with 17.2 percent or PHP862.7 billion, the debt burden with 10.8 percent or PHP541.3 billion, and the defense sector with 4.5 percent or PHP224.4 billion of the budget.

The division of the budget to the government departments is as follows: Department of Education, P773.6 billion; Department of Public Works and Highways, P686.1 billion; Department of the Interior

and Local Government, P250.4 billion; Department of Health and Philippine Health Insurance Corp., P242 billion; Department of National Defense, P222 billion; Department of Social Welfare and Development, P191.4 billion; Department of Transportation, P151.3 billion; Department of Agriculture and National Irrigation Authority, P103.5 billion; the judiciary, P45 billion; and Department of Labor and Employment, P44.9 billion.

The P5.024 trillion 2022 national budget is 11.5 percent higher than the current 2021 national budget, and it is equal to the 22.8 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

Duterte's urgent approval for this budget is to **"address the need to maintain continuous government operations following the end of the current fiscal year, to expedite the funding of various programs, projects, and activities for FY 2022, and to ensure budgetary preparedness that will enable the government to effectively perform its constitutional mandate."**

## NORTH KOREA TESTS A NEW BALLISTIC MISSILE LAUNCHED FROM A SUBMARINE

*By Raphael Miguel Gonzales*

**N**orth Korea, mostly characterized by its sophisticated weaponry and vast arsenal of ballistic and nuclear missiles, has recently concluded a test of a new ballistic missile primarily launched from a submarine, or a Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM).

The state news agency of North Korea, Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) has confirmed that the test of the new ballistic missile was successful, and that the particular missile was part of North Korea's defense exhibition. The tests of ballistic missiles launched from a submarine was first seen in 2015, when North Korea claimed to have launched a missile from a submarine. A year later, in 2016, North Korea successfully launched Pukkuksong-1, followed by another successful launch of the Pukguksong-3 in 2019, along with a long history of North Korea's missile tests.

Following the launch, the tests were condemned by the United Nations (UN), as tests of ballistic missiles or nuclear weapons are banned and prohibited under international law and as part of the sanctions imposed by the UN against North Korea. In defense, North Korea defended their actions and the tests as their "righteous right to self-defense to develop weapons".

## MATAAS NA VACCINATION RATE NG UAE: PAANO NGA BA?

*Ni Elmer Maronilla Jr.  
Nobyembre 16, 2021*

**A**ng bansang United Arab Emirates (UAE) ay hinangaan dahil sa patuloy na pagbaba ng kaso ng COVID-19 noong mga nakaraang buwan at sa matagumpay na pagpapabakuna sa kanilang humigit-kumulang 8.81 milyong residente. Pumangatlo rin sila sa world rank pagdating sa bilang ng mga nagsasagawa ng coronavirus tests sa bawat isang libong (1,000) tao sa mga bansa na may kabuuang populasyon na lagpas sa isang milyon.

Ayon sa Our World in Data noong Nobyembre 15, 2021, 88.4% ang kasalukuyang bilang ng mga taong matagumpay na nabakunahan laban sa COVID-19 sa bansang United Arab Emirates (UAE). Samantalang, 9.7% naman ang bilang ng mga taong nakatanggap ng unang dose pa lamang ng bakuna.

Ibinalita ng UAE Ministry of Health and Prevention noong Nobyembre 15, 2021 ang animnapu't isa (61) na aktibong kaso ng COVID-19 virus, kasama ang walumpu't siyam (89) na nakapagpagaling, at isa (1) ang namatay. Halos isang taon at kalahati matapos ang pandemya, ang mga UAE nationals and residents ay tuluyang nakabalik na sa 'new normal' – na talagang puno ng bagong pag-asa at sigla.

Isa ang UAE sa mga bansang nakakuha ng pinakamataas na porsyento ng mga taong na nakapagpabakuna upang labanan ang COVID-19, anunsyo ng UAE Health Sector.

Binanggit din ni Dr. Farida Al Hosani, health sector spokesperson ng UAE, na ang kasalukuyang estado ng bilang ay dahil sa maayos na kampanya ng gobyerno para sa pagpapabakuna at ang pagsunod sa batas ng mga mamamayan.

Ang mga bakuna ay nakatutulong sa pagpigil ng impeksyon at komplikasyon ng sakit, pagdadala sa ospital, pagbawas ng bilang ng mga nananatili sa ospital, at ang hindi paggamit ng ventilators kumpara sa mga indibidwal na hindi pa bakunado," aniya.

Hinimok ni Dr. Hosani ang mga residente na kumuha ng booster shot para sa bakuna ng COVID-19. "Ang pagpapakilala sa masa ng booster ay nakatulong sa pagbawas ng araw-araw na bilang ng kaso ng COVID-19. Ito ay talagang nakapagpapalakas ng immune system ng tao kaya naman bumababa ang kaso sa UAE," dagdag niya.

# MERCURY'S TIME TO SHINE

BY ROLAND OSCAR CASTAÑEDA

**A**s ages pass by, scientists learn more and more about the solar system and its mysterious yet intriguing properties; at present, it seems as though this time, it is the planet Mercury that finally gets its time in the spotlight.

It's no secret that scientists know less about the planet compared to the others, as it is difficult to explore and learn about its different properties due to its close proximity to the sun. However, with the help of years of extensive research and technological advancement, the day we learn more about the mysterious rock planet is finally drawing near.

The BepiColombo mission, a joint mission overseen by the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), aims to make a total of six flybys before orbiting the planet to gain new information on the smallest terrestrial planet.

This ambitious endeavor is to be achieved with the help of two satellites that were launched together on October 28, 2018. It is estimated, however, that the mission would be completed on the year 2025, making it an estimated seven-year mission.

Once the spacecraft has drawn near Mercury, two probes, each belonging to ESA and JAXA, would then be deployed to scan and roam the terrestrial planet for a year, before sending their findings back to Earth.

To make this seven-year journey possible, a whopping \$1.8 billion was invested, which was no small amount. Despite that, it is noted by the ESA's flight director Andrea Accomazzo that the findings and new insights on the distant planet make the mission overall priceless.

Accomazzo would go on to acknowledge that "Our scientists can hope that [BepiColombo] can actually interpret better our solar system's form and also how our planets evolved."



Last October 2, 2021, the BepiColombo was able to make its closest flyby to Mercury, capturing images of the planet's surface and sending them back to Earth, a remarkable achievement as it has only been almost three years since the mission was first launched.

Truly, the space industry has made some commendable achievements by uncovering what initially could not be figured out about planets like Mercury. Only in four years more will scientists be able to truly uncover what lies on the planet closest to the sun. Until then, Mercury is and will still remain a mystery to mankind.

# *new school year,*

New years come with new beginnings. It applies to everything, from our resolutions to the challenges we encounter. During this academic year 2021-2022, we are about to face a new set of objectives, all with the common goal of helping us prepare for tertiary education and in the real world. Of course, it cannot be achieved alone, not without the help of our ever determined and passionate educators who continue to ignite their students' love for learning and enlightenment of different subjects. As we embark on another journey into the virtual lion's den, let us give due recognition to the newest addition to the roster of our Senior High School Rizal faculty members, and check out their favorite Benedictine Hallmark, as well as their quotable quotes.



**Mr. Andres S.  
*Budiao***

Sir Andres S. Budiao graduated in Philippine Normal University-Manila with a bachelor's degree in Science Education with Specialization in Physics. He is also a Department of Science and Technology (DOST) scholarship recipient and acquired a certificate in teaching Junior Secondary High School. After teaching in University of the East-Calooocan for two years, he moved to San Beda University-Rizal on his third year. He is currently handling the subjects General Physics 1 and 2 and teaches Grade 12 students of the STEM strand. Aside from that, he is also a Red Cross Youth moderator who had his fair share of experiences with humanitarian work and leadership.

**FAVORITE BENEDICTINE HALLMARK:  
*Prayer***

During times of despondence and hopelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Budiao has regained his strength from the words and other sentiments of his previous students, and from his utmost devotion towards the Lord. Through prayer, he believed that God's plan is to build his character and prepare him for bigger opportunities to come, and that is, to gain another opportunity to showcase his skills and hone his students to become the best version of themselves.

"...among all the Benedictine Hallmarks, Prayer is the one I like the most. Since through my constant prayer and belief to the plans of the Lord, God for us, for me, I was able to hold my ground and be firm despite experiencing the restless days, weeks, and months of sacrifices and struggles. And so, I will leave this verse from Jeremiah 29:11, For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." So, do not be discouraged, we just have to pray and share our concerns and/or struggles to Lord, God and He will help us in any form He can. That in All Things God May Be Glorified!"



**Ms. Estefanie Rose F.  
*Lumbre***

Ms. Estefanie Rose F. Lumbre graduated from Our Lady of Fatima University (OLFU) with Bachelor of Science in Psychology as her chosen program. She is currently studying for a master's degree (Clinical Psychology) in University of Santo Tomas (UST) and is a Registered Psychometrician (RPM), Will Decena & Associates Inc. Academic Scholar, OLFU Dean's Lister, OLFU Psychological Society officer (2013), and a member of the Psychological Association of the Philippines. She taught in Our Lady of Fatima University for four years and handled both students at the Senior High School and College unit. During her fifth year, she teaches research subjects to Grade 12 students at San Beda University-Rizal.

**FAVORITE BENEDICTINE HALLMARK:  
*Community and Humility***

"As an educator, for me, it reflects my responsibility to always seek for the common good and be concerned for the development of each person especially my students. It also reminds me to be open to our individual differences, accept my weaknesses, and become a lifelong learner."

**GET  
to  
KNOW**

our  
new

***BEDAN***  
*educators*

# *new faces*

By Ylec Juriel Tabara



**Ms. Karen Christy L.  
*Mondido***

Ms. Karen Christy L. Mondido graduated cum laude in Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila with a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education with Specialization in English. She started her profession in St. Joseph's College in Quezon City for four years, and is now teaching the subjects Creative Writing, English for Academic and Professional Purposes, and 21st Century Literature from the Philippines and the World to Grade 12 students at San Beda University-Rizal.

**FAVORITE BENEDICTINE HALLMARK:**  
**Humility**

"The Benedictine Hallmark that I like the most is humility. It is the knowledge of self in relation to God, others and creation. I believe that humility is one of the most powerful and significant attributes that will lead you to a successful and fulfilling life. We strive to gain knowledge, skills and experience but we should not forget to contribute to the well-being of all. We should humbly accept the fact that someone can help us improve ourselves or our work. By possessing humility, we will be encouraged to give ourselves for the good of others."



**Ms. Louise Joy C.  
*Villalon***

Ms. Louise Joy C. Villalon chose Bachelor of Secondary Education as her college program and graduated cum laude from University of Santo Tomas-Manila. In addition, she is now studying for a Master of Education, Major in Mathematics at De La Salle University-Manila. In her ten years in the teaching profession, she taught in Saint Jude Catholic School-Manila and Immaculate Conception Academy-Greenhills. In the present, she handles Grade 11 students of the STEM strand at San Beda University-Rizal and teaches the subjects General Mathematics, as well as Statistics and Probability during the second semester.

**FAVORITE BENEDICTINE HALLMARK:**  
**Community**

Last 2017, Ms. Villalon and her colleagues organized Project Bulalacao, a back-to-school outreach program that aims to provide Mangyan students of Bulalacao, Mindoro their needed school supplies for the academic year. The said program led them to launch another project with the objective of building a conducive classroom for learning. Although several challenges were encountered along the way, the project was successfully completed in 2019 with the help of their generous sponsors.

"...I like Community the most. It struck me the most because as a part of community, I believe that we are called to serve for the common good. During these trying times, as Christians we must find ways to help others, starting in the most simplest ways. Through this enlightening experience, I have realized that combining our small efforts to make it happen leads touching their hearts and making a great difference to other people's lives. As a member of the Church, we are called to love our neighbors as we love ourselves."



**Mr. Kal Ezekiel G.  
*Yanga***

Sir Kal Ezekiel G. Yanga is a licensed professional teacher (LPT) who graduated from University of Santo Tomas with Bachelor of Secondary Education, Major in Mathematics as his chosen degree program. He taught in Espiritu Santo Parochial School for a total of three years. Now on his fourth year, he teaches the subject General Mathematics to Grade 11 students in San Beda University-Rizal.

**FAVORITE BENEDICTINE HALLMARK:**  
**Hospitality**

"Being considerate is one of the most humane things that we can do amidst the pandemic, as much as possible, we prioritize openness to everybody for the sake of mental stability."



# “LIBERTY NOT BRUTALITY”: THE CRY OF AFGHANS AGAINST THE REIGN OF THE TALIBAN

By Patricia Yumol

Two decades had already passed when Afghanistan was once deprived of freedom, but the dreadful reminiscence left by the Taliban remains in flesh down to the hearts and minds of the Afghans. And now with the re-emergence of this movement, there is only one cry for the victims of the past— it is to be endowed with liberty and not by brutality.

On August 15, 2021, the Taliban, for the second time, took over Kabul which is known as the capital of Afghanistan.

Kabul finally fell to the power of the faction when current president Ashraf Ghani fled away from the country. It is said that with the departure of the president, it has become easier for the Taliban to mandate the entire country, especially the people.

## A PROMISE OR A THREAT?

With the Taliban's re-rule, fear enveloped the Afghans that pushed them to escape their country. Thousands of people flocked to Kabul Airport with hope that they would be able to leave their areas and be relocated to a country with assured security and peace.

Undeniable tension was present on the faces of the citizens as the sufferings of the Afghans, principally the women, from the previous wars remain alive.

But this year, the Taliban seems to quell the fear and wants to replace it with hope by granting freedom to the Afghans.

According to a statement on Al Jazeera from Zabihullah Mujahid, Taliban spokesman, their group ensures that every woman will have rights, journalists will be given the independence to speak, and they will offer amnesty to people who work with foreigners.

Most Afghans, however, are skeptical and unable to relinquish trust on the reform promoted by the Taliban. It seems that these promises made by the faction still remain as a threat for the people of Afghanistan.

“The Taliban have made a number of statements that on the surface are reassuring, but as I said, actions speak deeper than words and it's very early now, it's very fluid. It's very hard to say what is happening exactly,” said Rupert Coldville, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

## DARKNESS BEHIND THE HISTORY

It was 1994 when former mujahideen Mullah Omar founded the Taliban group. The formation of the movement followed the

withdrawal of the Soviets from Afghanistan in 1989. The Taliban sought to spread the teachings of Islam and eradicate the widespread corruption in their country.

Although they were in conflict with various armed organizations, the last laugh was still in their hands.

In 1996, along with the first fall of Kabul, the Taliban declared the Islamic Emirate—a time when the movement enforced its violent interpretation of the Quran. This is where the brutal mistreatment and killing of Afghans began.

The Taliban was successful in its mission, but its ruling soon ended when the United States of America invaded in 2001. It was the same time when 9/11 took place under the power of Osama Bin Laden, which stole the lives of the thousand people across New York.

20 years already passed by, now the Taliban is returning with their plan further strengthened.

## LIBERTY NOT BRUTALITY

A large part of society in Afghanistan was deprived of independence during the first Taliban ruling. And with this re-emergence, Afghans want to claim the rights that were once taken away from them.

Back then, citizens were not allowed to watch movies and listen to music. Even doctors were prohibited from performing their jobs. Heinous punishment and a wide range of slaughtering people hide beneath this restriction.

According to the Watson Institute, more than 40,000 civilians have died at the hands of the Taliban, whereas Brown University reported that more than 64,000 Afghan soldiers and police were killed.

Despite the further liberal ruling of the Taliban this 2021, the eyes of every Afghan are still full of distrust as the faction has once stolen credence in their wills.

“We will never accept the type of Taliban that gave me nightmares and turned my sweet childhood dreams into bitter memories,” said by an Afghan.

It is truly hard to obliterate the history of trampling towards the freedom of Afghans, especially women. They were not allowed to attend school and most of them experienced sexual abuse, an attestation of how the Taliban disparaged their status in the society.

“Will women be able to travel without a male guardian? Will women be able to be judges? Will a woman be able to run for president? There's a lot that is ambiguous and unknown,” Shahrzad Akbar of Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission stated in an interview.

Diverse stories and unique experiences have been narrated over time. But all of these reflect the cry of the Afghans—the demand to be endowed with liberty and bury the resentment of violence from the Taliban's reign inside their country.

## A STUDENT'S GREATEST WEAPON: HOW VOTERS' EDUCATION IS EXPRESSED IN THE CURRICULUM

By Eryn Russell Berin

Imagine yourself in this situation: you take a seat as paper sheets lay within your grasp. You read through a series of imprinted names calling for your reigned decision, silently contemplating what may change lives forever. How do you feel? Will your choice evoke doubt or trust on who you risked the stakes to vote?

Amidst all the fuss about the upcoming 2022 Philippine Elections, many people remain hesitant with their electoral considerations.

Voters' education serves as the foundation to teach young voters how to choose a good leader. Present in the current academe, the curriculum teaches the 3Cs—competence, character, and credibility, as found in webinars, instructional media, and various publication materials.

### IMPORTANCE OF VOTERS' EDUCATION

Voters' education aims for new voters to choose leaders they deem rightful and deserving to rule over the country.

Even for people who may not be interested in the ins and outs of politics, voting remains a responsibility and is essentially done right. A citizen must keep in mind that a new leader will directly affect the Philippines as a state and its connections with the rest of the world.

But when given a lot of choices, which candidate should young voters choose? Voters' education teaches to sift through facts that help discern genuine responses and underlying threats. The information students obtain from potential leaders will serve as a guide for comparison to assist in making decisions.

### WHAT IS BEING DONE?

The Department of Education encourages students to vote when they are already eligible to do so. In response, schools motivate students to take part in occasional informative meetings regarding voters' education.

However, while multiple avenues of utilization educate young voters, they are not widespread.

Comprehensive voters' education as part of the curriculum remains a suggestion to DepEd but presently has not been fully integrated. Voters' education usually falls under extra activities, leaving it a non-mandatory practice dependent on the option of schools.

Regardless of policy implementations, students must be responsible by showing interest and effort in voting. A way to do so is by researching information to self-assess and determine who they believe can make a positive difference for the country.

The Philippines deserves a good leader who knows how to tackle the country's most pressing issues. Voters' education poses a step forward in the right direction, serving as one of the simplest yet mightiest weapons that young voters can have to fight for a hopeful outcome in the future.

## BREAKING BARRIERS: BEATRICE LUIGI GOMEZ AS THE NEW MISS UNIVERSE PH TITLE HOLDER

By Jake Evangelista

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer plus (LGBTQ+) community brings home their first Miss Universe title last month. Amidst discrimination and support divide regarding the said community in the Philippines, a Filipina community member stood confidently along with her flag, ready to fight for her country in the upcoming Miss Universe pageant.

### PROUD TO BE LESBIAN

Another proud LGBTQIA+ member conquered the stage of pageantry and won the title of Miss Universe Philippines last 30th of September held at Hennan Resort, Alona Beach in Bohol province. Beatrice Luigi Gomez, the first proud Pinay lesbian representing Cebu City, runs for this upcoming 70th Miss Universe in Israel.

Gomez stated, "I honestly believe that our country has [definitely] been a long way in battling our fight for equality, especially for the LGBTQIA+ community. Our country has been very supportive, and I [definitely] think we are [definitely] ready to send someone, an LGBTQIA+ member, to the universe."

Recalling the pageant during the previous year, Billie Hakenson who represented Cavite Province and won 4th runner up in the pageant also advocates for equal rights of the LGBTQIA+ Community.

### JOURNEY TO INCLUSIVITY

Gomez started her pageantry journey upon taking up Mass Communication at the University of San Jose-Recoletos in Cebu City. She first outstood in 2015, winning 2nd runner up at Ms. Mandaue

beauty contest. In her recent competition this January 2020, she won as Binibining Cebu.

The first openly lesbian Miss Universe reveals to be in a long-term relationship with her girlfriend, Kate Jadgon, claiming nearly seven years in the relationship.

However, a friend of Gomez, Jaypee Perez, stated that the Miss Universe organizers requested the removal of her photos with Jadgon. The occurrence took place during the competition's early stages, namely in the event of preliminary rounds.

Later, the organizers reclaimed their decision and accepted Gomez to continue in the pageant, considering that one of the competition's advocacies covers inclusivity.

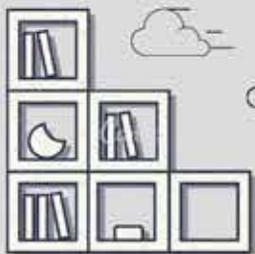
### A TOUCH OF RAINBOW

According to Gomez's Instagram post, she claims herself as "non-Binary," saying that sometimes she feels like being Beatrice or Bea, and sometimes she feels like being Luigi.

She also proves versatility with having various professions being a military sergeant, a professional model, and an athlete. Carrying a rainbow color magnifies her interests, defying gender stereotypes in aspects of sport, occupation, and pageantry.

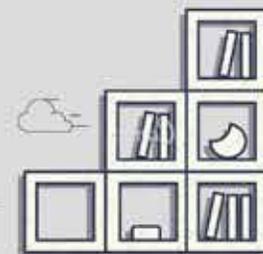
Even though Gomez fought a roller coaster ride, she keeps on climbing to the top, raising a rainbow flag. She shares a symbol of hope to empower the members of the LGBTQ+ Community, inspiring them to believe that "Success has no gender."





# LOCKDOWN TOPLIST

10 RAVISHING READS THAT WILL MAKE YOU HIT THE BOOKS

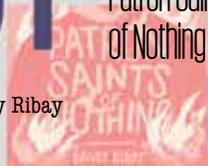


By Emmanuel Iriola

When the world went into lockdown and we hid behind closed doors, I found myself escaping reality through the pages of whatever book I read. With that, here is a list of my top 10 book recommendations that are a must-read whenever you feel bored or in dire need of relaxation during the COVID-19 pandemic:

## 01 Patron Saints of Nothing

by Randy Ribay



Jay Reguero plans on having an ordinary summer, but when he discovers that his Filipino cousin Jun has become a victim of Duterte's war on drugs, he aspires to find out what truly happened. This book depicts a story not often told because of the fear that grips this country amidst the war on drugs.

## 02 The Alchemist

by Paulo Coelho

Shepherd boy, Santiago, travels from Spain to Egypt in search of unimaginable treasure. What starts as a journey to become rich turns into a more meaningful discovery of treasure. Paulo Coelho portrays a journey so vivid, wherein with its charm and enchantment, it feels like you traveled each step alongside Santiago.

## 03 A Monster Calls

by Patrick Ness

Since his mother fell ill, Conor had a reoccurring dream every night. This night is different. This night, a monster calls coming for what Conor fears: the truth. In a heart-wrenching tale of sorrow, healing, mischief, and courage, we witness the strength Conor musters not only to survive but also to live.

## 04 Someone Who Will Love You in All Your Damaged Glory: Stories

by Raphael Bob-Waksberg

You will laugh through the pain while reading this book, and that is the beauty of it. You will realize that love is not that perfect, head over heels feeling you see in movies. Packed with humor, romance, cultural commentary, and crushing emotional vulnerability, this book delivers for anyone who is sick and tired of love.

## 05 Six of Crows

by Leigh Bardugo

A convict with a vendetta. A sharpshooter with a gambling problem. A privileged runaway. A spy known as the Wraith. A Heartrender using her magic to survive. And a thief with a gift. Kaz Brekker and his crew must work together to pull the heist of a lifetime, that is, if they stop trying to kill each other first.

## 06 The Five People You Meet in Heaven

by Mitch Albom

This book beautifully explores yet another version of what heaven may be. We follow the life and death of Eddie, an 83-year-old amusement park mechanic. After an accident resulting in his death, he wakes in the afterlife and meets 5 people in his life to answer a simple yet profound question, "Did I matter?".

## 07 The Song of Achilles

by Madeline Miller

Patroclus is an exiled, awkward young prince, and an unlikely friendship forms between him and Achilles. After Helen of Sparta's abduction, Achilles vows to lay waste to Troy. Torn between love and loyalty, Patroclus follows his friend into battle, but the Fates are never far behind Achilles' heels.

## 08 It Ends With Us

by Colleen Hoover

Lily has never had an easy life. For a girl who has worked hard for everything, what are the odds of meeting neurosurgeon Ryle Kincaid? He is stubborn, sensitive, arrogant, brilliant, and she cannot stop thinking about him. However, everything changes when Atlas Corrigan, her first love, suddenly reappears.

## 09 The Little Prince

by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

A stranded pilot wakes up to a strange little boy asking for the most peculiar thing, "Please, draw me a sheep." Antoine de Saint-Exupéry writes a story that should be read three times throughout a person's life. Once each as a child, as a teenager, and as an adult, because with time, we see things in a different light.

## 10 The Mysterious Benedict Society

by Trenton Lee Stewart

When a peculiar ad appears in the newspaper looking for gifted children, dozens enroll in a series of quirky, puzzling tests, but only four succeed. Their mission? Go on a secret operation to the eccentric Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened to uncover its secrets with only their wits and each other.



## lockdown watchlist

### 1 MANIFEST (2018) (DRAMA/SUPERNATURAL)



A mystery unfolds as a plane that departed on April 7, 2013, from Montego Bay, Jamaica, disappeared and arrived in New York on November 4, 2018. No time passed for those on the plane.

The flight redirects to Stewart International Airport in New York, informing the passengers that they had been missing for years and were presumed dead. The story entails the baffling disappearance of the Malaysian Airlines Flight 370, confusing people upon its news report in March 2014.

### 2 THE HARDER THEY FALL (2021) (WESTERN)

Nat Love discovers his enemy is being released from prison and plans to seek revenge. Despite the film being filled with laughter and romance, it did not fail to show the economic inequality.



### 3 THE WRONG TURN (2021) (WESTERN)

When Jen and a group of friends set out to hike the Appalachian Trail, they encountered backwoods terror and never-ending suspense. Despite warnings to stay on the trail, the hikers still decided to deviate and cross into territory inhabited by The Foundation, a clandestine group of mountain residents who defend their way of life.

Jen and her friends are suddenly under siege, and they appear to be on the verge of dying unless Jen's father can rescue them in time. This portrays cannibalism within the South American jungles or isolated islands.

## TOP 10 TASTEFUL NETFLIX MARATHON FINDS

By Justine Mae Bautista

Most of us have tried to look for something that can distract us from the dilemmas brought by the pandemic by finding entertainment during lockdown. In my case, reading books and writing journals are to name some; but what I relished the most is watching movies. It helped me unlock and traverse in my imagination, motivated by the rise of movie streaming platforms like Netflix. Check out the Top 10 Movies in my Lockdown Watchlist!

### 4 YARA (2021) (CRIME/DRAMA/THRILLER)

The assassination of a 13-year-old girl, Yara Gambirasio, distressed the whole town of the Brembate di Sopra. A committed prosecutor collects traces of DNA and goes beyond extreme lengths to bring justice against the real culprit. The film became more interesting as it is related to a true-life incident had occurred back in 2010, where a 13-year-old girl disappeared mysteriously.

### 5 FINCH 21 (2021) (SCI-FI/DRAMA)



During post-apocalyptic Earth, a robot built to be a protector of his creator's beloved dog grasps about love, life, friendship, and what is the significance of being human.

There are millions of movies out there, but these are the movies that I can say are the ones that are worth the watch! It does not only offer excitement towards its audience, but it also entails real-life situations. May this watchlist inspire you to take a deep breath, rest, and indulge in a movie marathon!

### 6 SNOWPIERCER (2013) (SCI-FI)



Survivors from the Earth's second ice age spend their days on a luxurious train that travels around the snow. The train's lower-class passengers, who dwell in the filthy caboose, intend to improve their situation by planning to take over the engine room. The train's division depicts the line between the elite and lower ranks.

### 7 THE CHAIR (2021) (COMEDY-DRAMA)

Dr. Ji Yoon Kim as she adjusts to her new position as Chair of Pembroke University's English department. As the first woman to facilitate the department and one of the University's few staff members, Ji-Yoon faces a set of challenges. Witness how the actuality and insanity of modern academia works.



### 8 LUPIN (2021) (ACTION/DRAMA/THRILLER/ MYSTERY/CRIME FILM)



Witness the escapades of a young man trapped in his past who has yet to be set free by love. Lupin's interesting adventures began when his wealthy businessman father was pronounced dead; the key suspect is his father's trusted friend, a former robber who is now also a businessman. This entails the reality of injustice brought by the wealthy and powerful.

### 9 RED NOTICE (2021) (ACTION/COMEDY)

An Interpol agent tries to down and apprehend the world's most sought art thief in the world of international crime. The Interpol Red Notice is a worldwide alert to find and apprehend the world's most wanted criminals. However, no one has a clue on what will happen when a daring heist puts together the FBI's best profiler and two rival crooks. Spot the unexpected loss of one of the Philippines' famous landmarks, the Mall of Asia Globe.



### 10 THE MIDNIGHT SKY (2020) (SCI-FI/DRAMA)

A lone scientist named Augustine Lofthouse tries to contact an astronaut crew who has returned home after a mysterious global catastrophe that wiped out a majority of the Earth's inhabitants caused by intense radiation. The movie represents the ultimatum of climate change.



# A Small Weapon Against the Unexpected

By Ylec Juriel Tabara

All hope is not lost, not when we decide to be part of the change in this world.

*When will face-to-face classes resume? When can we go outside without fear? Is there any hope left within this situation? These are the questions we often ask ourselves amidst our experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. Shadows of fear continue to loom over us as we take extra cautionary measures to ensure our safety from the disease, and it keeps spreading until we are able to acquire our most desirable solution: a weapon that can eradicate this virus.*

## Emergence of the COVID-19 virus

Almost two years have passed ever since the first COVID-19 case has been confirmed in the Philippines, causing the government to declare a healthy emergency starting March 2020 up until the present. In the same month, President Rodrigo Duterte issued a statement to order the strict implementation of lockdowns nationwide in cooperation with the COVID-19 Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF).

As of November 2021, approximately 2.38 million COVID-19 cases have been recorded by the Department of Health (DOH) and almost 49,000 death cases were documented by the same agency, with Metro Manila leading the greatest number of infected citizens.

## Rise and Distribution of COVID-19 Vaccines

Originated from the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the newly discovered coronavirus disease (COVID-19) caused a huge ordeal upon the public. This silent killer has affected numerous people and brought severe symptoms to senior citizens, as well as those with existing comorbidities and other underlying medical conditions (e.g., cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, or cancer). It transmits locally and spreads through liquid particles from an infected person's mouth and nose opening to other bodies and surfaces. These little droplets and aerosols bring great danger upon recipients, and we are often unaware about the surroundings we encounter; hence, we view the COVID-19 pandemic as an "expect the unexpected" type of situation.

Through press release, the government has announced the first arrival of SINO-VAC vaccines in the Philippines last February 2021. Medical frontliners working in both private and public health facilities were the first ones to get vaccinated,

next to other frontliners, indigent populations, and senior citizens who are at a greater risk of catching the virus. The process went on until another press release during September 2021 has commenced the rollout of vaccines for children aged 12-17 due to sufficient supply and increasing demand of protection towards the said group.

## Involvement of Youth to Herd Immunity

Administering the vaccine to as many minors within the age group as we can is vital, especially now that several establishments and facilities are considering the resumption of face-to-face interactions. Even if pediatricians mentioned that children who are diagnosed with COVID-19 have a more favorable prognosis or chance of successful treatment, they can still acquire severe lung infections and other symptoms that would require them to be hospitalized. Although a much rarer case than adults, it can cause death among them.

In a survey conducted by the OCTA Research team last October 2021, 22% of Filipinos are hesitant to take the COVID-19 vaccine to protect themselves from severe symptoms brought by the disease due to uncertainties and inconvenience. However, this causes a larger dilemma as we may lower our chances of achieving herd immunity, despite the best efforts made by several communities. Although it is valid to demand sensitivity in communication and handling signals of hesitancy, it should be done hastily. The propagation of the virus does not wait for anyone, and neither should we for it to escalate throughout the country. We must act swiftly, and if need be, now.

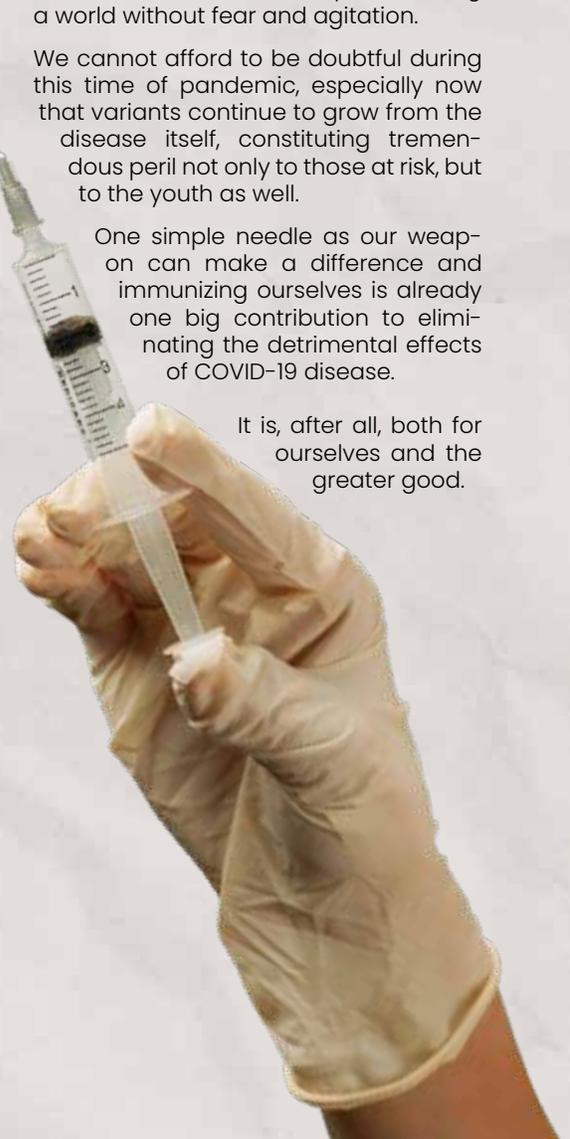
As part of the youth who are now eligible to take the COVID-19 vaccine, convincing your parents for you to become vaccinated is the best course of action when it comes to halting the propagation of the

disease. Getting the COVID-19 vaccine will help reduce the chances of children transmitting the disease to others who are susceptible to severe symptoms once they catch the virus itself, achieving herd immunity. It does not only offer protection, but also prevents COVID-19 from mutating to even more dangerous and resistant variants. Transmission between unvaccinated individuals pose a greater threat than between one vaccinated and one unvaccinated person. All in all, vaccination is one step to restoring a world without fear and agitation.

We cannot afford to be doubtful during this time of pandemic, especially now that variants continue to grow from the disease itself, constituting tremendous peril not only to those at risk, but to the youth as well.

One simple needle as our weapon can make a difference and immunizing ourselves is already one big contribution to eliminating the detrimental effects of COVID-19 disease.

It is, after all, both for ourselves and the greater good.



# UNGA 2021:

## SUSTAINING A BRIGHT FUTURE AMIDST PANDEMIC

By Sid Arman Candido

The 76th United Nations General Assembly occurred last September 14, 2021, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. It was a week-long activity that was held from September 14 until 21, with the theme: Building resilience through hope to recover from COVID-19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people, and revitalize the United Nations.



Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, humanity has severely felt its impact as we become surrounded by a world filled with face masks and shields. One single step out of the house meant that you must face and obey the protocols set by the government because no one is safe, and everyone is prone to attracting the virus. Because of the rampant spreading of the disease, people have seemed to forget that there is also a rising emergency in climate, continuous acts of inequality, and other humanitarian disasters unraveling in front of society's eyes. The aim of this year's assembly is to make everyone unite and come together to conquer it all. Solving such a huge problem requires undaunted leadership that needs cooperation from the community, wise decisions to secure a better future for the younger generations, and pure dedication to guarantee a world towards amelioration. The United Nations General Assembly is composed of many world leaders, civil society champions, people from different generations, global

businesses, and influential people all together to strengthen and implement all the desired goals to resolve world problems as one.

A single action during the present would have an instant significance, and those simple steps will hone the people and inculcate their spirit of aiming for a better tomorrow. Each day, a child who already has a lot in store for them is born, and who knows what talent they might carry? Those children will benefit and gain from the cooperation of the people and the United Nations. It might be a small world, but it contains diversity and voices that are meant to be heard, if ever the people will fulfill their contributions in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. With that, the United Nations and every other population will truly benefit from it and have secured a bright future.

## THE FINAL STRIKE

By Josiah Rue Ramos

For almost two years, the whole world has been battling one of its greatest opponents - the COVID-19 pandemic. After several months of adapting and formulating different solutions, we have settled on a decision to undergo several lockdowns in hopes of reducing the spread of the virus. As for the Philippines, the government has conceptualized different types of lockdowns, also known as granular lockdowns. The granular lockdown was introduced to the public earlier in September 2021, this type of lockdown introduces a new alert level system.

Since we are already fond of certain terms such as Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ), Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ), General Community Quarantine (GCQ), and Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ), the government implemented a new alert level system as well. A region's alert level is determined by the severity of its cases, with alert level 4 as the highest and alert level 1 as the lowest. Once a region is given alert level 4, it must adhere to the same restrictions given during ECQ. Unlike the old implemented lockdowns, granular lockdowns would be isolated and only take place in certain regions that still have soaring cases. Most certainly, due to these

changes, the public has expressed their mixed responses.

Personally, I believe that the granular lockdown system has its own pros and cons. Given that it restricts those in places of hiking cases, it helps the process of contact tracing easier. This system also allows other citizens to practice their freedom without hefty regulations and restrictions, thus, many people are in favor of this approach. At most, kids can now fulfill a chapter of their childhood again. However, despite its great assets, it also poses liabilities and disadvantages. Some say that this might worsen our situation, especially since kids and teens that are ages 17 and below could now roam within public premises. Additionally, many believed that this could result in a catastrophe if not managed well, hence, causing skepticism among others as well.

The OCTA Research Team was even concerned about this system. Based on their findings and analysis, it could be more difficult to control the transmission of the virus. Granular lockdowns are more effective and easier to register in certain regions where they can easily track their members. Since this system is already implemented and we have identified its pros and cons, all we have to do is carry out a tactic to improve this set-up. A way to effectively execute this system, according to Vice President Leni Robredo, is if we can provide the regions under this system of lockdown all the necessities and aid that they needed. Immediate provision of their needs can lessen their interaction with others, preventing further transmission of the virus.

With all the combined forces and support of every Filipino, we can surely take down the villain of this world and generation. Though we might have different views and beliefs, we all have a common goal, and that is to end this destructive pandemic once and for all.



# 'LAST BUT NOT THE LEAST':

## PHILIPPINE ECONOMY'S RESILIENCY RANK IN THE PANDEMIC

BY JAKE EVANGELISTA

**T**he Philippines' economy has become a light switch of trades ever since the COVID-19 pandemic began to raid wealth from country to country. Trying to fight the outburst and resulting in the solution of achieving herd immunity, many Filipinos struggled – closed their businesses, lost their jobs, as well as their loved ones.

In connection, different vaccination drives later occurred all over the Philippines, aiming to obstruct the spread of Covid-19 and start reliving in the so-called 'old normal.' Is the pace of our country enough to fight the pandemic and retrieve our economy?

### Last in Line

The Philippines ranked last of the world's 53 largest economies in a fight against pandemic resilience. According to Bloomberg Economic News, the Philippines had the worst Covid-19 vaccine coverage among the said 53. The continuous implementation of mobility restrictions became an additional reason that took down Philippines' national ranking.

In contrast, the Duterte Administration contradicted Bloomberg saying that it is a comparison of apples and oranges. Stating that developing countries like the Philippines would most likely pale in pandemic resilience if compared to other advanced economies that are included in the score rank.

The Philippines, however, also performed poorly in collation to its neighboring countries having similar levels of economic state. Having 26 percent of the population vaccinated (up to the second dose), the country placed behind its neighbors in Southeast Asia which had also battled the highly infectious Delta variant this year.

Based on Bloomberg, Indonesia ranked 48th while Vietnam is at 42nd, with over a third of their populations getting Covid-19 vaccines. Malaysia, however, already gave doses to 76 percent of its population and is now placed 50th. The ranking of COVID-19 resilience can dramatically change from time to time. Singapore topped the list earlier this year, making it the best place to be during the pandemic with its COVID-zero policy.

However, it plunged down 20 places to 39th in this month's study as it engaged with Delta-driven infections, resulting in activation of tighter restrictions. In contrast to battling COVID-19, countries also continued to compete for job-generating investment.

### How long will it Last?

In a study conducted by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), the Philippines also performed badly along with the biggest Southeast Asian economies. Based on a recent PIDS research, the Philippines ranked worst in seven of 13 indicators compared with the others under the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-5.

The country has been left behind and is being left behind in the current time. With a lot of problems, we continue to struggle even with the resources to fight the long-lasting pandemic.

With 6,089,314 individuals being fully vaccinated in the country as of July 25, this implies a slow distribution in the country together with those Filipinos who sees vaccine as a threat.

While some people would avoid these for unknown reasons, the country's economy continues to drown. Other nations restart a covid-free economy as our nation prioritizes the rehabilitation of artificial beaches. In contrast, we can focus more on the economy's survival and create a ladder to climb our nation to the top of the list.

### Last but not the Least

Proven last but not proven the least – our fight still has a fire to release. Recalibrating our minds into opening ourselves can help us see the true stance of our economy.

As a country, it does not always depend on how fast we fought in the current issue, what matters is we all achieve the goal of terminating the spread of the disease. Given the fact that we live in a country of adjustments, changes, and development, we can continue to be hopeful.

No matter how slow, no matter how fast, every country's goal is to go back to the way it was. "It is not about the destination, but always about our country's journey in fighting the pandemic for our economy.

# SBU-R FIGHTING AGAINST



## cyberbullying/fake news

By Lovellyn Sallidao

**A**s technology continues to advance at a rapid pace, it brings us a lot of convenience as well as negative effects of it. Negative factors that technology may bring include cyberbullying and the spreading of fake information.

### Cyberbullying

Bullying through electronic means is referred to as cyberbullying. It may happen via email, text messages, applications, online forums, and even different social media platforms. The actions of cyberbullying include sending, distributing, and posting destructive or derogatory content about another individual. It can take place among people of different ages, ranging from children to adults.

According to United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), one in every three young people in 30 countries has experienced online bullying. Some students even skip school as a result of their experience of humiliation. Cyberbullying leads to mental health issues, stress, low self-esteem, as well as long-term emotional effects of an individual, even once the act of bullying subsided.

### Spreading False Information

Fake news is deceptive information intended to harm an individual. It is also used to mislead or influence readers into believing something that is not factual. It usually begins as a rumor and spreads through the use of social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Tiktok, and the like.

Being involved in a false rumor may result in numerous harmful consequences such as tainted image, false accusation, and even self-deprecation. It may also ruin a person's reputation and cause emotional distress for both the abuser and the victim.

False information is also a primary factor of cyberbullying. The people involved will receive hate and backlash from other individuals. As previously stated, being a victim of false information can damage a person's character, leading to collective hatred towards them as a result of the misinformation shared.

### Bedans Facing False Information and Online Bullying

The school has been holding webinars and programs to address issues like these and assist their students in overcoming the obstacles that they face within this predicament. Some students have also formed an advocacy campaign to help reduce the spread of cyberbullying and fake news.

No matter how tough it is, we must fight for what is right. No learner nor educator should acquire negative experiences from this institution. San Beda University is one with us in creating a safe environment for students to learn. A setting of education should never be a place where students are reluctant to attend because of one dreadful experience with other students, and the same should apply to our educators and other school personnel.

# Boxing Legend Manny “Pacman” Pacquiao retires from boxing, focuses on politics

By Raphael Miguel Gonzales

**M**anny “Pacman” Pacquiao, former eight-division boxer, boxing legend, and regarded as one of the greatest professional boxers, has confirmed his retirement due to his interest in running for presidential position in the upcoming election.

In a guest appearance in Toni Gonzaga’s “Toni Talks” YouTube Channel, when asked about his boxing career should he win as president, Pacquiao has stated that his boxing career is over. Days later, Pacquiao posted a video on his verified Facebook page, formally announcing his retirement from boxing, mostly politics being a reason.

With Pacquiao being vocal about his plans, many people have mixed reactions about him fighting against reputable politicians in the presidential race. However, he promised that despite of him being left behind based on credentials, he will do his best to be the leader full of determination and compassion for the Filipino people.



“Panahon na upang manalo ang mga naapi. Panahon na para makabangon ang bayan natin na lugmok sa kahirapan. Panahon na ng isang malinis na gobyerno na kung saan ang bawat sentimo ay mapupunta sa bawat Pilipino” he said.

As the 2022 elections is only months away, Pacquiao has mainly focused on his candidacy for president, often engaging in philanthropic works and sharing of his advocacies and platforms, amplifying his campaign on becoming president of the country.

## Pagsasagawa ng Contact sports sa NCR, Pahihintulutan na ng DILG

Ni Jhon Alray Angustia

Idineklara ni Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) undersecretary Epimaco V. Densing III na pahihintulutan na ang mga contact sports sa National Capital Region (NCR), matapos ibaba ng Inter-Agency Task Force for Emerging Infectious Disease (IATF) ang lugar sa Alert Level 2, alinsunod sa bumababang kaso at pagtaas ng bilang ng mga nababakunahan sa lugar.

Ipinahayag ni Densing sa isang interview sa DZMM na ngayong nasa Alert Level 2 na ang NCR, bibigyan na ng pahintulot ang pagsasagawa ng mga Contact Sports, subalit kailangan pa rin sumunod ang mga tao sa safety protocol.

“Contact sports are allowed because we’re now going to loosen restrictions under Alert Level 2. The restrictions will only be placed on the three Cs (closed or indoor spaces, crowded areas, and close contacts).”

Dagdag pa rito, hindi umano makaaapekto ang contact sports sa pagtaas ng bilang ng kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa lalo na kung susundin ang ipinanukalang guidelines ng IATF.

Ayon sa IATF, kailangang aprubado ng Local Government Unit (LGU) ang lugar na pagdarausan ng contact sports. Higit pa rito, kailangan sumunod sa 50% indoor venue capacity at 70% naman para sa outdoor venue capacity.

“We’re confident that allowing contact sports won’t have a major effect [in the spread of the virus] because the important thing here is the vaccine. Once we’re vaccinated, we’re creating a herd immunity and when we have more vaccinated individuals than unvaccinated ones, then the spread will be very minimal.”

Umalma naman ang mga mayor sa Metro Manila sa anunsyo ni Densing,

anila nararapat na maging bukas lamang ito sa mga taong nabakunahan na, dahil kapag ihahalo ang mga hindi bakunado ay maaaring maging sanhi ito ng pagtaas na naman ng kaso ng COVID-19 sa lugar.

*“Considering that, in the conduct of a contact sport, the players are prone or susceptible to physical proximity with one another while the spectators are inclined or given to cheer, jeer, shout, chant, or sing collectively or in a crowd, only fully vaccinated adults and minors shall be allowed to play or watch”*

Bilang paghahanda rin ng gobyerno ng Maynila sa pagbaba ng alert level sa kanilang lugar ay pinapakiusapan nila ang mga tao na bagama’t magluluwag sila sa mga safety protocols, inaasahan pa rin nila na susunod ang mga mamamayan dito at iiwas sila sa mga bagay o sitwasyong maaaring pagmulan ng hawaan ng virus.

# Sports Finance Act of 2021, hoping to elevate Philippine Athletics

By *Diego Rafael Josue*

Over the past few years, the Philippines has started to show our abundance of talent in athletics. People such as Kai Sotto, Nesthy Petecio, and Hidilyn Diaz, are making waves internationally in their respective sports. There is no doubt that the influx of talent will only continue to grow in this country, and this has been recognized by the government, who are now taking action in supporting our local athletes. Bills such as the Hidilyn Diaz Act which excludes awards and donations from taxes, as well as a bill which aims to establish an Olympian Museum at the New Clark City Sports Complex in Capas, Tarlac. Furthermore, this museum will be the official home of all Olympian records and memorabilia.

On September 21, we see the government take yet another step with House Bill 10270, or the Sports Finance Act of 2021. This bill was filed at the House of Representatives by house deputy speaker and Binan City representative Marlyn B. Alonte. This bill aims to increase the funds of the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) to ensure adequate support for our athletes competing in international competitions. The funds currently come from the proceeds of lotto games and the sale of stamps. The PSC also receives funding from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), which gives a portion of their revenue to the to the



National Sports Development Fund (NSDF), where athletes get their allowances from.

With this bill, new sources of funding will come from places such as the Motor Vehicles Users' Tax (10%), online cock-fighting or e-sabong which is managed by PAGCOR (5%), and taxes collected from imported athletic equipment (5%). This additional funding can be used for things such as better housing, food, equipment, facilities and much more for our internationally competitive athletes.

## The Leash that Holds the Medal

By *Roland Oscar Castañeda*

**Filipino weightlifter and airwoman Hidilyn Diaz proudly** represented the innate Filipino resiliency and determination as she purged all obstacles that came before she could win the Group A women's 55-kg weightlifting category. Though she and three other Filipino athletes proudly hoisted their Filipino spirits as they brought home the country's medals, has the road leading up to those very moments been easy? Medals can be proudly worn should there be a leash to support the disk.

Evidently from her long-running history in the category, she truly worked hard for the feat, but the government certainly has not made it easier for her and many other aspiring athletes. She has expressed her difficulty in looking for someone to financially bid her to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics a problem common in Filipino athletes, who also expressed their concerns with the government's insufficient, if any, allowance for both their training and personal needs. If people like Diaz, Petecio, Paalam, and Marcial have all brought home the country's only medals despite the government's failure in providing sufficient bidding and allowance, I can only imagine how far can any other aspiring athlete achieve despite their setbacks.

As a matter of fact, Wesley So, a Filipino-born chess grandmaster, chose to represent the United States after the Philippine Sports Commission failed to provide incentives for then Filipino grandmaster prodigy.

To think that the Philippines lost someone who can only be described as a "once-in-a-generation athlete in the mold of Manny Pacquiao" just because of the government's failure to provide sufficient incentives for the aspiring athlete is absurd. Imagine how much more of our country's generational talent have been and will be wasted if this issue surrounding the insufficient incentives for aspiring athletes is not resolved.

It is unfortunate to see them in such a situation, as they, and countless other aspiring athletes certainly have the potential to fully assert themselves and the country in events like the Olympics. Ironic as it may seem, the government would be the first to commemorate such accomplishments, as if they made it any easier for the athletes themselves who have attained the feat. Had there been better funding for the allowances and incentives for our inspiring athletes, it would not only improve their training for big events like the Olympics, but it would also allow them to focus more as they

would no longer be worrying about their basic needs, their family's needs, etc.

In these times, the government has been really lacking, and should contribute to the efforts made by such athletes rather than only congratulating them when it is all said and done.

To put things into perspective, with the lack of assistance from the government, the Philippines has amassed four medals in the recent Olympics, how much more would the Philippines win had the government supported aspiring athletes with their training costs and their overall financial support.

As I have previously mentioned, "Medals can be proudly worn should there be a leash to support it." The recent Tokyo 2020 Olympics has certainly proven not only fellow Filipinos, but to the rest of the world, that Filipinos have the heart to compete. We certainly have the generational talent to triumph above other countries, almost as if we already have the gold disk in our hands. If the government can work to support our aspiring athletes, then surely, we can proudly wear a medal not only to display triumph, but to also wear the heart and soul of a true Filipino fighter.

# POWERLIFTING FAIRY

PAGBUHAT NI JESSA TABUAN SA LARANGAN NG POWERLIFTING SA BANSA

NI JHON ALRAY ANGUSTIA

**M**atapos maiwi ni Hidilyn Diaz ang kaula-unahang gintong medalya ng Pilipinas sa Olympics sa larangan ng weightlifting, namulat si Jessa Tabuan, isang world powerlifting champion, na ngayon ang tamang panahon upang humingi ng suporta sa gobyerno at ibandera ang isports na hindi alam ng nakararami-ang **powerlifting**.

Mahirap man ang naging daan patungong tagumpay sa isports na napili dahil sa kakulangan sa pondo mula sa gobyerno, itinuring ito ni Jessa bilang isang hamon upang mas magsu-mikap at maabot ang iba't ibang nasyunal at pandaigdigang kompetisyon.

***"They should also focus on our needs too as an athlete because in these days, the government was all into sports that doesn't even earn any gold medals."***

Tuwing lalaban si Jessa, bakas sa mga mata nito ang determinasyon at pag-asang darating din ang panahon na maririnig ng gobyerno ang hikbi ng mga atletang uhaw sa suporta, maki-kita rin sa bawat buhat ni Jessa ang panini-walang balang araw ay makikilala at tuluyang mabibigyan ng rekognisyon ang mga atletang lumalaban sa larangan ng powerlifting.

Bukod sa kakulangan sa suporta mula sa gobyerno hindi maitatangging mayroon pang kinahaharap na responsibilidad si Jessa na siyang dapat niyang gampanan lalo na sa pag-aaral.

***"I stopped studying for one year because it was my international competition in the Worlds, my grades are very low, and I failed to catch up to the lessons that I had to repeat my year."***

Bagamat maituturing na balakid, ni kailanman ay hindi sumagi sa isip ni Jessa na hindi ipagpatuloy ang kanyang pag-aaral. Dala-dala ang pangarap na maging isang mahusay na atleta, hindi nalilimutan ni Jessa ang kahalagahan ng pag-aaral.

Sa likod ng mga pangyayaring sumubok sa kanyang pagkatao, ipinagpatuloy pa rin ni Jessa ang powerlifting lalo na't ang ama niya at ang lima pa niyang kapatid ay unti-unti ring nakikilala ang pangalan sa parehong isports.

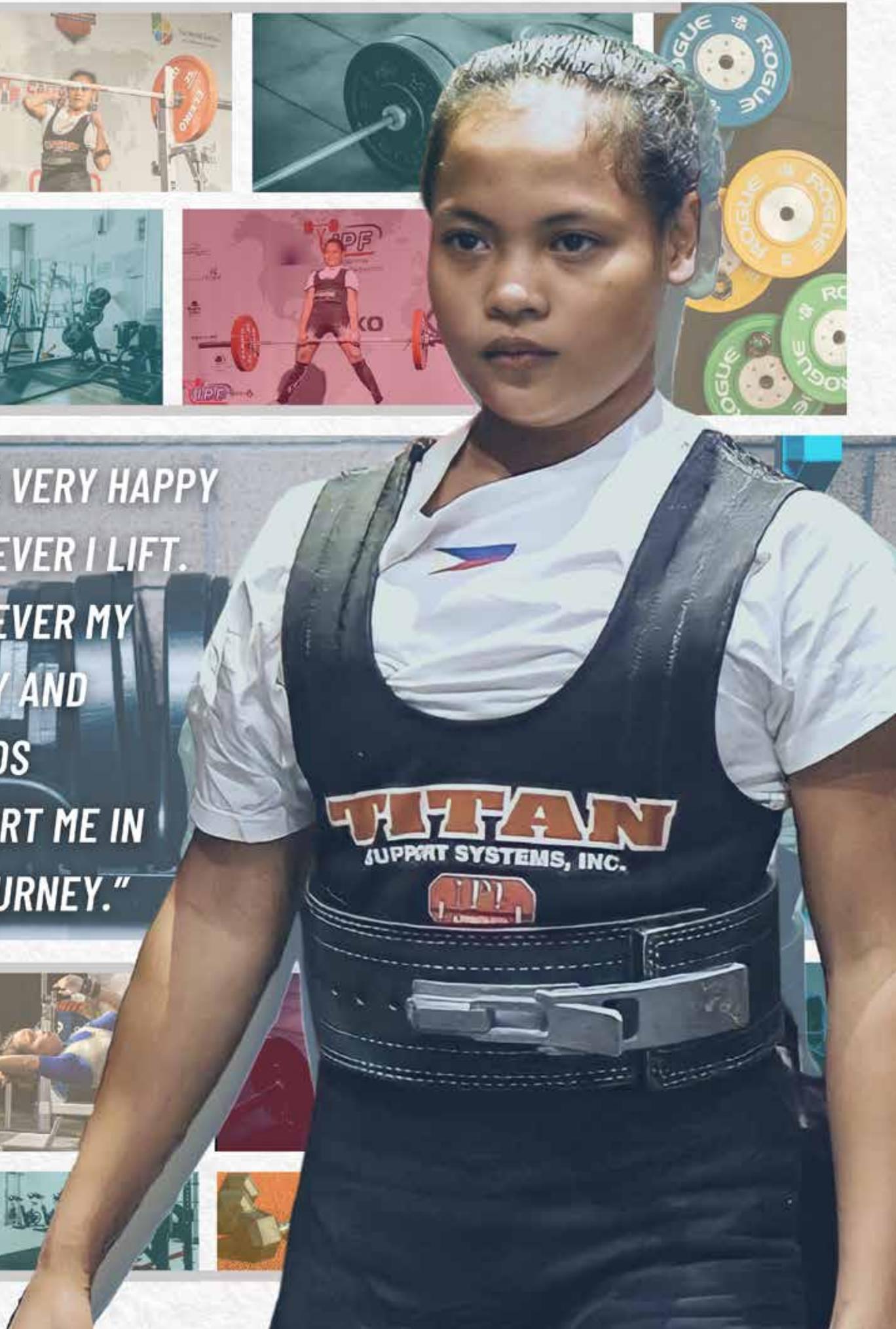
***"I was very happy whenever I lift. Whenever my family and friends support me in my journey."***

Sa huli, subukin man ng samu't saring problema si Jessa ay hindi niya ititigil ang pagbubuhay, alang-alang sa kanyang pamilya at sa mga taong sumusuporta sa kanyang daang tinatahak, kaharapin man niya ang mga hamong hindi makokontrol. Buong tapang at taas noo pa rin niyang ibabandera ang Pilipinas hanggang sa abot ng kanyang makakaya.





**"I WAS VERY HAPPY  
WHENEVER I LIFT.  
WHENEVER MY  
FAMILY AND  
FRIENDS  
SUPPORT ME IN  
MY JOURNEY."**



## COACH KO SI LOLO: ANG KUWENTONG TAGUMPAY NI NICO TUMAOB

NI ABIDAVE HERNANDEZ

**B**agama't matagumpay na sa larangan ng basketball si Niño "Nico" Oliver Tumaob, hindi pa rin niya nalilimutan kung paano niya naging kasangga ang kanyang lolo sa daang tinatahak ngayon; dahil sa isang DIY basketball ring nagsimula ang pangarap ni Nico na maging isa sa pinakamagaling na atleta sa bansa.

Tatlong taong gulang pa lamang ay nadiskubre na ni Nico ang kanyang talento sa paglalaro ng basketball. Kasabay ng pagkatuto niyang maglakad ang kanyang pagsasanay rin sa mga teknik at galaw na hindi niya inakalang magiging punla ng kanyang pangarap.

Sa tulong ng kanyang lolo na minsang pinangarap din na maging basketball player, ay hinasa ni Nico ang kanyang sarili. Para sa kanya, hindi na lamang ito pansariling kagustuhan bagkus paraan din upang masuklian ang tulong at suportang ibinigay ng kanyang lolo.

Naging saksi ang lolo ni Nico sa kanyang mga sakripisyo at pagpupunyagi. Mula sa kanyang mga kompetisyon hanggang sa mga trainings ay naroon siya upang sumuporta sa karerang tinahak ng kanyang apo.

Matapos mapabilang sa mga varsity player ng kanyang paaralan at makasali sa mga prestihyosong kompetisyon, naniniwala si Nico na kailanman ay hindi niya makakalimutan ang larangan ng sports na Siyan humubog din sa kanyang pagkatao. Aniya, hanggang sa pagtanda ay ipagpapatuloy pa rin niya ang paglalaro nito.

Sa huli, makilala man siya dahil sa larangang napili, hindi naman kukupas para kay Nico ang lahat ng naitulong ng kanyang lolo na nagsilbi rin niyang coach sa larong basketball at sa buhay

dala-dala ang pangarap ng kanyang lolo, patuloy na tatahakin ni Nico ang daan patungo sa tagumpay.

## NICO TUMAOB

**FEATURED  
BEDAN ATHLETE  
OF THE YEAR**



### CRADLE OF DREAMS:

## ANG TAYTAY SPORTS COMPLEX BILANG KANLUNGAN NG PANGARAP NG MGA ATLETANG TAYTAYEÑO

NI: JHON ALRAY ANGUSTIA

**N**agkukubli sa likod ng itinatayong estruktura sa dating *dumpsite* ang isang maliwanag na kinabukasang naghihintay para sa mga atletang Taytayeño. Sa unti-unting pagkakabuo ng Taytay Sports Complex, wari'y unti-unting nabubuo ang pangarap ng mga atleta, pangarap na magkaroon ng isang lugar na pagdaraan ng kanilang ensayo at lugar na magiging lunduyan ng kanilang mga layunin bilang mga manlalaro.

Lingid sa kaalaman ng nakararami na ang dating *dumpsite* na ipinasara ni Mayor Joric Gacula noon ay isinasaayos na ngayon upang maging isang **World-Class Sports Complex** na magbibigay oportunidad sa mga manlalaro na mas makapaghanda pa at mas mapataas ang kanilang tsansa na makapag-uwi ng karangalan sa bayan.

Para kay Mayor Joric Gacula, isang malaking oportunidad ang pagkaroon ng bayan ng isang sports complex na pasok sa *international standards* upang mas mapalakas at mas mapalawig pa ng mga atleta ang kanilang potensyal bilang manlalaro.

Ayon kay Gacula, tinatayang 721 million pesos ang aabutin ng pagpapatayo ng Taytay Sports Complex, subalit para sa kanya, hindi mapapantayan ng kahit ano mang halaga ang magandang kinabukasang naghihintay para sa mga Taytayeño sa oras na matapos ang pagpapatayo rito.

Kasabay ng pagpapatayo ng Taytay Sports Complex ang pangako ng gobyerno ng Taytay na tutugunan ang iba pang pangangailangan ng mga atleta nang sa gayon ay mas maging handa pa sila sa mga darating na kompetisyon.

"Napakarami sa ating mga kabataan ang napakagaling sa sports ngunit iilan lamang dito ang mga nagiging professional athletes dahil hindi natutustusan ang kanilang pangangailangan." Saad ni Bong Go.

Dagdag pa ni Gacula, hindi lamang matutugunan ng pagpapatayo ng sports complex ang pangangailangan ng mga atleta, sapagkat mabibigyan din nito ng pagkakakitaan ang mga residente sa lugar.

"Napakaraming Taytayeño ang nawalan ng trabaho dahil sa pandemya, kaya naman inaasahan namin na ang proyektong ito ay maka-*trigger* ng economic activities na makapagbibigay opportunity para sa mga local" saad ni Gacula.

Sampung taon man ang hinintay upang tuluyang masimulan ang proyektong ito, hindi pa rin maitatangi na kahit gaano pa man katagal ang bubunuin at hihintayin ng mga manlalaro bago matanggap ang benepisyong hatid nito, magsisilbi pa rin itong lunduyan ng kanilang mga pangarap, mula sa isang mabahong tambakan ng basura, ngayon ay magiging saksi na ito ng karangalan at kahusayang taglay ng mga atletang Taytayeño.

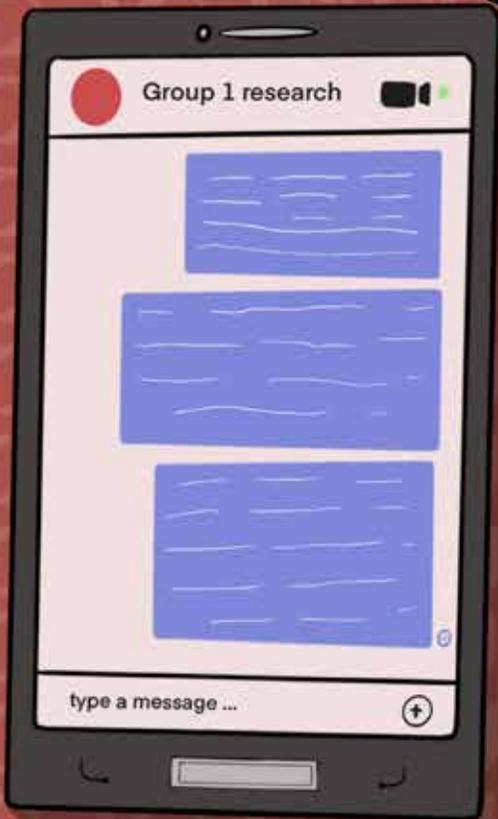
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F2F  
WHEN?

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