

DepEd-Caraga Delegation Showcases Unity and Spirit in Palarong Pambansa 2023 Opening Ceremony

Rodrigo H. Madelo Jr.



In the photo: Caraga Region Delegates for their Saludo March earlier this afternoon

Marikina Sports Center was alive with energy and anticipation as the much-awaited Palarong Pambansa 2023 commenced with a breathtaking Opening Ceremony today. Amidst the sea of enthusiastic athletes and spectators, the Delegation from the Department of Education-Caraga Region (DepEd-Caraga) stood out, capturing the hearts of the crowd with their remarkable performance of the "Saludo March."

The Palarong Pambansa, the largest multi-sporting event in the Philippines, has always been a platform for young athletes to showcase their skills, sportsmanship, and passion for their respective disciplines. This year's event was no different, with thousands of athletes from across the country coming together to compete in various sports, fostering camaraderie and national pride.

At the heart of this grand celebration the DepEd-Caraga Delegation's

"Saludo March" performance took center stage, leaving a lasting impression on all who witnessed it. The "Saludo March" is a traditional dance originating from the Caraga Region, showcasing the cultural heritage and unity of its people.

With synchronized movements, colorful traditional costumes, and heartwarming smiles, the DepEd-Caraga delegation mesmerized the audience, conveying a profound message of camaraderie and respect. Their performance symbolized the region's commitment to sportsmanship, teamwork, and unity, values that embody the spirit of Palarong Pambansa.

Throughout the ceremony, the atmosphere at the Marikina Sports Center was electrifying, fostering a sense of belonging and shared purpose among all present. The

event's theme, "Unity in Diversity," was exemplified by the collective spirit of the athletes, coaches, and supporters, transcending geographical boundaries and cultural differences.

As Palarong Pambansa 2023 officially kicked off, it became evident that beyond the competition and medals, the essence of the games lies in fostering unity, friendship, and national pride. The DepEd-Caraga Delegation's "Saludo March" epitomized these ideals, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of all who witnessed it.

In the days to come, as athletes showcase their talents in their respective sporting events, they will carry with them the memory of the awe-inspiring "Saludo March" performance, reminding them of the significance of unity and the true essence of the Palarong Pambansa.

INVEST IN GREATNESS

Pedro A. Tecson

The Opening Ceremonies of the 2023 Palarong Pambansa showcased the sea of colors from all 17 regional offices of the Department of Education, symbolizing the vibrant diversity of the Filipino cultural heritage whose unity is made visible in a spectacular fashion through the Saludo March.

The breathtaking event blended the Department's rich contribution to the development of sports in this country and the indomitable drive of the City of Marikina, led by Hon. Mayor Marcy Teodoro, to demonstrate the country's proud history and identity, accentuated by the dazzling display of music, dance, visual effects, and a host of other creative performances.

No less than the Vice President of the Philippines and Secretary of Education Hon. Sara Z. Duterte, ignited the spirit of unity, camaraderie, friendship, and sportsmanship among the participants. Likewise, the President of the Philippines Hon. Ferdinand Marcos Jr., emphasized that the event is more than just a pursuit of medals but also an opportunity to make us stronger as a nation.

Hence, the games will transform Marikina into a locus of energy, enthusiasm, and hope as competitors prove their worth in the arena while witnessed by the entire



nation. Among Caraganons, the focus will be Caraga athletes who go by the moniker "Caragold," a name that speaks of ambition and realistic expectations of the land of endless possibilities.

The 2023 Palarong Pambansa has the power to change the nation, and the Caragold will play a significant role in it when, through their tenacity and will to overcome challenges, they foster inspiration,

This event, therefore, is an opportunity for everyone to invest in greatness in all aspects of the Filipino life and soul, not just in showcasing the sea of colors of the 17 regions but also in laying a deeply rooted socio-cultural foundation for the next generations.

MARIKINA - HOST CITY



MARIKINA 2023

PALARONG PAMBANSA

CARAGOLD EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor In-Chief

Pedro A. Tecson

Associate Editors

Honey Grace Buyan

Rodrigo H. Madelo Jr.

Glaiza A. Lloren

Domingo C. Nollora

Caraga's Guardo Shines in Tennis

Elementary Girls Singles

Rodrigo H. Madelo Jr.



Guardo delivers confident strokes at game 2 of tennis elementary girls singles

In an electrifying showdown at the prestigious Palarong Pambansa 2023, young tennis prodigy Ma. Essa B. Guardo, representing Caraga Region, showcased her exceptional skills and determination as she triumphed in Game 2 against Region 1 for Tennis - Elementary Girls Singles. Her impressive performance showcased her skill and determination, earning her a well-deserved win. Congratulations to Ma. Essa B. Guardo on her triumph!

When asked about the driving force behind her passion for tennis, Guardo revealed that her family played a significant role in inspiring her love for the sport. She comes from a lineage of tennis players, and witnessing her relatives excel in the game has been a constant source of motivation for her. Guardo expressed her deep gratitude for the support and encouragement she receives from her family, which has fueled her determination to be the best version of herself on the court.

"I am truly grateful for the support. Tennis has always been a part of my family's tradition, and I come from

a lineage of tennis players. Seeing my relatives excel in the sport has been a constant motivation for me to pursue tennis and strive to be the best version of myself on the court. Their passion for the game has instilled a strong drive in me to keep improving and never give up. It's an honor to carry on the legacy and make my family proud through tennis," Guardo said with a beaming smile. Her words exemplify the depth of her dedication and the sense of pride she carries with her every time she steps onto the tennis court. Ma. Essa B. Guardo's story serves as a reminder of the powerful impact that family support and heritage can have on nurturing young talents in the world of sports.

As Palarong Pambansa 2023 continues to unfold, spectators eagerly anticipate witnessing more outstanding performances from Ma. Essa B. Guardo and other promising athletes who inspire and shape the future of Philippine sports.

About the Logo



Caraga and Gold are two words that perfectly match. "Caragold" beautifully captures the essence of a region with abundant human and natural resources, growth, prosperity, and success. The name Caraga carries a plethora of significance. It is from the Visayan word Kalagan, meaning "spirit of brave and courageous people". As gold symbolizes wealth and material blessings, Caragold is a reminder that Caraga realizes dreams and transforms ambitions into a shining reality. Caragold, like Caraganons, inspires people to take advantage of its many opportunities. It symbolizes hope, inspiration, and the golden ambitions of a nation engulfed in boundless possibilities.

Marikina: Where Nature's Elegance Meets Sporting Glory—The Palarong Pambansa 2023

Honey Grace Buyan

In the heart of the Philippines, nestled within the lush landscapes of Marikina, lies a city that has proudly taken on the honor of hosting the prestigious Palarong Pambansa 2023. This spectacular event serves as a testament to the vibrant spirit of sportsmanship that thrives amidst the natural elegance of this remarkable city.

One cannot help but be captivated by the charm and immaculate cleanliness that envelops the City of Marikina. As if touched by the wand of Mother Nature herself, the streets are adorned with a symphony of colors, thanks to the myriad of trees that sway gently in the breeze. These majestic arboreal beings stand tall as mere decorations and guardians of the city's beauty, casting welcoming shades and infusing the air with invigorating freshness.

For a wanderer like myself hailing from the Caraga region, this is a journey of firsts - a cherished maiden voyage to the captivating realms of Marikina. The city's bustling energy juxtaposed with nature's soothing embrace leaves me enthralled at every turn. The rhythm of life here beats to the pulse of excitement as athletes and enthusiasts from all corners of the nation converge to celebrate the spirit of unity through sport.

As the city preens itself for the grand event, one cannot help but appreciate the synergy between man and nature. Marikina has mastered harmonizing urban development and environmental preservation.

The meticulous cleanliness reflects the deep-rooted civic pride that its residents hold dear. Spotless streets and well-maintained parks testify to their collective commitment to maintaining a city that remains a true gem among metropolitan areas.

Beyond the awe-inspiring scenery, Marikina offers a journey of cultural exploration and camaraderie. From the hospitable locals who greet visitors with genuine warmth to the delectable array of regional cuisines, there is an abundance of delightful experiences to indulge in. The city embraces its guests with open arms, offering a blend of tradition and modernity, where heritage dances hand in hand with innovation.



Photo Credit: Marikina PIO



Photo Credit: Marikina PIO



Water Cannon Salute

Photo Credit: Palarong Pambansa 2023 Page

Champions behind the scene: Advance Party Preps for Palarong Pambansa

Glaisa A. Lloren



In the photo: Advance party transforms the façade of Leodegario Victorino ES in preparation for the arrival of the delegates

Marked with an unwavering commitment to pursue a conducive sporting environment for the young athletes, a dedicated advance party, consequently known as Team Landag, led by Dr. Elan Elpidang, Regional EPS of the Quality Assurance Division, left no stone turned since July 20 to prepare the billeting areas namely Jesus Dela Peña National High School and Leodegario Victorino Elementary School for the delegates of Caraga Region in anticipation of the prestigious 2023 Palarong Pambansa in Marikina City.

Amidst the buzz of preparations, the billeting area came alive with a touch of brilliance, adorned with golden trinkets and decorations that beautifully showcased the rich culture and arts of the Caraga Region. Every corner reverberated with colors and symbols that celebrated the diversity of the region's heritage, adding a special touch of warmth and creating an atmosphere that celebrated unique identity.

The team worked tireless, investing countless hours to transform each corner into inviting havens that em-

braced the athletes and officials from the region with a sense of homecoming. The decision to arrive early proved to be invaluable, as it allowed the team to address any unforeseen challenges with ample time. In collaboration with teachers and with the support of the community, the advance party worked tirelessly to ensure the billeting area was fully equipped with amenities and adhered to strict health protocols.

As the excitement builds for the Palarong Pambansa 2023, Caraga's advance party stands tall as

champions of preparation and foresight. Their early arrival in Marikina City is a testament to their dedication to excellence and to fostering an atmosphere of camaraderie and pride among the delegates.

With sleeves rolled up and with every detail meticulously attended to, the advance party has proven their commitment to ensuring that the young athletes and officials from their region have the best possible experience. Their story is one of determination and unity, embodying the true spirit of sportsmanship and community support.



In the photo: Team Landag, the men behind the artistic decors of Caraga's quarters



For more information about our publication, contact us through our email and visit our website for more details. You can also follow and message us on our Official FB Page: DepEd Caraga Region for the latest news updates.