



# POC Online

The official weekly online newsletter of the Philippine Olympic Committee

Excellence • Respect • Friendship

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## **Happy New Year! Looking forward to a happy, prosperous, and victorious 2010!**

2010. New hope. A new beginning.

As we enter the New Year, the Philippine Olympic Committee and POC Online wishes peace and prosperity for all Filipinos, and victory for the RP sports teams, in 2010.

Happy New Year!



Citius - Altius - Fortius

Editorial

# New Year Resolutions

As we start a new year, most people come up with resolutions – what they resolve to do, and what they resolve not to do.

New Year resolutions are often personal and have to do with what one wants for one's self. But maybe it is time we come up with resolutions not only for what we wish to do for ourselves, but what we wish to do for our country. As John F. Kennedy said in his inaugural address in 1961, "ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." And actually, what is good for the country is supposed to ultimately redound to the benefit of its individual citizens.

So as we enter 2010, I propose that we resolve to work for the following:

For the RP sports community:

1. ***Unity and excellence in sports.*** Let us exert individual and collective efforts to have unity in the sports community. Let us strive for excellence in sports that the Philippines may once more be recognized as a sports power even at least at the regional level.

For the country as a whole:

2. ***The elimination of graft and corruption in government.*** Graft and corruption in government is probably the biggest deterrent to progress in our country. Its elimination will result in the provision of more public goods and services, encourage investment and improve the business environment. For the sports community, it will mean more funds for sports development and competition. More importantly, since public office is a public trust, it will restore confidence in government.

3. ***Peace and order.*** There can be neither political stability nor true economic development until peace and order is assured. The sports community itself has suffered losses from crime and internal conflicts. Let us do our share to help end the various conflicts and prevent the criminal offenses that have made Filipinos feel unsafe in their own land.

4. ***National unity.*** Unity is not only for the sports sector or a few sectors of society. It must be for all. Let us work to be truly one nation, one people, proud to be Filipino.

5. ***An educated and enlightened citizenry.*** I have always believed that an educated and enlightened citizenry is one that is difficult to fool and easy to govern. It is also the workforce we need to successfully compete in the 21st century. Actually, a smart sports community is one that should be more competitive. Let us make our own Philippine addition to the Olympic motto of "Faster, Higher, Stronger." Let us make it "Faster, Higher, Stronger, Smarter." That will be our competitive advantage.



6. ***Honest, orderly, peaceful, and meaningful elections.*** A democratic election is the recruitment mechanism for elective officials (both national and local government executives and legislators) who will formulate public policy and/or implement them, including of course, matters relating to sports. These are also the officials who will appoint civil servants to both the executive and legislative branches of government. Thus, honest, orderly, peaceful and meaningful elections - choosing the right people and ensuring that the will of the majority is followed - is critical to our future.

7. ***Environmental protection.*** We have seen how Tropical Storm Ondoy and Typhoon Pepeng, among others, have caused death and destruction and, in one way or another, also adversely affected sports. We must do our share to address climate change and protect, preserve, and enhance our environment.

8. ***The eradication of poverty.*** Poverty is the single biggest factor that prevents the development of a just and humane society. Let us work together so that no Filipino child will be unable to have an education because of poverty; that no one will be denied medical care because of lack of funds; that there will be no homeless people because society cannot provide them with the means for shelter; that no Filipino will be denied access to sports, or the development of a sports career, due to lack of funds. Let us work together so that the Filipino diaspora will finally come to an end, and the overseas Filipino workers can at last be home, for good, for New Year.

It will be said that we cannot hope to achieve all of these resolutions in one year. Of course. Rome was not built in a day and we cannot hope to resolve the problems that have built up through the years and decades. But the journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step, and I propose we take this first step this day.

The question of how we will do it will also probably be asked. Well, that is where our individual resolutions come in. All of us can contribute our personal share, and together we can make this the peaceful and prosperous nation we and our forefathers have always hoped it will be.

Isang Mapayapa at Manigong Bagong Taon sa ating lahat!

**Benjamin I. Espiritu**  
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