



POC Online

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Olympic Day run highlights Olympic Day celebration

By: Clarito Samson

Philippine Olympic Committee President Jose Cojuangco called for solidarity in the face of adversity while International Olympic Committee Representative in the Philippines Frank Elizalde Jr. encouraged Filipinos to stay engaged in sports at any age during the Olympic Day celebration at the Rajah Sulayman grounds in Malate, Manila.

In brief inspirational messages, the two premier movers of Olympism in the Philippines also urged their countrymen to stand behind the Olympic Movement which galvanized the unity among local national sports associations.

“Malaki ang ating pagasa sa pagbabago sa pagdating ng mga bagong national leaders. Kaya hinihiling ko sa ating mga kababayan na magka-isa tayo sa ngalan ng pagbabago,” Cojuangco told a sizeable crowd of Sunday runners that included children and their parents.

“I encourage everyone to commit themselves to sports as it can only bring about good results and stay in sports even in their senior years to prolong life,” said Elizalde.

Hundreds of runners answered the starting gun for the four-division run hosted by the POC marking the 116th anniversary of the Olympic Movement that has drawn the support of more than two hundred countries all over the world.

Little-known Melvin Duarte of San Sebastian topped the 10-kilometer race with a time of 32 minutes 57 seconds to pocket the P10,000 top prize while lanky Darwin Lim of Far Eastern University submitted a 33:29 to win the second prize worth P5,000 and third was Rafael Poliquit of Letran (33:37) who settled for P3,000.

In the 5-k race exclusive for individuals in wheelchairs, the top three finishers were Juanito Mingarine (19:21) Julius Obero (19:37) and Marcos Rabasto (19:43). All three won the same amount of cash prizes.

The 2-k race for kids 13 years and under hosted by sponsoring firm Hi-Smart Vitamins, turned into a Leveriza Running Club show as Barely Nichelle de Vera upended the field with her 8:07.11 to win P3,000. Second was Rance Gavian (8:46.49) for P2,000 and Anderson Arawag (9:32.60) was third for P1,000. HI-Smart provided all entries with shirts, towels, gift packs and supply of vitamins.

POC Sports for All Committee chairman Joey Romasanta said the success of the event would not have been achieved without the support of official drinking water, Magnolia, Milo Energy Drink, Gandiva, supplier of archery gears, Smart, the Mabalacat Tribal Association, and the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association, which provided the top three prizes for a raffle that benefited participants in the 2-k fun run for individuals of all ages.

“We just renewed our commitment to work behind the Olympic Movement,” noted Romasanta adding that this year’s celebration was boosted by the presentation of the Youth Olympic Games torch prior to the start of the races.

Scenes from the Olympic Day Run



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