



Overseas Palarong Pambansa delegation meets Qabayan Radio

by Ethan Nepomuceno

Qabayan Radio interviewed Philippine Schools Overseas (PSO) athletes and coaches who took part in the Palarong Pambansa 2024 on September 14 this year.

PSO basketball athletes John Vistal (a current Grade 12 student of Philippine School Doha (PSD)) and Aaron Llanes of Philippine International School Qatar (PISQ) were interviewed together with coaches Michael Comia of PSD and Mike Pioquinto of PISQ in a radio program titled '*Filipino Students in Qatar: Debut and Success at Palarong Pambansa.*'

The interview was led by a Qabayan broadcaster, RJ John, who asked questions about the challenges faced by the players/coaches during the game.

Amid the interview, Vistal mentioned that the squad practiced for less than a month. And there were ample missing members when they went to the Philippines. The lines above were espoused by Llanes who disclosed that despite the situation, they still bonded and played as a team.

Further, coach Comia disclosed (when RJ asked him) in a few lines that it was his first time to encounter these two schools joining together in a basketball game. There were even times when these two schools had their basketball game, they had difficulties in accepting defeat, but when they joined forces, they realized that it would be possible for them to be on one team.

Coach Comia also added that before these players went to the Philippines, they experienced a series of training and other challenges in order to be used to the weather and other challenges that can be met in the Philippines. Despite the training, the PSO players admitted the setbacks of their performance in the Palarong Pambansa since this was their first time joining this kind of match.

Coach Pioquinto supported the lines above by noting that the level of competition among players in the Philippines was notably high, as they demonstrated a passion for the sport. This observation was added by saying that the players should take it as a learning opportunity for themselves, as they competed against the athletes in the Philippines.

One of the players (Vistal) reflected amid the discussion that being part of the Palarong Pambansa could be an opportunity for them since not all basketball players could play in this game in the Philippines. This was the reason why they trained hard and did not waste this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

The program also featured Aeious Cruz of PISQ, who garnered a bronze medal in the taekwondo event at the Palarong Pambansa, and Rica Taqueban, the taekwondo coach. The interview revolved around Cruz's experience and balance with school life.

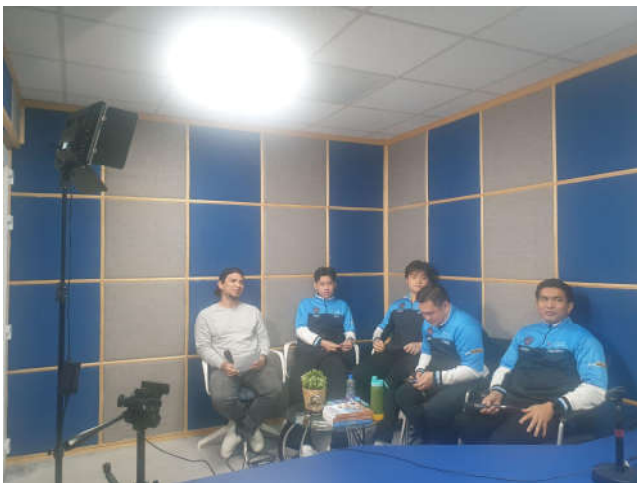
Though the PSO basketball squad did not win any games, their participation still marked a significant milestone in Palarong Pambansa. It was even disclosed by the players that as representatives of overseas Filipinos, the game they participated in showed insight into their preparation, mindset, and performance.



PSO squad concludes its interview with a photo featuring host RJ John.



Llanes answers RJ John's inquiry on what basketball is for him.



The players and coaches prepare prior to the interview.