

PRESS RELEASE

EMBASSY AND PHILBALL OPENS THE BIGGEST ANNUAL SPORTS EVENT FOR OFWs IN LEBANON



Ambassador Leah Ruiz delivers her message to the 22 participating teams



Vice Consul Dennis John Briones during the ceremonial toss



The RP Eagles team won the 2013 best in cheering squad competition



Vice Consul Briones (third from left) and Labor Attaché Bulyok Nilong (fourth from right) with the representatives from PHILBALL, IREMIT (sponsor) and the team captains for the opening game

19 July 2013 – The officers and staff of the Philippine Embassy, POLO and OWWA, led by Ambassador Leah M. Basinang-Ruiz, attended on Sunday, 14 July 2013, the opening ceremony of the Philippine Basketball League in Lebanon (PhilBall) 7th Iremit Cup, an annual basketball and volleyball tournament organized by the PhilBall, an organization composed of the different Filipino community associations in Lebanon. This basketball and volleyball tournament is the biggest Filcom sports event in Lebanon now in its 14th year. The Sunday-only basketball and volleyball games are being held from 14 July 2013 up to the first Sunday of October 2013, at the Michel El-Murr Stadium in Jdeideh (north of Beirut).

Eleven (11) teams are competing for the men's basketball, namely: Bakod, RP Eagles, Chopsticks, Filipino Community Association (FCA), Western Visayas Association in Lebanon (WEVAL), Filipino Investment Association (FIVA), Manila Samafil, Filipino Workers Association in Metn (FILWAM), Solid Brothers, Rockers, and Mistah. There are also eleven (11) teams for the women's volleyball namely: Bakod, RP Eagles, FCA, WEVAL, FIVA, Manila Samafil, FILWAM, Solid Brothers, Rockers, Mistah, and LUVZIMINDA. The awards given during the opening ceremony were for Best Muse, Best in Uniform (basketball and volleyball) and Best Cheering Squad.

In her inspirational remarks, Ambassador Ruiz commended the leaders of the Filipino community organizations comprising PHILBALL for once again bringing together the Filipino workers in Lebanon through this sports activity. She urged the teams and their supporters to promote camaraderie and goodwill and to always cooperate with one another in the true *Bayanihan* spirit. END

URGENT

To : SFA
Rt : PISU
Fr : Beirut PE
Re : **Press release on the opening of the biggest sports event for OFWs in Lebanon**
Dt : 19 July 2013
Cn : ZLB- -2013

The Embassy transmits the attached press release, for uploading to the DFA website, regarding the opening of the biggest sports event for OFWs in Lebanon, which is being supported by the Embassy. The Embassy also transmitted to PISU's email the soft copy of the press release and JPEG files of the photos.

For PISU's appropriate action.

LEAH M. BASINANG-RUIZ
Ambassador

Attachment: As stated.