

- Video games

## Mayors league opens 1st e-sports tourney

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QUEZON City Mayor Maria Josefina Belmonte, the acting national president of the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP), announced on Thursday the launching of the group's first Mobile Legends Bang Bang (MLBB) tournament at the Solaire Resort North.



“Today, we are now launching the first ever Mobile Legends Bang Bang Tournament,” said Belmonte, who cited the Philippines for excelling in e-sports such as in Southeast Asia and the rest of the world.

“E-sports is a new thing brought about by technology. Too much of anything is bad. But if it's done in moderation and if it's good for the child, then it's okay,” she said.

The tournament will run until February next year, according to Bacolod City Mayor Alfredo Abelardo Benitez, LCP national chairman.

Victorias City Mayor Javier Miguel Benitez, LCP's focal mayor for youth and sports development, said the tournament would enable the country's 149 cities to showcase their local youth talents in e-sports.

The overall champion will receive a cash prize of P3 million.

Cagayan board member AJ Ponce, LCP-MLBB commissioner and the event organizer thanked Belmonte for hosting the event.

“We are hoping to get the first gold medal in e-sports in the world,” Ponce said.

The Philippines is the title holder in SeaGames in e-sports.

Saudi Arabia hosted the first World Cup in e-sports and the Philippines placed second.

There would be two winners per city who would compete in the regional qualifiers and the national championship.

There are about 100 professional Mobile Legends players in the Philippines.

The tournament is sanctioned by the Games and Amusement Board (GAB).