

Ceremonial Turnover of Commemorative Murillo Velarde 1734 Map to SB19

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It is a profound honor to stand before you today to celebrate a group that has not only captured the hearts of millions but has elevated Filipino pride on the global stage—SB19.

As I present this commemorative award, featuring the historic Murillo Velarde 1734 Map, we are reminded of the powerful symbolism it holds. This map, one of the earliest detailed depictions of the Philippine archipelago, is more than just a geographical document; it is a testament to resilience, cultural identity, and the courage to chart new paths even in the face of challenges.

In much the same way, SB19 has journeyed through the rigorous world of entertainment, blazing a trail for Filipino talent worldwide. With their resilience, creativity, and passion, they have become a guiding light, inspiring those who dare to dream of a brighter future. Just as the Velarde Map once guided explorers to new frontiers, SB19's music and dedication serve as a beacon for the next generation, lighting the way toward endless possibilities.

Pablo, our dedicated leader and main rapper, was born in Imus, Cavite. "I dedicate to you, Pablo, the vignette showing Cavite on the Velarde Map." Pablo's journey has been a testament to determination and self-belief. He has not only been the backbone of SB19's music but also its heart, pouring his emotions into lyrics that have touched the lives of many. In 'Go Up,' we hear the line, "Kahit anong mangyari, ako'y tatakbo, patungo sa liwanag," meaning, "No matter what happens, I will keep running towards the light." This captures Pablo's resilience, reminding us that even in a world filled with noise, there is strength in speaking one's truth and moving forward. Like the Velarde Map—originally used as a colonial tool—Pablo's journey reclaims and redefines purpose, transforming challenges into symbols of Filipino resilience and pride.

Josh, the charismatic lead rapper and sub-vocalist, hails from Las Piñas City, in Metro Manila. "I dedicate to you, Josh, that proud place called Pinas on the Velarde Map." Josh's life story of overcoming hardships and finding his purpose through music resonates deeply with many of us. His journey from facing life's challenges to embracing his artistry symbolizes the essence of 'going up,' of rising beyond circumstances and emerging stronger. In 'Crimzone,' he embodies this spirit with the words, " Now we run / We go hard



like / We'll lose none." It's a song about putting in hard work—blood, sweat, and tears—to achieve one's goals. He carries the courage of countless young Filipinos who dare to dream, regardless of their beginnings. Just as the Velarde Map invites us to look beyond its borders to honor a legacy of integrity, resilience, and unity, Josh inspires us to reclaim our heritage with pride and purpose.

Stell, born in Las Piñas City and raised in Manila. "I dedicate to you, Stell, the vignette of Manila on the Velarde Map." Stell brings not just his voice but his soul to every performance. As the main vocalist and choreographer, Stell's dedication to perfection transcends singing; it's about giving his all for A'TIN. His voice soars like the peaks of our archipelago, reminding us of the beauty and strength of our culture. In their song, entitled 'Kalakal,' the line says, "You can't stop this, we gonna get it. Who can? None, 'cause we born to take it." This reflects Stell's passion, radiating brightly and guiding others, just like the stars that once guided Pedro Murillo Velarde, Nicolas dela Cruz Bagay, and Francisco Suarez. These stars, long used by explorers to navigate tumultuous seas through dark nights, are a testament to our heritage. Like the Velarde Map, Stell's voice and dedication are a beacon, guiding future generations to honor the past and embrace their own journeys with pride.

Ken, main dancer and lead vocalist, known for his individuality and dance mastery, was born in Maragang, Tigbao, Zamboanga del Sur. "I dedicate to you, Ken, the vignette with Samboangan on the Velarde Map." Ken's journey to SB19 reflects a willingness to embrace his uniqueness while staying true to his roots. His love for his hometown and cultural background shows that we can reach global heights while remaining deeply connected to where we come from. This echoes the lyrics of 'What?'—"Walang makakatigil sa'kin, patungo sa aking hangarin," meaning "No one can stop me from pursuing my aspiration." Ken's artistry speaks to those who dare to be different, proving that authenticity is the key to breaking boundaries. Just as the Velarde Map, lost for 300 years, has returned to our shores to inspire and remind us of our deepest aspirations, Ken embodies a journey of rediscovery and resilience, encouraging us to forge a path to our people's destiny.

Last but not the least, Justin, the youngest member, sub-vocalist, and creative director—born in Caloocan, now from Malabon City. "I dedicate to you, Justin, that proud place called Tambobo on the Velarde Map, which is now Malabon and Navotas, your birthplace and the birthplace of Nicolas dela Cruz Bagay, the engraver of the Velarde Map." Justin represents the bright future of Filipino talent. He brings not only his creative vision but also a deep compassion and understanding for the group's fans. His dedication to making every performance meaningful reflects the intricate connection between the Velarde Map and its details; every line and drawing tells a story, just as every note and movement Justin makes conveys emotion. In 'MAPA,' the words "Pasan mo ang daigdig, 'di mo na kailangang mag-isa," or "You're carrying the world, but you don't have to do it alone," remind us that even the strongest among us need support, just as explorers needed guidance on their journeys. The Murillo Velarde 1734 Map now stands as a guardian of our shared journey, symbolizing



unity as we navigate a world shaped by globalization and interdependence, inspiring Justin, SB19, and a new generation to carry forward the strength of our heritage into the future.

SB19, you are more than just artists; you are modern-day navigators, charting a path for the future of P-pop and elevating Filipino talent to the world stage. Just as the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map has endured centuries, may your legacy also stand the test of time, inspiring countless generations. You remind us that our culture, language, and stories are treasures worthy of global recognition.

This commemorative map, a testament to our history, symbolizes the courage to embark on new journeys—where Filipino pride, resilience, and ingenuity shine brightly for the world to see. With this award, we honor not only where you have come from but also where you are leading us: toward a future of unity, strength, and limitless potential.

Congratulations, SB19. Thank you for being our modern-day mapmakers, guiding us toward a brighter future for Filipino music and culture. As carriers of the spirit of the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map and its enduring love for our people, may you continue to 'Go Up,' illuminating the path for the next thousand years.

Shine brightly like the stars, proving that no challenge is too great for those who dare to dream.

