

PRESS RELEASE

Official Statement Regarding Fil-Euro Nation Select Organizational Transition and Leadership's New Ventures

Charles Turell Vuong and Banj Abeleda have announced the collaborative decision to step away as Fil-Euro Nation Select Co-directors effective immediately.

After extensive discussions and careful consideration over the past several months, the leadership team of Charles Turell Vuong, Banj Abeleda along with Karl Pangisban, John Manzon and Mark Barrozo have made the decision to officially step away from Fil-Nation Select and Fil-Euro Nation Select and move onto a separate venture.

After two years of leading Fil-Euro Nation Select, the leadership has seen significant growth and development having delivered 12 Identification camps across Europe in 2026 as well as increasing participation within the program by 160% since its first year before bringing the curtain down on an encouraging two year reign, which has seen the program facilitate twelve scholarship opportunities for athletes within Asia. Significant staff members 2026 NBTC head coach Terence Mustre, community leaders Audrei Orijuela, Bayani Buena, Tom Morey will follow and leave their roles within the organisation. In addition, the media workforce that has brought visibility to the brand - led by Media director Angelo Lumandas - will also vacate their positions immediately, with the media team reuniting with the rest of the workforce in a new direction.

Confirming his decision, Vuong outlined the reasons behind it and the timing of today's announcement, placing particular emphasis on the need for clarity at the earliest opportunity in order to create the conditions for an orderly transition to take place in due course.

"I have nothing but pride in what has been built through Fil-Euro Nation Select. I firmly believe in a generation of athletes capable of changing the landscape of basketball for European-based talent. One of the greatest privileges in my life has been the opportunity to develop, mentor and lead the athletes and coaches placed in front of me. Because of this, I remain deeply grateful to the communities, families, players and coaches who have supported our vision and believed in what we are building together. While the journey continues to evolve, the objective remains the same - to consistently improve and provide meaningful opportunities and experiences for Filipino-blooded athletes across Europe. As we move forward, we do so united, driven by purpose, pride and a shared commitment to the next generation. Here's to the next chapter together."

Vuong along with Banj Abeleda were appointed as Co-directors in December, 2024. It was a decision that would elevate the program that Co-founders Clive Castillo and Cristian Gopez built from the ground up, bringing intrigue and hope to an otherwise untapped community.

Fil-Euro Nation Select have managed to grow its NBTC & Manila Live participation each year since its inception - having started with four teams under Clive Castillo's authority and seven teams (85+ athletes) in 2025 and an impressive eleven teams (125 athletes) this past March under the leadership of Abeleda and Vuong. In addition, delivering twelve identification camps (250+ athletes) across Europe and three development mini camps in the lead up to NBTC hosting hundreds of athletes across multiple events.

A NEW ERA - FIL EURO UNITED

Abeleda and Vuong - along with its workforce - are pivoting in a new direction and unveiling a new platform that will provide alternative playing and coaching opportunities, blending the practice-based model along with regular competition across Europe with an emphasis on player development, where it will be named Fil Euro United. Effective immediately the organisation will undergo its first operational events this June.

Vuong said "This transition is not about division but about vision. We are proud of everything that we've built together and deeply appreciative of the coaches, players, families, and supporters who have contributed to the community over the years."

Abeleda added: "Our priority as leaders within the European community of Filipinos has always been the athletes of the next generation and their families. First, we will continue with the same motivation to improve our services, cultivate a unique learning environment for each and every person that entrusts us with their development. Second, to continue the due diligence behind the scenes which will allow our operations department to adapt as a new organisation without the expertise of Fil-Nation Select and create our own identity. As ever, our ambition will always be pursued with the best interests of those involved within the program. How can we continue to serve our community to the best of our abilities and how can we maximize each and every experience regardless of where each athlete is within their journey".

With a combined 30+ years of experience in player development across grassroots to the professional level our leadership will usher in a new era aimed at developing talent. Having worked on the National level, with national level athletes the coaching staff will continue to build an environment for young people to hone their skills, elevate each other and enjoy the process of learning the game.

"Fil Euro United reflects a long-term vision for the future of basketball development in Europe. We believe this new chapter closely aligns with our values and mission. Our focus moving forward will centre on athlete development, community building and creating meaningful opportunities for players and coaches across Europe. We believe in building an environment that prioritizes authentic growth, player-first development, and long-term impact within the basketball community."

We remain fully committed to creating a thoughtful and productive calendar that reflects the value our community deserves and we are motivated to continue creating opportunities for our young people through our own development program, in-house competition, supporting and collaborating with our neighbours around Europe as well as continue participating in travel tournaments such as NBTC and Manila Live with which our community have supported these past 3 years. We are confident that those in positions of leadership will continue to prioritize the growth and development of the next generation of Filipino talent, ensuring that the focus remains on opportunities on the court rather than politics off it. We are UNITED.

About Fil Euro United

Founded in 2026. For more information, visit fileurounited.com and follow on social media @fileurounited

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