

# RP teener bags Malaysian squash title

JEMYCA Arebado won the girls' under-17 crown last May 10 in the third leg of the 17<sup>th</sup> Sportexcel-Milo National Junior Squash Circuit in Bukit Jalil, Malaysia.

The 15-year-old Arebado, a third year student at Makati High School, put away Singaporean foe Sherilyn Yang, 7-11, 11-3, 11-3, 13-12, in their championship showdown to earn her first-ever crown in an international competition.

The title win also enabled Arebado to atone for her setback last year in the Milo All-Stars, where she settled for runner-up honors. She also had semifinal finish in the Hong Kong Junior Open.

She said her best showing against more seasoned opponents is yet to come because the ones who beat her last year were not around.

*"Hindi naman ganoon kagaling iyung mga nakalaban ko. Pero, sa country nila, sila na ang pinakamagaling,"* said Arebado.

Arebado talked about her experience after she and members of the national team were honored by officials of the Squash Racquets Association of the Philippines and her sponsors during a gather-

ing last Wednesday at the Makati Sports Club.

SRAP president Romeo Ribano said Arebado's feat has inspired the association to seek the help of the Philippine Sports Commission and some private sponsors in a tougher tournament in Hong Kong this August.



**AREBADO**

"The only way for her and the national team to improve and go up in their level is to give them exposure abroad," said Ribano after businessman Sanjeeb Gopaldar of Shalimar International gave Arebado a brand-new titanium-graphite racquet that evening.

SRAP director and actress/model Tweetie de Leon and secretary-general Allan Tantoco were at hand to congratulate the Jaime Ortua-coached national squad and their team manager Romeo Dona.

Teammate Yvonne Alyssa Dalida settled for fifth place after bowing to Michelle Wong Cheong Mei of Sarawak, while Reymark Begornia was 16<sup>th</sup> in the 19-under boys' side. David William Pelino was also 16<sup>th</sup> in the 17-under category.

**Peter Atencio**