

Good Life eludes many Filipinos

MANILA — At his vegetable stand on a busy street in the Philippine capital, Lamberto Tagarro is surrounded by gleaming, modern skyscrapers, between which a river of luxury vehicles flows.

“The Philippines is the rising tiger economy of Asia,” Mr. Tagarro said. “But only the rich people are going up and up. I’m not feeling it.”

Mr. Tagarro earns the equivalent of about \$5 a day working before dawn and after dark, battling petty corruption to maintain his improvised sidewalk stand and dealing with rising wholesale prices for the onions and tomatoes he sells.

The Philippines, with a 7.8 percent expansion of gross domestic product in the first quarter of 2013, has the fastest-growing economy in East Asia, surpassing even China’s. The country has a red-hot stock market, a strong currency and a steady stream of accolades and upgrades from international ratings agencies.

GOOD LIFE
continued on page 11

The show must go on - for Yolanda Victims

Typhoon Yolanda brought unprecedented loss of life and property to a big part of the Philippines that Filipinos worldwide rallied around with every kind of relief drive to send help for the victims. Here in Toronto, there were concerts, auctions, donations of goods and money, bingo games, impromptu pageants and parties to raise funds for the victims. On facebook alone, I canbarely keep up with all the evetns happening left and right, and most of them, on the same night, day and time. Some organizations opted not to have any Christmas party and instead send the proceeds as their contribution. Other organizations cannot simply cancel the events as it is logistically impossible. Others went ahead but donated a portion of the proceeds, like the Camilineos Association of Canada. The Filipino Centre Toronto (FCT), with their Ms. FCT Paraluman pageant dinner night decided to donate all the net proceeds to the typhoon relief.

IN PHOTO, Anita Diaz of Ready Honda of Mississauga models her traditional dress at the FCT Miss Paraluman Pageant at Rembrandt Hall.



Merry Christmas to Everyone!

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First, kailangan nila talaga; others are occasions like birthday, anniversary, Valentine’s day, Graduation and Christmas day.

But most of all (atin-atin lang ito ha...) mahirap kasi i-resist ang temptation ng mga sales on stateside blue jeans, designer t-shirts, latest rubber shoes at saka mga de lata at rock bottom prices.

That’s why addicted tayo sa pag Fo-Forex. Okey lang because by being so, we feel a deep sense of satisfaction na nakakapagdulot tayo ng kasiyahan at pagmamahal sa kanila sa Pilipinas.

Don’t worry, play basketball

TACLOBAN - In ravaged Tacloban City, one of the first things to be rebuilt was a makeshift basketball court, allowing teens to momentarily

BASKETBALL
continued on page 24

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PCCF SUPPORTS FILIPINO MISSION RELIEF EFFORTS



Volunteers with Fr Ben Ebcas, Rosemer Enverga and OLA parishioners

TORONTO - Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation or PCCF Officers were one of the first responders in the Filipino Mission or AFCM Appeal led by Our Lady of the Assumption Church Pastor, Fr. Ben Ebcas, to help the victims of super Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda. PCCF Officers travelled all the way from Mississauga to deliver bags of clothes and boxes of canned goods. Almost all of the officers immediately heed the call to help the typhoon calamity victims. They cleaned up their closets with usable clothing, dry goods and blankets. They ran across their neighborhood grocery stores to buy canned goods for

the victims of the calamity. True to the PCCF vision of advocating for charity, PCCF's member organizations, officers and supporters individually delivered their cash donations at 2565 Bathurst St. church hall.

The material donations are not enough to satisfy the PCCF's desire to help, some members and officers were the first volunteers to do the sorting of goods and the packing of boxes at the relief centre in the basement of the Our Lady of the Assumption Church. To date, efforts at the Filipino Mission at OLA has generated over 400 boxes of relief goods to be shipped to Leyte and Bohol. PCCF has donated almost \$30,000 to build houses for the poor in the Philippines through ANCOP www.ancopcanada.com and thousands more



to various charitable causes and calamity victims. PCCF activities like Pinoy Fiesta, Miss Philippines Canada, Little Miss Philippines Canada and Mrs. Philippines Canada are organized to be able to assist the poor and the needy.



Jerika Ejercito Opens Up on Her Depression

Jerika Ejercito moved to London when she was just 16 years old. She came back to Manila nine years after, and had to battle through depression and culture shock. Jerika, the eldest daughter of former President and now Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada with Laarni Enriquez, suffered from depression in early 2012. She sought professional help and started eventually the "I Am The Issue Foundation."

The reasons for her depression were because she left her friends in London, and the Philippines has a very different culture and tradition. When she was in London, she was fiercely independent and no one was telling her what to do.

Jerika said she has already moved on from her depression stage. Some people linger with this feeling, but the presidential daughter was able to cope because of the help of the people who supported her.

That's why "I Am The Issue" was born because Jerika wants to raise awareness that depression is an issue that must be dealt with by professionals.

In her foundation, there would be focus group discussions on what makes the members feel depressed over something. Jerika related the services being offered by the foundation are going to be free for the less fortunate.



Naku HA! by Jose Baking
LMConfidential.com

“Ford voters are less educated”



Remember the conclusion from a study that concluded “George Bush voters are stupid?” Well, a story published in the Star concludes that Ford voters are less educated. We’ll see what happens on election 2014. Now, the Toronto Star tries to get support for Ford opponents by doing the same thing. It published a study that For voters are “less educated.” If there is one thing that voters do not like is being insulted that if they vote for a certain candidate, they are stupid. What happens is that even people who are not planning to vote at all go out and vote for that candidate. It is what happened to the US election between George Bush jr and John Kerry. We all know that happened. Will it happen to Rob Ford in election 2014? We will see.

TRANSLATION OF POLITENESS

When Canadian newspapers write an article, they have a way of being polite. Here is an example.

CANADA’S NATIONAL POST ARTICLE

Canada’s DART (Disaster Assistance Response Team) hits the ground Running in Philippines

SUBTITLE- Shrewd Planning bypassed possible logistics delays

TRANSLATION OF WHAT THE WORD “LOGISTICS” MEANS - Corruption, Government Officials, DSWD Dinky Soliman, Politicians, etc, etc...

Sending aid to the Philippines is starting to sound like a military operation.



In this case, the enemy is the Philippine government, bureaucrats and politicians (INCLUDING VP BINAY WHO WAS NOT ALLOWED BY US MARINES TO GET IN THE AID AREA)

who want to get their hands on the aid. The mission of aid agencies is to reach the victims directly. What will Canada send next time there is disaster in the Philippines - special forces to escort the aid? US marines were actually ordered to make sure to keep the aid packages away from politicians. Other countries might follow suit and send their special forces too just to make sure aid arrives to the people who needs it. Ano ba naman ito? Tayo na tinutulungan, sinasmanatal pa natin. Kitang-kita ang corruption by the rest of the world. Nakakahiya na. Aparently, not for some politicians sa Pilipinas. Hindi na marunong mahiya. Sus Guinoo naman.

WHY CHINA GAVE SMALL MONEY TO TYPHOON RELIEF

With the pork barrel issue being buried by disaster stories, is it wrong to ask “with all that money the government has, why is it not being used for recovery

operations after every disaster?” If it has been diverted

to politician’s pockets, why not divert it again to help the people? Can you blame China for just giving \$100,000? It is either they know the victims will not get it or it might be used to buy arms, ships, ammunitions, aircrafts to fight them. We all know that China has been flexing it’s muscles, even encroaching on our territory, right? Or has every forgotten that too? The other countries can afford to give big because they are not having a “war” with the Philippines. Not to mention, the money they are giving is a drop in the bucket for from their budget but big enough to put the disaster areas -past and present maybe - back to normal. That is, if all the money really go to the disaster areas and the victims. But they made up for it. China sent a hospital ship.



GIVE ME THIS, GIVE ME THAT

Why is Mar Roxas enumerating to CNN reporter what the Philippines needs as if it is the obligation of foreign countries / government / donors to fulfill them or give them? His tone of voice makes it sound as if he is demanding even. The Filipinos are grateful, specially the victims - current and past - in the typhoon areaS, but some government spokespersons being interviewed after every disaster gives the impression that they expect more necessities to be delivered by foreign entities (government, aid agencies, Filipinos abroad and their associations) when they are asked what is needed. Isn’t foreign help just supposed to supplement what the government is doing, assuming it is doing something. If the foreign media and foreign aid agencies did not come, the disaster area would have been ignored by the Philippine government and all we’ll hear are government soundbites about “it’s under control and everything is back to normal” without verifications from any local media.



Spotlight

Paquito Diaz

Villain to the Stars



Francisco Bustillos Diaz (May 28, 1937 – March 3, 2011[1]), better known by his screen name Paquito Diaz, was a veteran Filipino actor and movie director. He specialized in action and comedy.

Diaz was born in Pampanga, Philippines. He was famous for his villain roles, either as the main, supporting or comic relief and he was one of the most popular actors in film industry, although he also had the ability to portray protagonist roles, mostly supporting, or comic relief (with his longtime friend, the late Fernando Poe Jr.. In fact, he had also portrayed a non-villain role in “Walang Matigas Na Tinapay sa Mainit na Kape” and “Ang Dalubhasa”(with his unoustache) It was his late younger brother, Romy who played as the main villain of the film. Other non-villain appearances include Eagle Squad, where he plays as a dedicated and good police officer as opposed to his other corrupt police roles alongside Robin Padilla, Current Senator Jinggoy Estrada, Edu Manzano, and Jaime Fabregas as the main antagonist, Bayadra (a parody of Viagra) Brothers alongside Jimmy Santos and the late Berting Labra, Estudyante Blues as the father of the character of his son Joko, and Pera O Bayong as Don Juanito Starring Willie Revillame, John Estrada and Randy Santiago with Mark Gil as the right hand man of his character and the main antagonist of that film.

He also appeared in villain roles in comedy films as the main antagonist and also in supporting/non-villain roles that stars mostly Dolphy, Vic Sotto, Joey De Leon, Jimmy Santos, and the late actors Babalu, Panchito and Rene Requiestas.

He suffered from hemorrhagic stroke in 2002 and died March 3, 2011 due to pneumonia complications.

His father was an American citizen of Mexican descent. His brother, Romy Diaz, his wife Nena Diaz with children Joko and Cheska are also actors. Before he became an actor, he was a basketball player with his brother Romy Diaz suited up with the FEU Tamaraws in the early 1960s.

After suffering from hypertension and stroke, which at one time left him comatose, he had to sell the family house and lot including his car. His vision was impaired for the same health reasons. He was diagnosed with pneumonia and infection due to sepsis.

Scenes in the City



ABOVE, Chief of Police, Bill Blair, with the Asia Pacific Community Consultative Committee held a Q&A Session with the public. This very successful event was held at the Japanese Cultural Centre on November 12, 2013. PHOTO BY ARIEL RAMOS



FV Foods’ Mel Galeon and Flor Vendiola pose with Canada’s Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

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LAUGH
RESORT

Battle of the Brainless

JUAN: San gnagawa ang uling?
PEDRO: Sa coal center!
PEDRO: Ano tawag sa yaya ni Nora?
JUAN: Maid of Aunor!
JUAN: Ano mas malaki pa sa CITY?
PEDRO: Utsu!
JUAN: Ano tagalog nang street?
PEDRO: Diritsul!
PEDRO: Ano hayop walang gilagid?
JUAN: Hmmmmmm Lang gum?

Ticket

PEDRO: Wow pare! Nood ako sine kanina, ubos 1000 ko!
JUAN: Ha? bakit?
PEDRO: Bili ako ng bili ng ticket, pinupunit nung babae sa pinto! adik ata!

Horoscope

PEDRO: Pare, anong horoscope mo?
JUAN: Ano ba yung horoscope?
PEDRO: Yung tulad sa akin Cancer.
JUAN: Ah yun ba? Ang sa akin almuranas!

Husband call from USA

HUSBAND: Hon musta ang tindahan?
WIFE: Dept store na!
HUSBAND: Ang tuba-an?
WIFE: KTV bar na!
HUSBAND: Ang mga trickad?
WIFE: Taxi na!
HUSBAND: Ang dalawa kong anak?
WIFE: LIMA na!

Silent Relationship

(Deaf & Mute lovers nag uusap)
BOY:
GIRL:
BOY:
GIRL:
BOY:
GIRL:
BOY:
GIRL:
So sad, brake na sila...

Honey Shot

Scottish-Filipino, 18-year old Courts, as she is called by would like to be a nutritionist. She wants to be successful and have a family at the right time. She plays football and volleyball, watch movies, go shopping, and go on road trips! She loves animals, makeup, summer activities, baking and spending time with people she loves. She hates spiders and needles and drastic changes in life! She loves sushi, spring rolls, bubble tea, chicken wings, sweet potato fries! Her inspiration in life is her cousin, Gayle Baylon - the MC at her debut and choreographer of the cotillion dances. Her life's rule is "Don't let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game!" She is the godchild of community leader Dr. Victoria Santiago.



Courtney Hernandez

Eric Quizon quits
TV5

Is there an exodus of stars and crew in TV5? That is the impression we are getting as several celebrities and TV crew have already left the network to join other TV stations. One of those is Amy Perez, who has decided to leave TV5 to join ABS-CBN, where she now co-hosts the return of 'Singing Bee' together with her good friend Roderick Paulate.



We have also learned that even several TV crew are leaving the struggling network. Ryan Agoncillo recently revealed that many of his staff in the TV5 defunct show 'Talentadong Pinoy' are now in ABS-CBN, where they currently work as the team behind his wife Judy Ann Santos' weekend game show 'Bet on Your Baby.'

Eric's talent manager, Dolor Guevarra, has confirmed reports that Eric abruptly tendered his resignation as the director of TV5 weekly series 'Positive.' However, Dolor refused to reveal the reason behind Eric's surprising decision.

'Positive' is a weekly drama series aired every Thursday night at 9 p.m. on TV5. It aims to be an innovative project as it claims to be the first local TV series to tackle the struggle and issues of people who have been inflicted with the HIV/AIDS virus.

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Rosemer Enverga

Awarded as one of the 100 Most Influential Filipina Women in the World

Rosemer Enverga was selected from a huge list of nominees from all over the world, the Global 100 awardees were officially announced during a Gala Awards Ceremony and Celebration at the 10th Filipina Leadership Summit held on October 24-26, 2013 at the Mark Hopkins InterContinental Hotel in San Francisco, California. Some of the distinguished awardees were Loida Nicolas Lewis, Chair, Reginald F. Lewis Foundation ; Dr. Tess Mauricio, GMA TV host; Cora M. Tellez, President & CEO Sterling Health Services; Nina Aguas, COO Philippine Bank of Communications; Jocelyn Ding, VP, Google; Delle Sering-Fojas, CEO of 77soft.

Upon acceptance of the award, Rosemer thanked all her supporters and reiterated that the award is a tribute to the work of all the people who supported her and an honour for all the passionate and dedicated Filipina-Canadian volunteers all over Canada.

Enverga's award was under the Founders and Pioneers Category. This award honored Filipina women in their capacities as the chief executive, president, executive director or founder



U.S. Lawyer Rodill Rodis, Rosemer Enverga, Loida Nicolas Lewis, Senator Enverga and Imelda Nicolas.

of a company, community organization, non-profit, or business venture that they helped start, build or significantly grow. This award category is for the trailblazers who have marshaled resources and applied innovative practices, processes and/or technologies in a new and groundbreaking way to address a significant business or organizational opportunity. Enverga was recognized for

her passionate and unselfish volunteer work with various organizations and events in Canada. Most recently, she was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal by the Governor General of Canada.

Congratulations to Rosemer Enverga, she is a great pride for all Filipinos and Filipino-Canadians!



Lovi Poe Doesn't Want To Publicize What She Did For Typhoon Victims

Lovi Poe would much rather keep whatever she did for the typhoon victims low-key. She said as long as she did something, that's alright for her. There's no need to publicize her small way of helping.

She was then asked what she was feeling about the criticisms being hurled against the Aquino administration because of its snail-like pace in delivering the relief.

Lovi said it's hard to judge anyone because she is sure everyone wants to help in their own way. The only problem is that it is also hard to find sincere people who do not have an ulterior motive.

She only hopes it will not go to a point where officials will engage in finger pointing already. She prays that everybody in the relief operations is out there to really help the victims of the typhoon.

Asked how her father, the late Fernando Poe Jr., would have handled a situation like Yolanda, Lovi said she is confident her father would do a lot of things for the victims.

It's not that she's against the current government, the actress clarified. She just believes her father would be effective in his role as President if he was given the chance.

Meanwhile, Lovi explained why she has always been quiet when it comes to her relationships. She said that she doesn't actually denies anything, but she just doesn't want to comment to give respect to her partner.

"It's not about denying things, it's about keeping things private. Kumbaga, I know na I'm a public figure, pero siyempre, there are things that I wanna keep din for myself."

Hong Kong residents warned vs. insulting 'Yolanda' victims

Hong Kong (HK) residents will break the law if they post abusive or derogatory remarks online against Typhoon Yolanda

survivors.

Hong Kong's Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) cited their race discrimination ordinance, which makes it unlawful for any person to publicly incite hatred or severely ridicule another person on the ground of their race.

EOC Chairperson Dr. York Chow said, the negative sentiments of Hong Kong residents towards the Philippine government in connection with its handling of the Manila bus hostage incident three years ago should not be

extended to the victims of Yolanda.

Last month, Yolanda, considered the strongest recorded cyclone in the world in 2013, ripped through the Visayas region.

Hong Kong lawmakers earlier said they are planning to impose economic sanctions against the Philippines in connection with the hostage crisis, which left eight Hong Kong tourists dead following a bungled rescue operation.

Schools in New Zealand raise 750K for Aid

NEW ZEALAND - Campbell Live devoted today's show to a special report on the generosity of young Kiwis, visiting schools around the country as they raised money for the Philippines Emergency.

Their generous efforts are part of

a Campbell Live initiative that has now raised more than \$750,000 for Unicef's work in the stricken country.

Kiwis have donated by texting HOPE to 3181 to make an automatic \$3 donation, with Gareth Morgan matching the first \$200,000 donated via text, individuals and businesses have contacted Campbell Live to make lump sum donations, and today's school fundraisers have pushed the total even higher.

Hundreds of schools throughout New Zealand today had mufti days,

coin trails, sausage sizzles to raise more money for Unicef.

At Manurewa South School they did 'jump jam', and it was 'wacky hair day' at Wainui Primary.

At Ponsonby Primary School they had a pyjama day, raising hundreds for the Philippines.

There were bake sales, tug-of-war games, face painting, dancing and more.

Rosemer Enverga receives an Award



FIRST, with Apl De Ap or Alan Pineda of Black Eyed Peas Band SECOND, Rosemer Enverga a Pinay Power THIRD Rosemer Enverga with Dr. Tess Mauricio host of a GMA Pinoy TV Show FOURTH Rosemer Enverga speaking after receiving award

JDL Performing Arts presents Disney :
A Spectacular Showcase

MISSISSAUGA - “Breathtaking” is how to describe the night at the Port Credit Auditorium in Mississauga, as the Josie de Leon School of Performing arts’ students, sang, acted and danced to well loved Disney favourites !

The place was packed to full capacity of proud parents, friends and families .

Miss Josie de Leon , the founder, made a quick welcome speech and then the magic began .

They started with “ Circle of Life “ from The Lion King which was sung by the young and talented Maria Salac , who’s voice just lingered throughout the hall , causing goose bumps galore . The kids were all dressed up in animal costumes who sang in harmony .Some of the audience even cried to the scene ! It was really a very moving opening number, I must say .

The Little Mermaid soon followed, this segment was so cute seeing kids from as young as 5 years old , who sang and danced colorfully as different kinds of sea creatures on their “Under the Sea “ number . They were all such a delight to watch !

Musical numbers from Mulan , Tangled, Brave,Pocahontas , Cinderella, Princess and the Frog and Aladdin soon followed . All segments unique on its own with perfect costumes props and sets changing on every segment ! I could not even believe how Princess Jasmine and Aladdin flew on their magic carpet right before my very eyes as they sang “a Whole New World,” one of my personal favorite Disney song.

I learned that all these props and sets were hand made by the JDL parents led by Jun Cerbas with the supervision of Studio Six ‘ creative director , Jing de Leon .

After the intermission , more exciting numbers followed . They opened up with an impressive Beauty and The Beast “ production with Elle Delizo leading the cast as Belle.

Hercules , Enchanted , Toy Story, Sleeping Beauty, Hunchback of Notre Dame and the cutest-ever Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, were part of the second half, again all numbers were just jaw-dropping amazing ! These students were really into their roles and every character nicely portrayed.

The last few numbers that made the audience sing and dance along were from High School Musical , headed by Matthew



Sabido and Shy Garrido .

“I feel so guilty to have paid only \$15 to watch this Disney Show! I am happy for what JDLSPA is doing to these kids to develop their singing, acting and dancing ” says Noel Buenaventura.

The Disney showcase was really a fun and magical night to remember and I know that putting together a Disney show, is not at all easy and JDL performing arts, presented it in the most creative way one could ever imagine!

Kudos to the power couple Josie de Leon

and Mark Crescini and their mentors, for a well put together showcase that really made each and every JDL student shine !



Angel Locsin Urges
Car Collectors To Buy
Her Vintage Car For
Yolanda Victims

Angel Locsin continued to call on car collectors to make a bid for her 1970 Chevrolet Chevelle, which she put on the market lately for the victims of Typhoon Yolanda. All proceeds will go to the victims, she said.

Angel didn’t initially want to reveal that she was the owner of the car, but a car magazine revealed her name when they researched about the car’s owner.

The award-winning actress said she had to go to another country in order to buy the car and personally check it. She added that the car is one of her favorites out of her collection.

Also, “Sobrang mahal ko yung sasakyan na yun. Pinuntahan ko pa ito sa ibang bansa para hanapin talaga.”

She believes the proceeds from the car sale will benefit a lot of people in the typhoon-ravaged areas.

Aside from putting her car in the auction, Angel is also very active in volunteering for Red Cross. She also asked some of her endorsements to provide relief goods to the victims.

The actress is also very proud to be part of “Tulong Na, Tabang Na, Tayo Na!” benefit concert. She is thankful to ABS-CBN big bosses for supporting the said concert.

“Hindi naman kasi lahat may time magbigay, pero gumagawa pa rin ng paraan na makatulong kahit papaano.”

Asked about how she was able to move on from her recent breakup with Azkals team captain Phil Younghusband, Angel said she’s just showing the best of Filipinos.

“Ganyan talaga ang mga Filipino, e. Kapag nalugmok, babangon at babangon ‘yan. Ganun naman ang mangyayari basta magtulongan lang tayo.”

IPEN Beauty Pageant



FROM LEFT, Dr. Solon Guzman poses with Mutya ng Pilipinas Canada winner; Dr. Solon Guzman receives a placque of Recognition from IPEN; Meghan Garvida sings in the talent portion; Tracey del Rosario performs for the crowd; Meghan will compete in an international competition next year; FV Foods’ Flor Vendiola receives a placque of recognition from IPEN.

After tense meeting with Aquino, Tacloban businessman back in Business



LEFT, NEW BUSINESS. Tacloban-based businessman Kenneth Uy had his head shaved to show that he has moved on and is ready to embark on a new beginning. Photo by Voltaire Tupaz/RapplerNEW BUSINESS. Tacloban-based businessman Kenneth Uy had his head shaved to show that he has moved on and is ready to embark on a new beginning.

RIGHT, HOT 'YOLANDESAL'. After Yolanda, trader Kenneth Uy opens the same business that his grandfather started in the 1930s when he first arrived in Tacloban - a bakery. Photo by Hector Go HOT 'YOLANDESAL'. After Yolanda, trader Kenneth Uy opens the same business that his grandfather started in the 1930s when he first arrived in Tacloban - a bakery.

TACLOBAN CITY, Philippines – “Ok lang, buhay ka pa naman (It’s ok, you’re still alive anyway).”

This was what President Benigno Aquino III supposedly told local businessman Kenneth Uy in a tense briefing where he reportedly walked out after another businessman, Jeff Manibay, recommended the imposition of martial law in typhoon-affected areas.

It was November 10, just two days after Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) devastated Tacloban City and the rest of Leyte province, and relief had not reached the surviving residents. Local officials and businessmen discussed their urgent needs with Aquino, recalling one instance when Uy was fired at by looters in downtown Tacloban.

Uy vividly remembered the day Yolanda battered his city. “The day after the typhoon, I didn’t want to wake up, I didn’t want to stand up, because when I looked out of the window, I saw that it was true – that we’ve been really hit by a typhoon, that it is really going to change our life,” Uy said.

Uy has recovered since then. By the time the President returned to the province on Monday, November 18, Uy was back in business. He has shaved his head to show that he has moved on and is ready to embark on a new beginning.

Businessman’s nightmare

Yolanda has become every businessman’s nightmare, even worse than bankruptcy, Uy told Rappler in a conversation in front of his hotel along Zamora Street.

It is now one of the safest streets in Tacloban City. Uy’s hotel, the Asia Stars Hotel, served as the nerve center of the augmentation team sent by the Philippine National Police (PNP) to help restore peace and security in the city. Police generals, media,

and international aid groups are staying there. A room costs about P2,500 a night.

Across the street from the hotel were remnants of panic and disorder: destroyed stores and restaurants. Broken bottles of medicines littered the front of a pharmacy.

A few blocks away, the grocery that Uy’s family owned – one of the oldest in the city – was ransacked. It survived cutthroat competition from Gaisano and Robinsons malls but not the hunger and desperation of the typhoon victims.

‘Crazy’ businessman

“You have to be a little bit crazy if you want to start a business now. I think I’m crazy enough, and I think I can find a few more crazy people around to join me,” he said.

He did. On Sunday, November 17, he started selling prepaid call cards that came from Cebu. On Wednesday, November 20, he will open a tiangge (flea market) with some local traders he invited.

The store will sell food, water, toiletries, fuel, and gas – scarce commodities that are badly needed in the affected areas.

Water is locally sourced. Canned goods, toiletries, and fuel will come from Cebu. Suppliers from Samar will bring in vegetables beginning Friday, November 22.

UnionBank and Banco de Oro will also have desks at the store to receive deposits and service withdrawals.

The two banks, together with government-owned Land Bank of the Philippines and the Development Bank of the Philippines, will open ahead of other banks, which will reportedly resume operations on Friday yet.

“We have to put the infrastructure for people to buy so that those who can afford will not line up for the relief goods. The people who really need help should get the relief goods,” Uy said.

In a press briefing on November 20, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) executive director Eduardo del Rosario said “we are happy that there is now economic activity” in



the region.

Last businessmen standing

Almost 80% of the local businessmen have left Tacloban City, according to Uy. He decided to stay, just as he did back in college when he had the option to leave and study in Manila or abroad.

“I told myself, if you go somewhere else, then I don’t think Tacloban deserves that. She has been good to us. She has been good to our parents, to Lolo and Lola (to Grandpa and Grandma),” Uy said.

Uy’s grandparents, traders from China, arrived in Tacloban in the 1930s. His grandfather, Uytingkoc, started a bakery that expanded into businesses that include a grocery, an ice plant, and a rice mill.

His Australia-based brother is coming home to help him rebuild their business.

Others may have left, but it doesn’t mean they are not coming back, Uy said.

“They’re eager to start again, to start their businesses, but there are questions that they (government) have to answer first,” he said.

Security is top on the business sector’s list. They were not only traumatized by the typhoon but also terrified by the looting incidents. Electricity and banking are other important concerns.

We will die here

“They (businessmen) really blame the government. They move too slow. Puro salita lang. Nakikita naman, ‘di ba (They’re all talk. Isn’t it obvious)?” Uy’s cousin, Jojo Uy, told Rappler on his way to Manila.

Jojo temporarily left Tacloban to bring his wife and her family to Manila. They felt helpless when they saw their goods and those from other stores being looted. They no longer feel safe in the city.

Jojo said he will return to Tacloban after a week or two, depending on how the security situation in the city will improve.

Other businessmen also want to go back to restore commerce and help “their people” in need.

“We have no choice. We live there,” he said.

He echoed what his cousin, Kenneth Uy, said back home: “I don’t think you can move San Juanico Bridge. I don’t think you can move the Sto. Niño Shrine. Those are the things that we have grown old with. And hopefully, we will die here.”



Angelica Panganiban Is Ready To Settle Down With John Lloyd Cruz

If John Lloyd Cruz proposes to Angelica Panganiban next year when she turns 28 years old, the actress is ready to finally say her “yes.”

As a kid, Angelica used to say she will get married once she reaches the ripe age of 28 years old. Now that she is 27 years old and in a committed relationship, she cannot see any other reason why she would decline if John Lloyd would ask her.

But if her boyfriend of more than a year does not propose until she reaches 31 years old, then Angelica joked it might be better if she will find someone who wants to marry her by that time.

She downplayed reports that she wants to have a baby already. Angelica said she still needs time to enjoy being a married woman once she finally settles down.

The media noticed John Lloyd is getting into a healthier lifestyle now that he turned 30 years old. Angelica said she wasn’t the one to push her boyfriend to get healthier. It was his own decision because he’s not getting any younger anymore.

A person cannot be motivated enough if he/she is not the one who wants that particular change in his/her life, the actress noted.

“So, maganda na sa kanya nanggaling yung effort na yun.” John Lloyd is into biking and running now.

Asked about her partner’s drinking habits, Angelica didn’t deny that John Lloyd still drinks now. But very moderately, she defended. She is happy with his decision to take his drinking down a notch.

Angelica is well aware of the rumors circulating that the reason why they last is because they are both heavy drinkers.

To this, the actress gave an example: if a certain artist is a drug addict but he/she performs well professionally and doesn’t hurt anybody in the process of his “bad” habits, shouldn’t the public not make any derogatory comments about that artist? Should his/her personal actions be taken away from his/her professional life?

“I mean, ginagawa ko ang trabaho ko. Nasa trabaho ako, nagpe-perform ako nang maayos, ibinibigay ko yung best ko. At kapag gusto kong mag-enjoy, mag-enjoy ako.”

ANGELICA continued on page 27

Marco Sison Benefit Concert for KCCC



Singer Marco Sison held a fundraising concert for Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre. FROM LEFT, Marco Sison sings with Josie de Leon; FV Foods Mel Galeon and Flor Vendiola poses with Marco Sison; Genelie, Flor, Nadeene, Ampee and Aubrey poses with Marco Sison; Philip Beloso poses with Marco Sison; Maria Panaligan and Ed Tubale poses with Marco Sison.

Filipino sa Toronto

Canada to quadruple emergency aid to PHL

TORONTO - In a crowded church basement, surrounded by boxes of emergency supplies donated and packed by parishioners, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced a quadrupling of Canada's aid to the typhoon stricken Philippines.

Canada's commitment to emergency aid and rebuilding following Typhoon Haiyan goes from \$5 million to \$20 million, plus a program of matching grants that will double Canadian donations to registered charities for typhoon relief between Nov. 9 and Dec. 9.

The prime minister made the announcement at Our Lady of Assumption church, the official Filipino parish in Toronto, while parishioners gathered upstairs for a special Mass for victims of the storm.

In a statement, Harper said: "Our government has taken decisive action to address the ravages of the typhoon by working closely with the Filipino-Canadian community, relief agencies and the government of the Philippines to provide ongoing support to those who need it most."

Canada's official aid to the Philippines started with a \$30,000 contribution to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies Nov. 8. Another \$5 million was pledged to humanitarian organizations and for emergency relief on Nov. 9. The \$15 million announced Nov. 18 will go to the United Nations agencies



Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced a quadrupling of Canada's aid to the typhoon stricken Philippines on Nov. 18, 2013.

engaged in emergency relief, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and other NGOs.

The Canadian military has sent its Disaster Assistance Response Team, DART, to the Philippines provinces of Iloilo and Capiz to provide clean water and medical assistance.

Ottawa has helped a 12-person Canadian Red Cross medical team get

its field hospital on the ground in the disaster zone and sent an interdepartmental team of federal civil servants to Manila to consult with the Filipino government.

At Masses everywhere in the Archdiocese of Toronto, 224 parishes have prayed for the Philippines.

"There is a solidarity of love and prayer," Cardinal Thomas Collins told parishioners of Our Lady of the Assumption at a Nov. 15 Mass for

typhoon victims.

Collins emphasized the communion all Christians share with the suffering through Christ.

As the day began Friday Nov. 15, the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace had already collected \$255,000, all of which will be matched by the federal government.



PNP Arrests Beauty Gonzales For Obstruction Of Justice

Beauty Gonzales, former housemate of the ABS-CBN reality show "Pinoy Big Brother," was reportedly arrested by PNP-CIDG Region 4B for helping her brother, Michael, escape from justice.

Michael is being implicated in a human trafficking case. He was arrested last November 14.

Beauty was apprehended apparently at 2am on Monday at the Batangas City Port. Police Supt. Ruel Atayde Ferrer, the head of CIDG-MIMAROPA (Region 4B), made the reports.

According to the police, Beauty is now in their custody.

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China hospital ship heads for typhoon-hit Samar



ZHOUSHAN – A Chinese hospital ship set sail for the typhoon-ravaged Philippines, with foreign media given unprecedented access to a navy base as Beijing seeks to promote its aid effort nearly two weeks after the disaster.

The Peace Ark, a 300-bed floating navy medical facility, sounded its horn as it set off from a People's Liberation Army base on Zhoushan island, off the eastern province of Zhejiang.

It is expected to take three or four days to reach the Philippines, which is embroiled in a territorial row with China.

"With our efforts, we will make great contributions to the relationship between the Chinese people and the Philippine people," Shen Hao, deputy chief of staff of the East China Sea Fleet and commander of the mission, told reporters allowed on board the vessel before it left.

"We will do our utmost to make contributions to the Philippine side."

The deployment of the ship, which was featured on the front page of China's state-run Global Times newspaper, comes as the world's second-largest economy seeks to counter international criticism of its relief effort.

After an initial outlay of only \$100,000, the Chinese government has gradually upped its aid over the past two weeks, contributing \$1.6 million worth of tents, blankets and other supplies. Other Chinese organisations are also contributing, and a first crew of relief workers left for the Philippines, China's foreign ministry said.

By contrast, Japan has contributed \$30 million to the Philippines, and the US has donated \$20 million. Even the Swedish furniture group Ikea's charitable foundation surpassed China's initial outlay with a \$2.7 million contribution to the UN children's agency UNICEF.

There is no sign outside the navy base announcing its identity, and officials said it was the first time foreign journalists had been allowed inside.

Rows of uniformed navy officers and sailors lined the quayside alongside the white hospital ship, which was flanked by naval warships in the dock.

Medical personnel in blue camouflage

uniforms waved from the Peace Ark's deck as it pulled away from port.

One sailor's wife clutched a Chinese flag and said: "I'm proud of my husband. It's OK for the ship to go to the Philippines despite the state of relations."

Shen said the ship had just returned from another humanitarian mission in October, and commanders had cut short a one-month maintenance period to send it to the disaster zone. The Peace Ark will initially be stationed in Samar province, but how long it remains in the Philippines will depend on the situation, officials said.

Sun Tao, head of the ship's hospital, said it had more than 100 doctors and nurses on board, and can handle eight surgeries simultaneously.

Doctors expect to handle disease caused by insanitary conditions and paediatric cases, he added. Another batch of emergency medical rescuers left for the Philippines later. A 50-strong team left from the city of Hangzhou in Zhejiang province, the report said, adding many of them had taken part in rescue work after the Sichuan earthquake in 2008.

They will establish a field hospital to offer medical services for typhoon survivors and work on disease prevention and control.

Leyte inmates return after mass escape during Yolanda

PALO — Nearly half of the detainees who escaped from a flooded jail at the height of Super Typhoon Yolanda have returned, many after helping their families deal with the storm's aftermath.

There were nearly 600 detainees at the Leyte Provincial Jail when the typhoon, one of the strongest ever to make landfall, flattened dozens of towns across the islands of Leyte and Samar on November 8.

The winds ripped off the roof of the prison, which houses detainees who are on trial, while gushing water from the mountains sent flash floods into the isolated complex near the ruined coastal town of Palo.

Prison guard Fidencio Abrea told AFP all of the detainees escaped as head-high water forced them to clamber up the prison grills and then over into stormy freedom, with no roof to contain them.

Abrea said the guards were themselves sheltering from the howling wind and powerful rains, so did not notice the mass escape. But he said 251 prisoners had come back, and were now being housed in a section of the complex that suffered minor damage.

Returnees interviewed by AFP said their immediate concern after escaping was to check on or help loved ones, and that they came back because they did not want to ruin their chances of being exonerated at trial.

"I returned because I want my freedom to be legal," said Renato Comora, 47, who is on trial for murder.

Comora said he initially went to his wife and six children in the town of Dulag about 30 kilometers (18 miles) away. "My family is OK, there are no casualties but my house is totally destroyed," he said. "I just wanted to make sure that my family was safe. After that, I returned on my own because I don't want to live the life of a fugitive."

Oldarico Raquel, 36, who is on trial for attempted murder, said he also escaped because he wanted to see his family.

His house was destroyed and he helped put up makeshift shelters for his family and relatives before returning to the jail, where he and 17 other inmates were packed in one cell.

Return to prove innocence

Danilo Tejonas, 51, who is on trial for rape, said he returned because he was innocent of the charge. "After escaping, I helped my family harvest rice for three days before I returned," he said. "I could have stayed away but I decided to come back because I am innocent of the charge. I want my case to be finished so that I can get free legally."

Thirty-two-year-old Jessie Abalos said he escaped so that he could go and help his 60-year-old mother rebuild their home in the town of Tolosa. "Our house has been blown away. So I helped my mother put up a temporary shelter, then I returned," said Abalos, who is on trial for drugs charges.

Asked why he had returned, he said he was afraid of living a life as a fugitive.

Jail officials said prisoners are returning directly to the compound or just presenting themselves to a prison van that drives around the disaster zones looking for the detainees.

Palo and the nearby provincial capital of Tacloban remain scenes of near complete chaos, two weeks after the storm that has left nearly 7,000 people dead or missing.

Prison guard Abrea said returnees would have the court hearings of their cases speeded up, giving the innocent a chance to be set free more quickly.

But those who did not return by a certain date would be formally declared as "escapees".

"Once they are declared as escapees, they will be hunted down," he said.



Kapamilya sells T-shirts for Aid

As we continue to watch the developments unfold on the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda, all of us have acted swiftly to reach out and help those who have been affected.

While we are truly grateful and overwhelmed with the support and financial assistance here in Canada and all over the world, our work to help rebuild lives and start anew is just beginning.

Apart from the urgent action of ABS-CBN Foundation through its Sagip Kapamilya Disaster Relief Program, the network has also introduced the TULONG NA, TABANG NA, TAYO NA! project as a way to raise funds for the typhoon victims.

TFC is selling these T-Shirts at \$10.00 each plus regular mailing cost (if unable to go to the designated pick-up points indicated below). ALL proceeds will be directed to the Typhoon Yolanda fund. For inquiries and orders, please contact the following:

Evelyn Cruz at 647-527-0722 or email at evelync71@yahoo.com

TFC Canada Office - 416 601 1886 or email at ffc-canada@abs-cbn.com

MyRemit (Wilson/Bathurst) - 647-748-2270 or 71

FV Foods (Bathurst) - 416-638-2700

FV Foods (Dufferin) - 416-739-0200

FV Foods (Lawrence) - 416-751-7555

FV Foods (Mississauga) - 905-270-9001

FV Foods (St.Clair) - 647-351-1853

Aurora Cajucom (Mississauga) - 905-782-0313

Kulturang Pilipino (Hamilton) - 905-540-9999

Philip Beloso (Toronto/Scarborough) - 647-267-9649

Marilis Padilla (Montreal) - 514-735-8188

We hope you could help us spread the word.

Sama-sama nating pagtulungan ang muling pagbangon ng ating mga kapamilya!

Maraming salamat po!

TFC Canada

ROUNDTABLE: Prime Minister Harper meets the Filipino Community

Community Roundtable: Prime Minister Stephen Harper meets with some of the Filipino community leaders in Toronto, accompanied by Sen. Tobias Enverga, Jr. (C, Ontario) at the Filipino Chaplaincy in Toronto. The meeting was also participated in by Rev. Fr. Ben Ebcas, Jr. -- Director of the Filipino Chaplaincy and Pastor of the Our Lady of Assumption Church; and Philippine Consul General Junever Mahilum-West.



Life after Yolanda Lessons from Indonesia and Haiti

BY DR. WILLIAM SABANDAR AND LILIANNE FAN

It has been difficult to process the destruction of Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda), which flattened villages across 36 provinces in the Philippines. The United Nations now estimates that 2.5 million people are in need of food aid and close to 600,000 have been displaced.

The tragic images that have begun to reach the outside world are flashbacks to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. The scale of the devastation is colossal, and survivors traumatised from the disaster and the loss of their loved ones, homes and livelihoods are desperate for food, water, shelter and medical assistance. Aid workers struggling to reach survivors face severe access challenges due to damaged infrastructure, insecurity and the remoteness of many affected areas. Many survivors remain cut off from assistance. While the full scale of the destruction is not yet known, it is clear that we are facing a massive and complex humanitarian crisis that will require a massive relief and recovery operation.

Saving lives, rebuilding homes and sustaining livelihoods is extremely challenging, especially in large-scale disasters. The international community struggled to rebuild Haiti after the 2010 earthquake and hundreds of thousands are living in camps to this day. In Aceh and Nias, houses and infrastructure were successfully rebuilt after the tsunami, but insufficient support was provided for sustainable livelihood recovery.

These past experiences of large-scale disaster responses can offer the Philippines, and those responding to the crisis, some lessons to best support the millions who have lost loved ones, homes and livelihoods.

Leadership is needed on the ground, with the people

The most critical element of any post-disaster relief and recovery operation is leadership – and that leadership must be as close to the ground as possible. This means that, while international assistance is urgently needed, the response must be firmly under the leadership of the Government of the Philippines, and it must involve the people affected by the typhoon.



Strong government leadership and coordination, combined with community-driven recovery, was key to the Aceh-Nias reconstruction process; the lack of both was among the biggest obstacles to the post-earthquake recovery effort in Haiti. Instead,



WELCOME RELIEF. Filipino typhoon victims rush to get relief goods from a US Navy Sea Hawk helicopter in the super typhoon devastated town of Salcedo, Samar. Photo by Francis Malasig/EPAWELCOME RELIEF. Filipino typhoon victims rush to get relief goods from a US Navy Sea Hawk helicopter in the super typhoon devastated town of Salcedo, Samar.

the country was overrun by international aid agencies, many of whom had little understanding of the country’s social, political and cultural context. So while the focus now is on responding as quickly as possible to urgent humanitarian needs, we must recognise from the start that, without local leadership, both from the government and the communities, the response will not be sustainable, effective or beneficial for those affected by the crisis.

Don't let humanitarian response dominate recovery

After immediate needs subside, people will want to rebuild their homes and livelihoods as quickly as possible, and should be helped to do so. Failure to do this played out in the worst possible way in Haiti after the earthquake. Shelter was an incredible challenge – with nearly 300,000 houses damaged or destroyed, over a million and a half people ended up living in tented camps, many of them for years. Land rights in the country were complex and challenging, but the majority of aid agencies opted to provide their own solutions and locate people in camps, or provide expensive prefabricated ‘transitional’ shelters – that were not permanent homes by nature – rather than a more concerted effort supporting people to return quickly to their neighbourhoods and rebuild their homes themselves. To this day, hundreds of thousands of Haitians are still living in camps.

In Aceh, the government ensured that any agency working on shelter for those affected by the tsunami was obliged to construct homes – permanent solutions for those rendered homeless. However, while many homes were built or rebuilt, aid agencies were overwhelmed by the amount of building contracts they had to manage, which took time and capacity from other areas of response. There were also few options for supporting people to rebuild their homes themselves, either through grants or

loans, which would have ultimately been a more sustainable and cost-effective way to provide people with the homes most appropriate for their needs.

Recovery efforts in Indonesia were also dominated by a focus on housing and infrastructure, but livelihoods recovery received inadequate support. After the reconstruction operation, many people had new homes, but had not regained their sources of income. Livelihoods and job creation are essential elements of recovery and are ways to kick-start economies hard hit by disasters. But livelihood recovery takes quite a lot of time and, partly because of tight funding time-frames and donor pressure to spend funds quickly, livelihood programmes tended to be short-term after the tsunami.

As we saw in Indonesia after the tsunami, such crises inevitably leave deep and indelible marks on the lives of the survivors, and future generations to come. This can be positive or negative; Typhoon Haiyan can be remembered as a devastating tragedy that many communities were never able to recover from – or one that was overcome by supporting the people and government of the Philippines to rebuild lives and livelihoods, reflecting the needs, priorities and concerns of those affected by the disaster.

Dr. William Sabandar is the Special Assistant to the Head of the Presidential Delivery Unit of the Government of Indonesia and former Director for Nias at the Government of Indonesia's Executing Agency for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (BRR) of Aceh-Nias 2005-2009. He also served as Special Envoy for the Secretary of ASEAN for Post-Nargis Recovery in Myanmar from 2009-2010.

Lilianne Fan is a Research Fellow at the Humanitarian Policy Group of the Overseas Development Institute in London. She has previously served as Housing, Land and Property Coordinator in the IASC Shelter Cluster in post-earthquake Haiti, Recovery Adviser to the Special Envoy for the ASEAN Secretary-General for Post-Nargis Recovery in Myanmar and Senior Policy Coordinator for Oxfam in post-tsunami Aceh, Indonesia.



Jennylyn Mercado Doesn't Want To Talk About Luis Manzano Anymore

When the media asked her about ex-boyfriend Luis Manzano, Jennylyn Mercado cried foul and refused to answer the questions. She was tired of having to explain all over again what happened, and of having to deny certain rumors about them.

“Tahimik na lang, tahimik na lang. Ayoko nang mag-comment, tapos na, tapos na.”

It's their personal decision to part ways, she said, completely debunking rumors that there was a third party involved.

Asked if this breakup is more painful than all the other breakups she went through in the past, the actress said all kinds of breakup is hard for the persons involved. She refused to compare her relationship with Luis to her past ones.

She also said she's better now than before, although she doesn't want to say she has already moved on.

Jennylyn was further prodded if she still cries over her breakup with the TV host. She didn't want to answer it, and said that she'll just keep that information to herself.

However, she wouldn't mind bumping into Luis one of these days. The actress can hold her head up high against her former flame. She also wants to maintain a good relationship with Luis' mother, Batangas Governor Vilma Santos.

She has always been very accepting of Jennylyn, the actress said, and she didn't see or wouldn't speak ill of the Star For All Seasons.

“Si Tita Vi, very loving, napakabait niyang tao. Wala po akong masabi talaga.”

Jennylyn insisted there was no third party involved in the breakup. Some reports said her “relationship” with ex-boyfriend Dennis Trillo triggered the breakup.

She is even briefly linked to Senator Bong Revilla. “Nakakahiya naman kung pati siya idadamay. Respeto naman, nakakaano naman yun.”

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Filipino Good Life

Comedians carry the Show Underrated Pokwang brings life to a Kilig Concert



A comedian carries a show as Pokwang did in the TFC Reloaded concert. ABOVE, Pokwang brought life and laughter to a show that might have been all kilig without the entertainemnt. INSET TOP AND BOTTOM, Sam Milby and Piolo Pascual brought the kilig factor. BELOW RIGHT, Angeline Quinto can crack some jokes but seems to be asking for Pokwang for help near the end of her segment.

I was lucky enough to be invited to the TFC Reloaded concert at the Sony Centre featuring Pokwang, Sam Milby, Angeline Quinto and Piolo Pascual. That was also the order that they appeared. Well, there was the game portion at the beginning of the show which was hosted by TFCKat 2012 winner Russell Figueroa. The main portion of the show started with Pokwang. She brought laughter with her Darna skit and other jokes. It was hilarious. Her skit on saving a man from two muggers brought the house down. The final scene of the skit involves her lying down on her belly, with the fog machine blowing to simulate her flying away, then asking the male victim to hop on behind her and telling him

“we’re escaping.” It was just funny. Afterwards, she said to the man, “naramdaman ko iyon. Sinundot mo ako.” Then, came Sam Milby, Angeline Quinto and Piolo Pascual who sang some songs while chatting to the crowd,who could hardly care less if they said anything or sang anything at all. They could have just stood there on stage and the crowd would probably be happy. Angeline Quinto can crack some jokes with her singing but has to rely repeatedly to mentioning some sponsors that no one will remember by the end of the show as her form of adlib. In fact, near the end of her portion, she seems to be begging for Pokwang to come out and save her.



“Oh, I think Pokwang will join me,” she said but Pokwang never came out. Of course, the last to come out is the one who will get the loudest cheer just by appearing - Piolo Pascual. However, in the end, you remember that you enjoyed the whole show. Others will remember it as the night they saw Sam, Piolo or Angeline. Me, I’ll remember the show that Pokwang brought life to. The life of the show opens the show, as if they are a front act. Then, good looks come after another until the end.

IPEN crowns it's Beauties



Doctor Solon Guzman and FV Foods' Flor Vendiola (BOTH IN BARONG) pose with the Mutya ng Pilipinas Canada who will represent the Filipino community at the pageant in the Philippines.

SOMETHING NEW FOR FV FOODS

FV Foods is more innovative in terms of everything. As we know we are dealing with big market, we are ready and prepared in all our tasks. We are strong in all aspects so that we can sustain everything that we have. We apply business wisdom that makes sense because as we know it's more than knowledge, facts and figures.

Opening business branches help you develop and grow in new markets or geographical locations. As FV Foods will soon to open its new branch located inside Sheng Thai Supermarket @ 1255 Markham Rd., South of Highway 401, we will serve communities with a wide array of competitive and best products, convenient access and unsurpassed customer service for all. This is our goal and this is what we live for.

As we bring our vision to realization. We are all excited to open our new branch inside Sheng Thai Supermarket. This will be the seventh branch of FV Foods. We will showcase Filipino cuisine, different cakes and desserts ready for take-out. Each food captured its special unique taste. Its perfection depends on its details that deliver fulfillment and satisfaction. Its taste designed to challenge the boundaries and art of food and captivated the hearts of every people.

As Christmas time approaches, experience the holiday season from our mouth-watering and tempting products in our new location. We are most loved food and pastry maker because we bring everyone together in joyful merrymaking by serving a feast like no other.

The multitudes of its taste contribute to a holiday celebrated by the Filipinos in a fiesta tradition. From the appetizing variety of cuisine to unmistakable flavors of desserts to luscious Christmas food gifts will complete your Christmas day, as it blended by unique cooking style and culture with a Filipino touch. Indulge with our wide variety of Filipino breads for you to enjoy. You must discover why our scrumptious premium products taste as good as they look because we use premium ingredients, such as excellent cake flour and high quality butter.

Holiday food is a statement of the Filipino Family close ties, so what are you waiting for? Visit our nearest FV Foods branch and enjoy our different products that will surely make your Christmas a merry one. As we make them with great passion, we bring and deliver our products that will best satisfy our valued customers for this season.

So hurry! We are inviting everyone to witness and be part of this once in a lifetime experience at the grand opening of our seventh branch this holiday season. For your convenience, we also accept any credit and master card. Experience and celebrate with us the life with our finest products. We will assure you as we explore our business we will never stop satisfying your needs and wants. Mabuhay ang FV Foods! Where ever you are here in Canada, we are here to serve you!

Happy Holidays!

Forex and Umac send boxes sent by Fil-Core

TORONTO - FilCore Support Group updates, boxes was pick up already by UMAC, thank you Joseph Alilio.



Fil-Core members are busy packing typhoon relief boxes which was delivered by UMAC door to door.

Following people will receive the boxes in behalf of the typhoon victims.

Bernadette Cometa - 1 box and baby box
Binabag, Bogo City
Cebu Philippines 6010

Marianita G. Seares - 2 boxes
#31 Lorgata Street
Bantayan Island
Cebu 6052
Philippines

Rosanna Llagas - 2 boxes and Baby box
Block 33 Lot 11
Xavier Heights Upper Balulang
Cagayan De Oro City
Philippines 9000

Lucia Salubre - 2 boxes and Baby box
Brgy.
Pamulogan
Cabatuan,
Iloilo
Philippines
5031
And another person from Iloilo City.



Forget what Happened by Basketball

BASKETBALL continued from page 1

They found the hoop in the ruins of their obliterated neighbourhood. They propped up the backboard with broken wood beams and rusty nails scavenged from vast mounds of storm-blasted homes.

A crowd gathered. And on one of the few stretches of road that wasn't overflowing with debris, they played basketball.

I didn't know what to think when I stumbled upon six teenagers shooting hoops over the weekend in a wrecked neighbourhood of Tacloban, a city that Typhoon Haiyan reduced to rubble, bodies and uprooted trees when it slammed into the Philippines on Nov. 8.

In the middle of a horrendous disaster zone, I didn't expect to see people having a good time. I was even more stunned when I learned the basketball goal was one of the first things this neighbourhood rebuilt.

It took a moment for me to realize that it made all the sense in the world.

The kids wanted to play so they could take their minds off what happened, said Elanie Saranillo, one of the spectators. "And we want to watch so we, too, can forget."

Saranillo, 22, now lives in a church. Her home was levelled by the storm.

Countless families lost loved ones to the typhoon, which killed more than 4,000 people. Hundreds of thousands of survivors have endured hunger, thirst, makeshift shelter, little if any medical care, and a desperate wait for aid to arrive. Tacloban was filled with hopeless, fear-filled faces. Even now, blackened bodies



Teens in a destroyed neighbourhood in Tacloban, Philippines, created a makeshift basketball court. Shooting hoops helps them forget the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan, fellow survivors say.

with peeling skin still lay by the roads, or are trapped under the rubble.

But as the crisis eases and aid begins to flow, hope is flickering. People smile, if only briefly, and joke, if only in passing. It does not mean, by any stretch, that people are happy in the face of tragedy. But for some, there is a new-found enthusiasm for life that comes from having just escaped death.

In Saranillo's neighbourhood, I saw four giggling children jumping up and down on two soiled mattresses. Two women stood on a hilltop high above, dancing.

A few metres away, a 21-year-old named Mark Cuayzon strummed a guitar. He, too, was smiling. "I'm sad about Tacloban," he said. "But I'm happy because I'm still alive. I survived. I lost my house, but I didn't lose my family."

Elizabeth Protacio de Castro, an associate professor of psychology at the University of Philippines in Manila, said her nation has grown accustomed to catastrophe. Some 20 typhoons barrel across the country every year. Add to that earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, armed insurgencies and political upheaval.

"Dealing with disaster has become an art," de Castro said. "Rather than screaming or staring at the wall in a psychiatric ward, you do everything you can. You do your best, then let it go," said de Castro.



Paulo Avelino admits dating KC Concepcion

Now that he and LJ Reyes have broken up, Kapamilya actor Paulo Avelino is giving love another chance.

Paulo revealed that he is dating KC Concepcion, whom he has worked with in the drama anthology "MMK" two years ago.

"Yes, we are dating. (But) I just want to keep things private," Paulo said.

He assures everyone that he still keeps in touch with his son by LJ.

"Sinisiguro ko na meron akong oras para sa bata. Kapag wala akong ginagawa, I try as much as possible to spend it with him," Paulo previously told reporters.

KC herself recently made news following her dinner with NBA player Chandler Parsons and some friends during the Houston Rockets and Indiana Pacers pre-season game last October. While KC and Chandler were romantically linked, Paulo wasn't jealous at all because KC and Chandler are just friends.

"Hindi rin talaga ako seloso. I try to think about things first before I really say anything or bring it out. Nasabi naman niya yung totoo, so wala naman (problema)," the actor said.

KC has been promoting Paulo's teleserye "Honesto" on Twitter.



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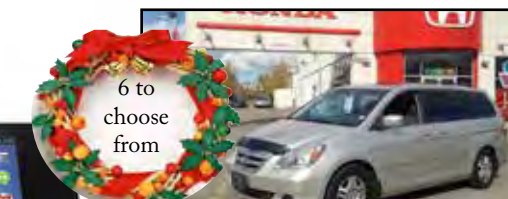
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Good Life eludes Many Filipinos



Families living in makeshift houses not far from the boardwalk in Manila, despite the country's rapidly growing economy.



Homeless Filipinos sleeping on benches in Manila. Unemployment rose to 7.5 percent in April.

People gathering discarded vegetables at a public market in Manila.

GOOD LIFE from page 1

But Mr. Tagarro's experience — of being left behind by the country's newfound prosperity — mirrors that of many Filipinos, according to the latest government poverty and employment data.

An estimated seven million Filipinos, about 17 percent of the work force, have gone overseas in search of jobs, according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB). For those who stay home, options are few.

Despite the rapidly expanding economy, the country's unemployment rate increased to 7.5 percent in April, from 6.9 percent at the same time a year earlier. About three million Filipinos who want to work are unemployed.

"Higher rates of economic growth over recent years have not made a serious dent in the employment problem in the Philippines," the ADB reported .

President Benigno S. Aquino III ran on a platform of clamping down on corruption, improving the business environment in the country and addressing widespread poverty. In his first three years in office, Mr. Aquino removed high-level government officials accused of corruption, cracked down on tax evaders and aggressively courted foreign investment.

Though his efforts to improve the economy have received accolades, he has had less success in addressing the country's persistent, widespread poverty.

Mr. Aquino's political opponents argued before recent legislative elections that his actions had further enriched the wealthy and left the poor behind.

The Philippines still has a strong service sector. In 2011, it overtook India as a top provider of offshore call centers. But the country lacks the manufacturing base that has lifted millions of people out of poverty in other Asian countries.

In countries like China, the rural poor increased their income by finding jobs in factories. That is rarely an option in the Philippines, and few poor people from the countryside are qualified to work in a call center.

The country's latest poverty data, released in April, shows almost no improvement in the last six years. About 10 percent of Filipinos live in extreme poverty, unable to meet their most basic food needs. This is the same figure as in 2006 and 2009, the previous years when poverty data was gathered, according to

the National Statistical Coordination Board. The board also estimated that 22.3 percent of families were living in poverty in the first four months of 2012, compared with 22.9 percent in 2009 and 23.4 percent in 2006.

According to government estimates, more than nine million extremely poor Filipino households are not able to earn the 5,460 pesos, or \$135, needed each month to eat. That amount is about the same as the price of a back-row upper-level ticket to the recent Aerosmith concert in Manila, where many of the country's wealthy could be found holding parties into the night. Other reports confirm the government's findings that poverty has persisted.

In a survey by the independent Manila polling group Social Weather Stations, the number of Filipino families reporting that they periodically go hungry has increased in recent months.

The survey found that 19.2 percent of survey respondents, about 3.9 million families, reported going hungry. This is up from 16.3 percent in December 2012, when a similar survey was done.

Meanwhile, the Philippines has slipped on the U.N. Human Development Index, ranking 114th of 187 countries in 2012 in categories like health, education and infant mortality. The country had a ranking of 105 in 2007.

Poverty is particularly acute in rural areas, where growth has been sluggish in recent years even as the national economy and urban areas have expanded rapidly. The hardest hit has been the fishing sector, which has contracted. Farmers and fishermen are consistently ranked as two of the poorest groups in the country.

That is no revelation to Joel Cesista, a 26-year-old fisherman who supports his wife and infant son. A resident of Bataan Province, a poor rural area west of Manila, he cannot find factory work and has no land to farm, so he embarks on a dangerous, marginally profitable effort to find fish in the ocean about twice a month.

"There is no permanent work here," said Mr. Cesista. "All we have is fishing."

Mr. Cesista and four other men take a 33-foot boat nearly 200 miles, or about 320 kilometers, into the South China Sea for a week at a time to fish for tuna.

On a good trip, he can earn about \$200. He often earns less than that and sometimes, when expenses for fuel, bait and boat rental exceed the catch, he is paid nothing at all. Other times, he is just glad to make it home alive.

Freddie Aguilar Marries 16-Year-Old GF In Muslim Ceremony



So what's up with the 60-year-old folk singer who has been getting the flak from public opinion due to his controversial love affair? The last we heard from him was a few weeks ago when a concerned citizen named Fernando Perito filed a charge of Qualified Seduction against him before the Office of the Prosecutor in Quezon City.

Qualified Seduction is also known as Article 337 of the Revised Penal Code of the Philippine Constitution. It serves as a shield for minors, especially women, against much older men who could be presumed to be taking advantage of their age in making sexual and emotional advances.

Freddie has remained firm on his decision to stand by his decision to keep the relationship. He has previously declared that he would fight for his love. At the same time, he dismissed suggestions that he wait for two more years before he officially makes his relationship formal through marrying the girl.

For Freddie's wife, the 16-year old Jovie Gatdula Albao, their Muslim wedding was a way of proving their love for each other amid criticisms aimed at them since the musician announced their relationship in October.

She briefly spoke during the round of media interviews shortly after the Islamic rites held in a restaurant in Buluan Maguindanao, saying she is happy with her decision to marry the 60-year-old "Anak" hitmaker.

"Syempre masaya ko, kasi hindi naman nabubuhay para sa ibang tao," she said. "Nabubuhay kami para sa sarali namin. 'Yung ginagawa namin [ay] dahil gusto namin 'to, mahal namin ang isa't-isa at pinapatunayan lang namin ang pagmamahal namin."

The singer said that among the reasons they decided to wed -- the couple initially planned to settle down when she turns 18 -- was to stop being the target of criticisms.

"Sana tumigil na 'yung mga detractors namin. Kasi kaya nga kami nagpakasal kasi ayaw ngang tumigil 'yung mga paninira sa aming dalawa," he said. "So naisipan naming dalawa na kung magpapakasal na kami ay titigil na lahat, hindi na nila iisipin na kasalanan 'yung ginagawa namin."

With his candid admission of the relationship on the sidelines of a music awards show in October, Aguilar stirred controversy and drew flak for being a supposed "cradle-snatcher" and a "dirty old man" -- terms the singer himself brought up and readily addressed.

Aguilar repeatedly mentioned having the approval of his girlfriend's parents, who are based in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro.

His partner stressed in a number of interviews that she genuinely loves Aguilar and dismissed speculations that she is only interested in his wealth and popularity.

Short of mentioning Catholic practices, Aguilar on Friday said, "Hindi po namin mahintay ang dalawang taon para pahintulutan kami ng tinatawag nating sistema na umiiral dito sa atin."

Israeli defense forces say Thank you to Yolanda survivors

MANILA - The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and Israel Ambassador Menashe Bar On reported that they have treated 2,000 patients and saved many lives but in the end, they are the ones who want to thank the Filipino people.

Two weeks ago, the government of Israel sent a 148-strong contingent complete with an elite rescue team.

They set up a field hospital in Bogo City, Cebu and treated a never-ending stream of patients.

They chose Bogo City even if it's not in the news.

"You can see the damage over there is quite similar to the damage in Tacloban. We decided to go to the places not on TV. We decided to go to the people and to help people, this is our main goal," said Col. Shai Bruvender, Israeli military attache to the Philippines.

Ambassador Bar On said the Israeli contingent will stay until Christmas.

"After that, professionals will come to continue programs for the long term. We have program for short term, midterm and long term," he said.

Bar On added they will leave their equipment so that others can take over.

They also donated \$500 million worth of medicine to the governor of Cebu to be distributed to public hospitals.

Meanwhile, IDF Surgeon General Yitzhak Kreiss praised the Filipinos.

"We are privileged to be here. I have to say something more. We've seen people in disasters unfortunately during the last decade. I have to say that the Philippine people behave gently, delicately, out of respect to each other and out of respect to the ones who come to help. This is something to be appreciated. Us Israelis can appreciate that. I wish the Philippines to overcome this disaster n move forward to a better future."

World offers more Aid to PHL

World leaders have offered to help in the reconstruction of communities in the central Philippines destroyed by Supertyphoon "Yolanda," Malacañang said.

She said Aquino had also talked with Jim Yong Kim, president of the World Bank, which has nearly doubled the amount of aid the Philippines can tap for the reconstruction effort.

"All of them (world leaders) always end (the call) by saying that if there's

anything else we can do to help you, just say the word, we will be happy to (help)," Valte said.

She said Aquino was "very thankful." Kim said he mobilized the World Bank's staff to facilitate quick delivery of the \$500-million emergency budget support, with teams working around the clock, due to the urgency of the situation in the Philippines.

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Regine Velazquez donates Record proceeds to Typhoon Victims

The singer-actress shrugs off criticisms that celebrities are just showing off by announcing their donations and relief efforts.

"It doesn't matter anymore. If that's what they want to do, then they can bash whenever they want. We can't do anything about it basta kami we are doing everything to help," she said at the press launch of her new album "Hulog ng Langit" on Tuesday, November 19.

Regine Velasquez is auctioning personal luxury items, as well as some stuff her husband Ogie and son Nate own for the benefit of World Vision and another organization, which she has yet to decide on.

"Ang daming nagbi-bid. Ang daming gustong tumulong. Kaya namin ito ginagawa to encourage other people to also help each other. These things that I'm auctioning are my personal stuff na meron ring sentimental value. So, when you think about it, hindi rin iyon mababayaran ng pera. Maganda naman yung nagiging response. I'm very thankful."

Album proceeds for Yolanda victims

Part of the proceeds from the sale of "Hulog Ka Ng Langit" under Universal Records will go to Philippine Red Cross for rehabilitation of areas affected by the typhoon.

"It is very memorable because when I was doing the album, I was also going through some stuff. This album is special and memorable because I dedicate this to my son, my husband, family and loved ones."

The tracks are "Rainbow Connection," "Amazing," "My Child," "Pag-Ibig," "Tomorrow," "Someone's Waiting For You," "Just The Way You Are," "Nathaniel (Gift of God)," "Hele Ni Inay," and "God Gave Me You," among others. Regine happily shared that her father Gerry Velasquez has recovered from sickness and is staying with her sister. She said that prayers helped a lot in healing him.

"Nakalabas na si Papa (sa ospital) pero hindi pa muna siya namin pinababalik sa Bulacan. Na kay Cacai (Regine's sister) siya, sila ni mama. Pero he is doing really, really well."

Sarah Geronimo donates concert proceeds to Typhoon victims

Popstar princess Sarah Geronimo vows to donate part of the proceeds of her tenth anniversary concert "Perfect 10," which was held last Saturday, November 15 at the Smart Araneta Coliseum, to the victims of super typhoon Yolanda. "Napakalaking trahedya kaya we decided that the proceeds of the concert will benefit the families of the typhoon victims. Ginagawa ko ito ngayong gabi para sa kanila," Sarah told the audience.

The singer-actress shared how she was saddened by the tragedy.

"Hindi sapat ang salita para i-describe kung gaano kasakit ang nangyari sa bansa natin, sa lahat ng biktima ng Yolanda. Kagabi napanaginipan ko ilan sa mga images na nakikita natin sa news." She dedicated the song "Light of a Million Mornings" to Yolanda victims. Sarah wants to use her talent to help and give hope to the typhoon victims. "Masuwerte tayong buhay tayo at magkakasama tayo. Sana magsilbi itong inspirasyon para magbigay tayo ng tulong in any way we can. Malalapagpasan natin ito."

Sarah also joined ABS-CBN's telethon on Sunday, November 17.



Neri Naig after the video scandal

Months after her video scandal with boyfriend Chito Miranda

shocked the nation, Neri Naig can now look back and think about the good it brought her.

"Embrace mo lang talaga yung positivity, positive na outlook. Kasi may gawin ka man na maganda o may gawin ka man na hindi, you can't please everybody naman," Neri said at the story conference of TV5's upcoming teleserye "Obsession."

It was her first time to face the press after the scandal broke out and the video that sparked it went viral.

"Once na ang nagsabi sa iyo ay yung taong pinakamamahal mo, doon ka mag-breakdown. Kasi kilala ka nila personally and alam mo yung totoo. Alam mo naman sa sarili mo kung tunay o hindi. So, iyon lang ang pinanghahawakan ko. Basta alam kong wala akong inaapakang tao, okay ka na."

Instead of brooding about the controversy, Neri has turned it into something positive. "Kasi sunod-sunod, hindi lang iyon. Marami ring nangyari. Pero ginagawa ko na lang joke minsan sa sarili ko. Thankful naman ako na sobrang okay ang support ng mga tao sa paligid ko. Talagang nirerespeto nila ako kapag nakikita ko sila."

The former Star Circle Quest contestant, who is making her acting comeback after years of being inactive, said she prefers quality over quantity where projects are concerned.

"Hindi ko naman gusto yung laging nandiyan. Okay lang ako na bigyan niyo ako ng okay na project. Thankful naman ako na ganoon, na maganda yung binibigay nila."

Neri plays a depressed character in "Obsession," which also stars Marvin Agustin, Bianca King and Alwyn Uytingco.

"Gusto ko lang yung passion. Nakakatuwa naman na kaya ko palang umarte nang ganito, yung napaglalaruan ko yung different characters," Neri added.



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Scenes in the City



LEFT, Amy Santos celebrated her 50th birthday on Nov. 16, 2013 at the Royal Canadian Legion (Yonge and Sheppard); shown in the pictures are her candle bearers which are composed of her family and close friends. RIGHT, Roses and candle bearers of Amy Santos' 50th Birthday celebration on Nov. 16, 2013 at the Royal Canadian Legion (Yonge and Sheppard).

PHOTOS BY ARIEL RAMOS

Cooper in Walk of Fame PHL

It is the season to unveil several additions to ‘Walk of Fame Philippines.’ The organizers of the annual event are yet to release the final list of this year’s recipients of ‘Walk of Fame’ stars. But there are already hints as to who the new additions would be.



Aside from Miss World 2013 Megan Young, guess who is getting the Walk of Fame star this year. It is no other than CNN correspondent and anchorman Anderson Cooper. No other than German Moreno, who is the main proponent of the annual project, has confirmed this report.

This year, Walk of Fame Philippines would hold its yearly ceremony on December 1. Several stars would be added to the current roster of stars that are showcased in an area in Eastwood City in Libis, Quezon City. The project is funded by Kuya Germs and is obviously a local take on Hollywood’s own ‘Walk of Fame.’

Breaking The Rules

This year, Kuya Germs is breaking his own rules. That is because ‘Walk of Fame Philippines’ is exclusively for Filipino celebrities and entertainers who have made a difference. That is why many people did not believe the initial speculations that Anderson, an American, would be given his own ‘star.’

But Kuya Germs insists that he deserves a star in local Walk of Fame. That is because he wants to give honor and appreciation to Anderson, who has contributed greatly to making the

rest of the world know more about the plight and struggles of the victims and survivors of Super Typhoon Yolanda in the Visayas region.

Kuya Germs asserts that Anderson’s reports were instrumental in enticing the rest of the world to take action and give donations to help the calamity victims. Kuya Germs even agreed to some people’s observations that Anderson was more helpful than all other local news reporters in terms of making Filipinos and other nationalities know more about victims’ continuous ordeal.

Anderson’s Own Star

This early, Kuya Germs know for a fact that Anderson would not be around to witness how his star in Walk of Fame would be unveiled on December 1. But he insisted that he would try to invite him and make sure that this recognition would reach him (Anderson) especially over the social media.

The Master Showman also reiterated that Anderson might not be a movie star, a singer, or an arts man but he surely made a difference through doing his job well. He hopes that even through the social networks, Filipinos would be able to thank back Anderson for his hard work and determination to help typhoon Yolanda’s victims.

Anderson is now one of the most popular news personalities around the world. It is an open knowledge in the international media community that Anderson is gay. He has personally and proudly admitted it in the past few years. But he believes that there is no reason for him to cross dress just to express his opinions and thoughts as a gay man.

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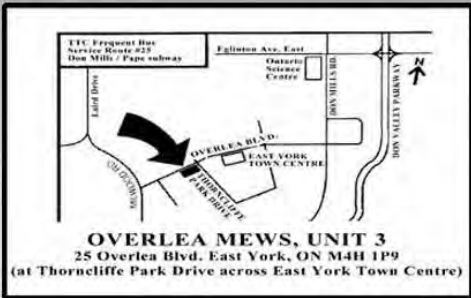


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Jennylyn Mercado Told Mark Herras When She Broke Up With Luis Manzano + other stories

Mark Herras has revealed that her former girlfriend Jennylyn Mercado told him when she broke up with Luis Manzano.

According to reports, Herras said that he and fellow Starstruck celebrities were the ones who stood by Mercado when she needed people with her.

It appears, based on these reports, that Herras still has a good relationship with Mercado even after their breakup. The two were part of a love team in the past and were also romantically involved in real life.

Nonetheless, a report from the Philippine Entertainment Portal says that Herras maintains that he does not ask Mercado about the breakup.

“Di ko na [tinanong] kung ano’ng ginawa, ano’ng nangyari,” PEP quotes Herras saying at a press conference for an upcoming GMA show.

The actor reportedly added that he did ask Mercado any private questions which may be too personal for the actress.

Furthermore, Herras said that he and his other Starstruck batchmates were there “as friends” because Mercado told them “Guys, kailangan ko ng kausap.”

Asked whether he also received this sort of support he describes their group giving Mercado when he broke up with former girlfriend Ynna Asistio, Herras said no.

The actor admitted that he keeps his problems to himself.

Furthermore, he said that though he struggled during the months immediately



after the breakup, things turned well eventually.

“After that, okay naman kami. Hindi okay na naghiwalay, pero okay breakup namin, in a way, na we’re good friends,” he said.

Meanwhile, Herras did not close the door on the possibility that he and Mercado may end up getting back together.

Since the two are now working on “Rhodora X”, a new GMA show, he was asked whether this is a possibility.

Herras said he does not want to speak about that and could not answer with certainty because he does not want to speak for Mercado.

He said that he does not want to taint their new project with any malice because GMA has given them a great project that is giving them the opportunity to deepen their friendship.

However, he said, “Kung sa bandang dulo, sakaling kami pa rin, malalaman at malalaman pa rin natin.”

Marian Rivera Calls Dingdong Dantes Her “Kabiyak” (Better Half)

Marian Rivera surprisingly called boyfriend Dingdong Dantes her “kabiyak” or better half in a public speech during the awarding ceremony of the 1st Gintong Palad Public Service Awards.

Both Marian and Dingdong were awardees of the said ceremony that was held at the One Esplanade in Pasay City last November 20.

Dingdong wasn’t able to attend the awards night because he has a prior commitment, so Marian was the one who thanked the awards committee on behalf of Dingdong.

She said she falls more in love with Dingdong because of the charity works he has done, especially with his YES Pinoy Foundation. The actor is also an active member of the Philippine Red Cross.

“Dahil ako rin po, bilang kanyang



kabiyak, ay nakikita ko po ang kanyang pagmamalasakit at pagmamahal sa kanyang kapwa, higit lalo po sa Yes Pinoy Foundation niya, na talagang ipinagmamalaki ko po siya.”

The Gintong Palad Public Service Awards are being given by the Movie Writers Welfare Foundation to individuals who selflessly reach out to their fellowmen in light of natural calamities and disasters such as the Bohol earthquake and the Typhoon Yolanda.

Aside from Marian and Dingdong, other awardees from the entertainment industry were Arnold Clavio, Ricky Reyes, Arnell Ignacio, Ara Mina, Isko Moreno, Diether Ocampo, Aga Muhlach, Robin Padilla and Angel Locsin.

In the field of politics, the awardees are Batangas Governor Vilma Santos and Quezon City Congressman Alfred Vargas.

In business, Manny V. Pangilinan and Miguel Belmonte were given the awards.

In the networks category, the awardees are Mel Tiangco of Kapuso Foundation, Gina Lopez of Bantay Bata Foundation), Menchie Silvestre (Alagang Kapatid Foundation) and Daniel Razon of Kamanggagawa Foundation.

The award, Marian said, was priceless.

“Bilang artista po, magiging makabuluhan lang po ang isang artista kapag nakaka-touch ka po ng iba’t ibang klaseng tao at minamahal ka nila bilang ikaw.”

Kathryn Bernardo Says She Often Dreams Of Daniel Padilla

They may be spending a lot of time together but even in her dreams, Kathryn Bernardo is spending time with Daniel Padilla.

Nonetheless, Bernardo said that she does not dream often.

“Hindi ko na mataandaan ‘yung mga panaginip ko, pero oo naman. Kaso bihira lang ako managinip kasi bihira lang ako matulog,” Bernardo is quoted saying by the magazine.

However, that doesn’t take away from the



fact that she admitted that when she has dreams, Padilla is often part of them.

Bernardo also told Chalk! that DJ is a “mama’s boy” when she was asked who among Padilla’s parents he was closer to.

“Mama’s boy. Kay Tito Rommel, makikita mo na father and son talaga ang relationship nila,” Bernardo explained.

She said that with Karla Estrada, Padilla’s mother, the actor is like her mother’s “barkada”.

She said that with her mom, “pag magkasama sila makikita mo na parang mag-barkada lang sila na nagtatawanan at nagkukulitan.”

Cristine Reyes Says Sorry For Rowdy Behavior

Cristine Reyes has expressed regret for her behavior in her recent appearances on “It’s Showtime” and “Gandang Gabi Vice”.

Reyes said that her behavior was “maharot” after she received flak on social media after the guest appearances.

She said, “Sorry kasi minsan lumalabas talaga ‘yung pag-magaslaw at pagkamalikot kaya behave ako ngayon.”

She noted that she was also just excited and that she was tense during her appearance on “It’s Showtime” on Saturday.

She said she was acting normal on “Gandang Gabi Vice” on Sunday but on “It’s Showtime,” she was tense because it was live, early in the morning and had a big audience. “Dapat perfect ka doon dahil live ‘yon kaya medyo tense ako,” she added.

According to her, her comment that her breakup with close friend and erstwhile boyfriend Derek Ramsay was for “press release” purposes only was only a joke.

“Joke lang ‘yon,” she said after she received criticism for the comment.

She also denied that she was drunk during her appearances.

Meanwhile, Reyes admitted she does not mind being called the “bad girl of showbiz”.



Scenes in the City



LEFT, Baptismal was held at Saint Pascal Baylon on Nov. 9, 2013 for the following (alphabetical order) : Victoria Agbisit, Princess Magtangob, Sophia Miller, Andrea Nanca, Kyla Quiocho, Dylan Rivera, Isaiah Santos, Krizza soriano, Julianna Tagudin, Carina Visaya, and Nathan Zochowski. CENTER, Consul General Juniver Mahilum West receiving the donation from CARP officers Dr. Francisco Portugal, Verth Bugtong, and Dr. Belle Tumbukon; held at Marcelinas Restaurant on November 13, 2013. donations of non-perishable good are also being accepted at many businesses and stores. RIGHT, Various community associations such as the Filipino Centre Toronto (FCT), Philippine Independence Day Council (PIDC), Gawad Kalinga, Philippine Press Club Ontario (PCCO), Philippine Consulate Toronto and Japanese Cultural Association, etc. held a meeting to coordinate their efforts to send assistance to the victims of super typhoon Yolanda; the meeting was held at the Japanese Cultural Centre on November 12, 2013. PHOTOS BY ARIEL RAMOS

“I don’t mind, bad girl, good girl, I don’t mind. At least may title,” she noted, a report from ABS-CBN News says.

The actress noted that it’s just that people sometimes get to believe the roles portrayed by celebrities are the real them.

Jake Vargas Relates How He Surprised Bea Binene

Jake Vargas shared how he surprised Bea Binene during her birthday celebration at the Crowne Plaza Hotel last November 13.

The members of Tween--Barbie Forteza, Joshua Dionisio, Kristoffer Martin, Joyce Ching, Louise delos Reyes, Derrick Monasterio and Lexi Fernandez--grouped together to give Bea a party. Jake talked to them and asked for their help regarding his plan to surprise Bea with flowers.

He also planned to ask for forgiveness for everything that happened between them.

However, Jake got caught in a road accident along NLEX, so he asked the Tween’s handler to just give Bea the flowers.

Luckily, Jake was able to arrive before the party officially ended, so he was the one to personally hand the flowers to Bea. When he did, Bea apparently cried.

Jake then became the actress’ escort for the rest of the night.

Since then, they have started to hang out again until they got back together on November 10.

What made him realize he still loves Bea? After three months of the breakup, Jake kept thinking about Bea. He said he missed her text messages and her calls since he was so used to her being by his side.



“Na-realize ko na mahal ko pa rin talaga siya. So, gumawa ako ng effort, nag-e-effort ako sa kanya hanggang ngayon.”

He also talked with Bea’s mother to apologize for what happened.

Robin Padilla Airs Disappointment Over Daughter Kylie Padilla’s TV Show ‘Adarna’

It is not surprising if Robin Padilla reveals his insights and observations about the first ever primetime series of his daughter Kylie Padilla. Kylie is currently the lead star of the fantaseries ‘Adarna,’ airing weeknights at GMA-7’s Telebabad primetime block.

But many could still not help but make reactions upon hearing that Robin is dismayed about the TV show. What could be making him feel this way? Does he expect the network to make the show the banner of the primetime block? Does he want a superstar treatment for his daughter?

We could expect Robin to feel that way as he himself has the ‘superstar complex.’ But this time, he has aired his disappointment because the series failed to show his cameo appearance.

It turned out that GMA-7 decided to air his appearance on the succeeding days. But in the end, as a father, Robin admitted that he could not be more grateful to GMA-7. He said he appreciates the network’s efforts to give her daughter an important and good project like this one. Robin reiterated that his daughter has waited so long to have this kind of show.





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Marian Rivera defends fellow celebs’ relief efforts + other stories

MANILA - Kapuso actress Marian Rivera defended fellow celebrities who have been posting their relief efforts in social media in the wake of accusations that they are doing so only for the sake of publicity.

“Minsan may mga pagkakataon na hindi kailangan sabihin (that you donated). Pero may mga pagkakataon na kailangan mo rin sabihin para mabigyan mo ng inspirasyon ang mga tao na lahat tayo pwedeng tumulong,” Marian said during her press launch as 2014 Ginebra San Miguel Calendar.

Instead of criticizing, Marian hopes people will just help and do their share.

“Ang mga tao minsan hindi maintindihan. Mag-post ka sa Instagram, kung anu-ano ang sasabihin. Hindi ka mag-post, hindi ka tumutulong. Bakit ba hindi tayo magkaisa, magtulungan at magmahalan na lang?”

She added, “Alam ko may mga tao ding hindi mapi-please pero instead na ginaganyan nila, mas maigi na tumulong na lang sa nangangailangan.”

Marian herself donated a sum of money for typhoon victims. But she doesn’t want to disclose just how much it is.

Aside from helping GMA Kapuso Foundation and Yes Pinoy Foundation, Marian is auctioning her personal items and donating proceeds of the sale to typhoon Yolanda victims.



Kris Aquino laments delay in relief efforts

Actress-TV host Kris Aquino believes relief goods for typhoon Yolanda victims are not being dispatched as quickly as they should be.

“Take turns po talaga. Kahapon, mahabang lecture and conversation meron kami ni PNoy (President Noynoy Aquino, her brother). Ang truck na ni-roro mo that goes through Sorsogon, it takes 48 hours. So yesterday sa news napanuod natin na aid is already arriving. Yung mga eroplano, take turns sila sa pag-land,” she said. Kris says she already feels desperate about the delay.

“Sabi ko nakakahiya na tanggap tayo nang tanggap ng goods pero hindi natin pa napapakita sa mga tao na umaabot sa kanila talaga na personal nating dinadala.”

The Kapamilya star is grateful Air Asia allowed her and ABS-CBN to use their planes to transport relief goods.

“They were so nice to me kasi may commitment ako on Sunday with Sagip Kapamilya to bring 10 tons of these goods to Leyte. They gave it to me na ang cost lang to me was the fuel charge. Sabi ko, kung hindi ka bubunot sa sarili mong bulsa at maghihintay ka pa, kawawa naman ang mga nangangailangan. So ginawan ng paraan. On Sunday, we will at least be able to bring 10 tons.”

“Nag-insist ako na ako sana ang makasama together with Ma’m Tina (Monzon-Palma, program director of ABS-CBN Foundation’s public service programs. Pero I’m still waiting for approval kung pwede ba ako or makakadagdag lang ako sa gulo. But I really want to be there with Ma’m Tina.”

Kris adds that celebrities bring much more than relief goods to typhoon victims.

“Nagdadala kami ng reassurance, pag-asa at pagmamahal. Sa panahon ngayon, iyan talaga ang kailangan ng mga tao. It gives us great pleasure and gratification to accept even more.”

60 CELEBS UNITE IN ABS-CBN’S ‘TULONG NA!’ BENEFIT CONCERT

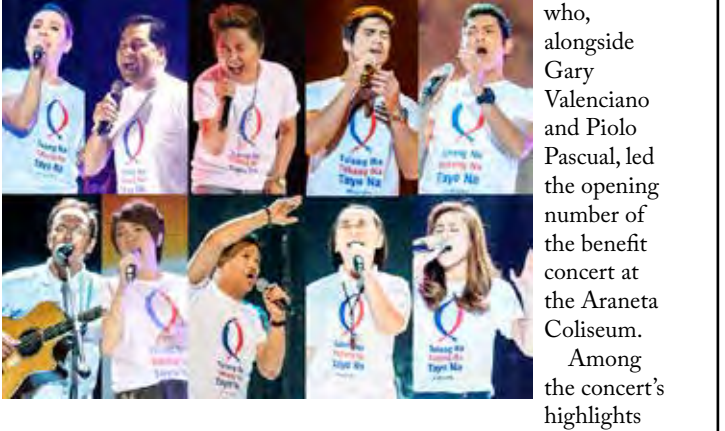
10,000 people fill up Araneta Coliseum to help calamity survivors; TFC North America Sagip Kapamilya telethon raises over \$311k

Songs of hope, unity and inspiration filled the recent sold-out, star-studded fundraising concert of ABS-CBN that gathered some of the country’s brightest stars, Kapamilya network executives, and almost 10,000 people for one cause -- to help raise funds for the relief of the survivors of the recent calamities that struck the Visayas region.

“Tulong Na, Tabang Na, Tayo Na! An All-Star Benefit Concert” was

conceived by ABS-CBN in less than a week and promoted to the public in just two days. It brought together some 60 ABS-CBN artists, singers, choirs, bands and dancers who all performed for free. Meanwhile, leading to the concert, ABS-CBN North America’s Sagip Kapamilya Telethon dubbed, “Magkasama sa Kuwento ng Pagbangon”, held at ABS-CBN International Corporate Headquarters in Redwood City, California last November 13-14, raised \$311,927 in donations and pledges. The TFC-led telethon was aired as a Balitang Americaspecial and was livestreamed on TFC.tv. It was also seen on U.S. and Canada’s major cable systems that opened their TFC signal to millions of digital subscribers at no additional cost for a limited period so they can watch TFC’s special coverage on Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda).

“The artistic heart is very big. It makes things like this possible when you have artists who are so generous,” said Tony-award winner Lea Salonga



who, alongside Gary Valenciano and Piolo Pascual, led the opening number of the benefit concert at the Araneta Coliseum. Among the concert’s highlights were Lea’s moving rendition of “Bayan Ko,” the hair-raising and Twitter trending interpretation of “The Prayer” by the shadow play performers El Gamma Penumbra; back-to-back heartfelt performance of inspirational singers Jamie Rivera and Fatima Soriano, who sang “Heal Our Land” and “Mahiwaga,” respectively; a high energy all out rock performance of OPM band 6Cyclemind that turned the Big Dome into a huge dance floor; and the “Hawak Kamay” performance of the whole coliseum, which symbolically glowed in the dark as everyone were asked to raise their mobile phones while singing along with the performers.

Joining the pack of world-class performers, who inspired one and all to continue reaching out to the calamity survivors were Martin Nievera, Charice, Toni Gonzaga, Sam Milby, Abra, Rico J. Puno, Bituin Escalante, and other Kapamilya stars. While, among the ABS-CBN stars who narrated the touching stories of calamity survivors, volunteers and donors were Judy Ann Santos, John Lloyd Cruz, Angel Locsin, Angelica Panganiban, Dawn Zulueta, Richard Gomez, Maja Salvador, Shaina Magdayao, Xian Lim, Enchong Dee, and Venus Raj.

Also, ABS-CBN executives, led by Chairman Eugenio “Gabby” Lopez III and President and Chief Executive Officer Charo Santos-Concio, took part in the event. In Hong Kong, ABS-CBN Global COO Raffy Lopez thanked hundreds for their support of TFC’s efforts to help Typhoon Haiyan survivors at the launch of the new TFC Load-n-Watch in the region in partnership with CloudFone.

During the concert, the newly launched ABS-CBN mobile announced that it is giving away over 100,000 SIM cards for free, along with relief packages, to the survivors of super typhoon Yolanda. It is also putting up free text and calling centers in calamity-stricken areas until power and communication lines are normalized.

All proceeds of “Tulong Na, Tabang Na, Tayo Na! An All-Star Benefit Concert” would be donated to the calamity fund of Sagip Kapamilya, the emergency humanitarian assistance program of ABS-CBN Foundation.

Even after the concert, ABS-CBN continues its call for help to calamity survivors through its ongoing “Tulong Na, Tabang Na, Tayo Na!” relief campaign. To volunteer, donate or find a lost loved one in the calamity-stricken areas of the country, visit ABS-CBNnews.com/TulongPH. For international donations, go to www.abscbnfoundation.org. Continue sharing the worldwide call for donation on Twitter using the hashtag #TulongPH. (Kane Errol Choa, ABS-CBN Corporate Affairs, Manila with reports from ABS-CBN Global)

Philippines



‘Unselfie’ for Yolanda victims among new US envoy to PHL’s first acts

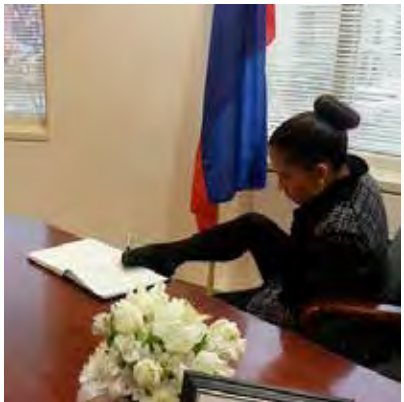
An “unselfie” for victims of Super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) was one of the first official acts of new US ambassador to the Philippines Philip Goldberg.

Goldberg posted a photo of himself covering his face with a piece of paper showing the web address of the US Embassy’s disaster assistance program.

Goldberg earlier said he would help the victims of Yolanda, which tore through the Visayas and Southern Luzon last Nov. 8 and left more than 5,000 dead.

The unselfie was an idea of an agency trying to mobilize support for Yolanda victims by having people post an unselfie – a photo of themselves holding a piece of paper seeking support.

“Called #Unselfie, the idea simply calls on people to write a simple donation call to action such as supportunicef.org/Philippines or redcross.org.ph/



donatenow on a sheet of paper – with the hashtag #unselfie – and take a selfie (picture of themselves) while holding it,” said BBDO Guerrero, which launched the idea.

They are then asked to post the selfie photo on their profile page on social networking sites like Facebook or Twitter.

BBDO Guerrero said the unselfie campaign “is a response to the call for relief aid here in the Philippines.”

Meanwhile, even Filipino-American Jessica Cox, the world’s first armless pilot, was not spared from the tragedy brought by Yolanda.

Cox lost a grandaunt in Samar to Yolanda, the Philippine Embassy in Washington D.C. said on its Twitter account

The embassy posted on its Twitter account early Saturday a photo of Cox using her right foot to sign the book of condolences at the Embassy.

FCT Paraluman and Induction

Filipino Centre Toronto FCT inducted their officers and board of directors at the Rembrandt Hall. They also announced updates about their fundraising initiatives for the victims of the Yolanda typhoon.



HELP

Filipino Community in Toronto rally to the Cause of Relief Aid for Typhoon Yolanda Victims

TORONTO - This article is going to sound like the thank you speech of Oscar award winners.

If I miss anyone or any organization from this article that is doing or has done a fundraising campaign for the victims of typhoon Yolanda, I apologize.

Tha campaign to organize relief efforts here in Toronto, and I am sure in every city in the world where there is even one Filipino hit the ground running faster than the Philippine government can send aid to the devastated areas. In fact, the aid from the Philippine government would probably not have arrived if not for the brave reporting of CNN's Mr. Anderson Cooper.

For it's part, the Canadian government will match donations from individual Canadians to help with the devastation caused by Typhoon Haiyan, Canada's International Development Minister says.

Christian Paradis said Sunday that the government will set aside one dollar for the Typhoon Haiyan Relief Fund for every dollar donated by Canadians between Nov. 9 and Dec. 8. The matching fund is in addition to the up to \$5-million in disaster relief the government announced already.

On facebook alone, I cannot keep up with notices of fundraising initiatives left and right.

The Canadian Aid Relief Project (CARP) headed by family physician Dr. Francisco Portugal started its fund-raising and gathering of donations (used clothing, canned foods, etc) to be sent to Tacloban, Leyte, Cebu, Ormoc and other places devastated by Typhoon Yolanda at Marcelina's Restaurant. Goods and cash are accepted. A receipt will be issued.

On Monday, December 2nd Lamesa Restaurant will be hosting "Konektado" a fundraising dinner for Typhoon relief.

Proceeds are going to a friend of the restaurant who's family lost their home in Cebu.

According to their facebook posting *"This will be an ongoing effort. One dinner is simply not enough. The plan is to do a fundraising dinner monthly for as long as possible as the people back home will still need help long after the global media attention has moved on. We hope to feature a different guest chef each month as we already have interest from so many great chefs in the city. We will select someone different in the community who we can help directly. If you know of anyone who could use assistance for their family please let us know."*

Shaw Cable offered GMA Pinoy TV for free until last November 17 to help Yolanda victims and to to allow non-subscribers of GMA Network's flagship international channel ready access to the latest news about the recent tragedy that ravaged parts of Visayas, as well as information on how to reach out to the victims through their kind donations.

Meanwhile, GMA Kapuso Foundation is accepting donations in aid of its wide-scale relief drives for typhoon victims.

Specific bank details may be accessed through the GMA Kapuso Foundation website at www.gmanetwork.com/Foundation.

On December 7, 2013, Saturday, 7:00 p.m.



LEFT, Josie de Leon poses with the winner of the first Bingo game. RIGHT, Aisa Joven holds a garage sales in Los Angeles to help typhoon victims. BELOW, FCT asked attendees at the Paraluman dinner to give what they can by putting it in a brown envelope for typhoon Yolanda aid.



at Our Lady of Assumption Church a concert called Rise Up will be held and proceeds will be donated to the victims of Typhoon Haiyan/ Yolanda. Cash can also be donated and tax Receipts will be issued by OLA and Ottawa will match the donation until December 9, 2013.

Luminus Financial is pleased to announce that it has partnered with the Ontario Credit Union Charitable Foundation (OCUCF) to raise funds in support of the victims affected by Typhoon Yolanda.

Luminus has committed to match every dollar donated by its members to OCUCF's Can Help program (www.ontariocucf.ca/news) in support of Typhoon Yolanda's victims.

The Filipino Centre Toronto plans to use Luminus as the exclusive partner for collection of their members' individual donations.

Even non-Filipino groups are initiating relief efforts.

The Vietnamese Association, Toronto (VAT) is organizing a special show of the award-winning documentary film "Bolinao 52" to raise fund for helping victims of typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

Bolinao 52 is a documentary about the Vietnamese boat people ship that was originally stranded in the Pacific Ocean in 1988. Only 52 out of the 110 boat people survived the tragedy and were rescued by Filipino fishermen who brought them to the Philippine island of Bolinao.

Singers in the community are also doing their aprt.

Let it Shine Fund Raising Concert for the victims of Typhoon Yolanda featuring

Jenifer Camacho together with some of our Fil - Canadian talents and Prestige Beauty Pageants Winners will host the event on Friday , December 13 at 7P.M. at Prestige Club along 4544 Dufferin Street in North York.

The proceeds of this event will be donated to the calamity victims through World Vision Canada. Lets all support this show for cause , for sponsorship and tickets please call Heidi at (416) 998-8140 and (416) 736-1668.

Josie de Leon held a bingo session for the

typhoon victims. The session was usually a dundraising project for her Josie de Leon School of the Performing Arts. She also joined another fundraising concert with World Vision.

Last November 24, the Canada for Philippines Benefit Concert, in partnership with Kol Hope Foundation for Children, in support of World Vision's Philippines Disaster Relief Fund featured Toronto's Original Miss Saigon, Ma-Anne Dionisio, Canadian Idol finalist Martha Joy, Broadway Star, Cornelia

Luna, highly-acclaimed performers, Toto Bansil, and Emilio Zarris, Jocelyn Escutin-Seranilla, Arnold Galoyo, Karen Tan, and Ken de los Santos, Viva Records's artist Chiqui Pineda, and many more, with special performances by award winning Canadian Singer-songwriter Amy Sky as well as cast members of Les Miserables currently on stage at the Princess of Wales in Toronto.

On November 22, Martha Joy held a concert at Rembrandt Hall.

Prestige Bar will host a Fundraising event for the benefit of Typhoon Yolanda victims on December 7.

Another fundraising was also changed. On December 21, a fundraising show called "Benefit Christmas concert for Kerry's Place Autism Services became partial with portions also going towards the Typhoon Haiyan Relief Fund.

Obviously, balikbayan box companies have also done their part.

LBC Cargo shipped boxes of goods that were collected by Our Lady of Assumption parish and the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation.

UMAC and Forex shipped some boxes that were collected by the Fil-Core support group.

"We have also reduced the prices for customers sending boxes to their loved ones in the disaster areas," said UMAC and Forex' Perly Alilio.

The Philippine Independence Day Council ("PIDC") will be holding a fundraising dinner on Friday, December 13, 2013 at the Star Walk Buffet located at 648 Silver Star Boulevard, Scarborough beginning at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$50 or \$100 for sponsor tickets.

For tickets or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Norma Carpio at ncarpio@bell.net or call her at 905 257 1059.

Some held auctions and garage sales. FV Foods helped by using their store at their store in Bathurst and Wilson.

Aisa Joven of Los Angeles had a garage sales to send money for typhoon victims.

Some organizations have changed their Christmas plans.

Bicol Canada Community Association of Toronto has cancelled it's Christmas party as a way of sympathizing with fellow typhoon-devastated Filipinos back home.

"It's hard to celebrate when our kababayans have just lost everything back home," said BCCA's Alex Guerina.

Camilineos Association of Canada, also based in Toronto donated aprt of the proceeds for their annual Christmas party towards the victims of typhoon Yolanda.

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LAWN MAINTENANCE & LANDSCAPING

Jay-R, Kris Lawrence waive concert talent fees to help typhoon victims + other news



Kris Lawrence can't help but shed a tear when an episode of his GMA weekly show, "Sunday All Stars" (SAS) opened with footage of Yolanda victims. His co-performer, Kyla herself can't help but weep.

Kris' longtime friend and fellow SAS mainstay Jay-R felt just as bad.

"It's so negative and heartbreaking. Hindi ako umiyak pero lalabas na (ang luha)."

That's why the RnB artists decided to mount "Soul Brothers," a concert for typhoon victims on Friday, November 22 at Music Museum. Jay-R and Kris are performing for free and Music Museum is not charging anything for the concert, produced by ALV Events International and presented by Viber as part of its "ViberHelps" fund-raising campaign for Yolanda victims.

"Gusto naming pumunta doon to give food and others, pero I think we will be more effective through music," says Jay-R.

Their target amount is a whopping P1-M.

The good news is the tickets are sold out, even if Jay-R and Kris only started preparing for the concert one-and-a-half weeks ago.

Kris admits he's worried at the fact that he and Jay-R have rehearsed only three of their 22 songs, four days before D-Day.

"It's the fastest preparation we've had."

So he and Jay-R are making up for lost time by rehearsing every day. The two don't have to worry about rapport since they've known each other since high school back in the US.

"We inspire each other to get better," Jay-R relates. He adds that they will be

performing feel-good songs – those that are re-arranged big band style to capture young and old alike.

"I want things to be positive," he adds.

Jay-R and Kris want Yolanda victims to be as hopeful. Kris composed

the song "It's Not the End" for Yolanda victims. The song, with its message of hope, has music videos to go with it.

Jay-R has not written a song but he is mounting benefit shows on Nov 20 and 23 in Javier, Leyte (hometown of singer Mica Javier, who is close to his heart). Proceeds will go to the town of Javier, which was also badly devastated by Yolanda.

"It's time we also help surrounding towns," he explains.

His message to typhoon victims:

"Don't lose hope. Ang daming taong tumutulong sa inyo. Nandito kami nagtatrabaho para makabigay sa inyo ng pagkain at tubig. Konting struggle lang na lang."

Shirtless Daniel Padilla in 'G2B' trends worldwide

MANILA -- A scene in "Got to Believe" showing a shirtless Daniel Padilla caused a stir on social media Thursday, as reactions among fans of the heartthrob actor pushed the primetime series as a top worldwide trend on Twitter.

In the November 21 episode of the ABS-CBN program, Padilla as his character Joaquin is seen posing shirtless as the subject of Chichay's (Kathryn Berardo) artwork for a school project.

The scene comes days after Chichay, who used to tend to Joaquin as his nanny, agreed to be in a "mutual understanding" with her employer-turned-school mate.



On Twitter, as the scene showing Padilla with no shirt aired, the hashtag "#G2BTakeItOff" zoomed up as among the top trending topics on Twitter worldwide. It was also the No. 1 local trend on the micro-blogging site for over two hours.

Anne's painting sells for P105K for typhoon survivors

MANILA -- A painting made by actress-host Anne Curtis was able to raise P105,000 for the survivors of super typhoon "Yolanda" after being auctioned off. The amount was announced by Curtis during the telecast of "It's Showtime," which she co-hosts, as she personally thanked the buyer of her "impromptu artwork."



The painting, which reads "Bangong Pilipinas, Kaya Natin 'To" and signed by Curtis, was bought by Angelit Perez.

"From the bottom of our hearts, and on behalf of all the survivors po na matutulungan ninyo, maraming, maraming salamat po," Curtis told Perez, who visited the "It's Showtime" studio.

"May God continue to bless your family even more."

Meanwhile, Curtis' co-host on the noontime program, Vice Ganda, also announced the amount raised from their two-night show held at Laffline comedy bar in Quezon City early this week.

He said the show, which featured performances from the other "It's Showtime" hosts, as well as comedians, Chokoleit, Pokwang and Pooh, raised P1.5 million.

In total, the fundraising initiatives of the noontime show, which also includes a donation from Star Mobile and Euro Towers, produced some P2.1 million, according to Vice Ganda.

Receiving the raised funds in behalf of ABS-CBN Foundation's Sagip Kapamilya was program director Tina Monzon-Palma, who visited the "It's Showtime" studio.



Manny Pacquiao from the Philippines wears the champion's belt after defeating Brandon Rios of the United States in their WBO international welterweight title fight Sunday, Nov. 24, 2013, in Macau.

Pacquiao wins over Rios

MACAU, China - Filipino boxing legend Manny Pacquiao beat American fighter Brandon Rios in a 12-round title bout at the Venetian resort hotel in Macau, China, stopping his younger challenger in a unanimous decision.

With precision punching, Pacquiao landed three or four times the number of punches that his opponent did, punishing him with a flurry of 3- and 4-punch combinations.

Pacquiao demonstrated his mastery in Round 9 with a seven-punch combination as Rios' punches seemed to lose power.

In Round 6, Pacquiao landed a hard right that opened a cut above Rios' right eye, which became swollen in the following rounds. With his victory, the 34-year-old boxer won the WBO international welterweight title and revived a flagging career after two consecutive losses.

Sunday's bout was the Filipino boxer's first after his shocking sixth-round knockout at the hands of Juan Manuel Marquez in December 2012.

Going into the fight, the eight-division world champion Pacquiao (54-5-2, 38 KOs) was an overwhelming favorite to win over Rios (31-1-1, 22 KOs).

He dedicated the fight to the victims of typhoon Yolanda, which devastated provinces in the Visayas earlier this month.

"I'm doing my best to give a good fight and to win the fight, especially with what happened to my countrymen and what happened to the Philippines with the typhoon," said Pacquiao. "To all the people and families affected by this storm, this fight is for you."

Although Pacquiao was unable to knock out his opponent, he won convincingly, with one judge giving him all 12 rounds.

After the bout, Pacquiao walked to the opposing corner and shook hands with everyone, including Rios' strength and conditioning manager, who had an altercation with his trainer Freddie Roach.

He also gave credit to Rios for taking his most powerful punches, and said he was ready for even stronger opponents.



Joshua Panaligan is bundled up against the cold last Halloween.

Scene in the City



LEFT, Jhoanna and Cristina celebrated their joined birthdays with proud parents Ralph and Cathy Judzentis; and brother Randy; and grandma Cresing from the Philippines. The celebration was held at their house in North York on November 16, 2013, with relatives and close friends.



RIGHT, Rita Tabago poses after singing at the Marco Sison concert at Kalayaan centre in Mississauga.

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Spotlight



Manila Polo Club

Swiming pool inside the Manila Polo Club 1950's • PHOTO BY Gunther Prittwitz

Crossword Puzzle

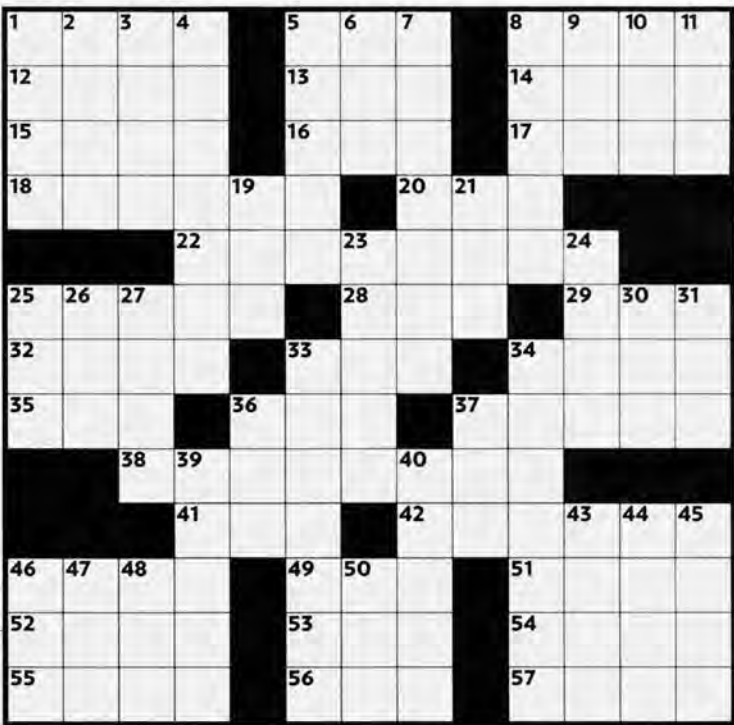
ACROSS

- 1 Winter Olympics gear
5 Disney's *That Darn ____!*
8 Irene of *Fame*
12 "I don't know, give me a ____"
13 Make a mistake
14 *The ____* (scary Gregory Peck movie)
15 *War of the Worlds* actress Miranda
16 Don Rickles sitcom ____ *Sharkey*
17 *The ____ Walk Home* (movie starring 18 Across)
18 With 22 Across. *Hollywood Squares* producer and *The View* cohost
20 *The X-Files* sighting
22 See 18 Across
25 "____ is good": Michael Douglas in *Wall Street*
28 *A Nightmare on ____ Street*
29 Singer Stewart
32 Umpires count them
33 British honor awarded to the Beatles in 1965 (abbr.)
34 Chris who plays the new Captain Kirk
35 Actress Leoni
36 Cheers is one
37 ____ *Beauty* (movie starring 18 Across)
38 *Sister Act 2: Back in ____* (movie starring 18 Across; 2 wds.)
41 "Hold On Tight" band
42 Hugh who played TV's Wyatt Earp
46 Michael of *Nick and Nora's Infinite Playlist*
49 *The Flying ____*
51 "You Are the Music ____" (*High School Musical 2* song; 2 wds.)
52 Make a statement
53 ____ out a living
54 *The Wrecking ____* (Dean Martin movie)
55 *Star Trek: the ____ Generation*
56 *The House of ____* (Parker Posey movie)
57 Last name of Superman's alter ego

DOWN

- 1 *The Rocky Horror Picture ____*
2 ____ and kin
3 *He's Just Not That ____ You*
4 Larry, Moe and Curly
5 Mr. DeMille
6 French artist Jean
7 Song on Coldplay's first album
8 *The ____ Purple* (movie starring 18 Across)
9 Latin verb
10 Stimp's partner
11 *Hulk* director Lee
19 *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* hatcher
21 Not masc.
23 Searching for ____ *Winger* (documentary featuring 18 Across)
24 John Wayne's *True ____*
25 *How Stella ____ Her Groove Back* starring 18 Across
26 McClanahan of *The Golden Girls*
27 Coup d'____
30 *Snakes ____ Plane* (2 wds.)
31 Benicio ____ Toro
33 John of *Frasier*
34 18 Across's *Ghost* costar Swayze
36 *The Fresh Prince of ____ Air*
37 Tell a lie
39 *Clara's ____* (movie starring 18 Across)
40 Drama starring David Boreanaz
43 Concerning (2 wds.)
44 Sherman Hemsley series
45 Politico Gingrich
46 *Catch Me If You ____* starring Tom Hanks
47 *Barbershop* actress
48 Actor Harrison
50 Hawaiian music maker (abbr.)

Answers on
Page 26



Sister
Act

Sisters Lara
and Lysandra
Capistrano pose
after the Disney
show of the
Josie del Leon
School of
Perorming Arts.

Confidentials

FEATURETTES *People & Parties* LIFE HEALTH ARTS

Aga on wife Charlene: She was never my girlfriend

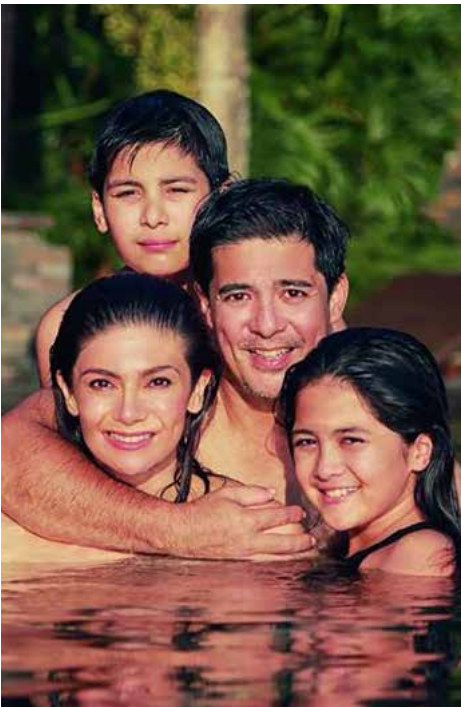
Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzales with their children Atasha and Andres.

Aga Muhlach recalled his relationship with wife Charlene Gonzales before they were married in 2001, admitting they skipped a step or two in their love story.

“She was never my girlfriend. We got engaged first, but I had to ask for her hand from her parents before we even started dating,” Muhlach told HOLA! magazine.

The couple first met through a cousin. And even after judging the 1994 Binibining Pilipinas, which Gonzales won, and working together in the ABS-CBN sitcom “Oki Doki Doc,” Muhlach said they only stayed friends.

“I met Charlene a long time ago,” Muhlach said. “She was 11 and I was 16. I met her through her cousin. Flash forward, Charlene was in Bb. Pilipinas and I was one of the judges, and then we were in a show together, ‘Oki Doki



Doc.’ It was just like that; we were just friends.”

The couple then leaped from being friends to an engaged couple in a moment straight out of a romantic film.

“It was just one moment of realizing that right in front of me was my wife. A week after that, I proposed to her,” Muhlach said.

Less than a year after getting engaged, the couple married on May 28, 2001 in Baguio City.

“Up to this day,” Muhlach said, “I feel like I’m the luckiest guy on earth. I have a wife who’s so loyal.”

Muhlach added: “When I married, I really settled down... I love that feeling when I come home from work and my wife is there to celebrate my blessings with me.”

The two, along with their kids Atasha and Andres, currently reside in Mataas na Kahoy, Batangas. HOLA! described the Filipino-Balinese-inspired house as a “paradise.”

“This is a dream,” the actor said. “This was the first house I built when I got married. And this is my space; this is my home.”



Pokwang admits crush on Jestoni Alarcon

MANILA -- Pokwang on Sunday admitted on “Buzz ng Bayan” that she has a long-standing crush with her “Call Center Girl” co-star Jestoni Alarcon.

The comedienne, who is currently promoting the upcoming comedy film, confessed that even before she entered the world of showbiz, she used to swoon over Alarcon’s “angelic face.”

“Nung bata pa ako, hindi pa ako artista napapanuod ko na siya. Mala-anghel ang kanyang face. In fairness naman, sa personal napakabait niyang tao,” she said about the veteran actor who starred in several sexy flicks when he was younger.

But Pokwang played down any possibility of the crush blossoming into something more as Alarcon is already married.

“Malapit ang bahay niya sa amin kaya madali akong lulusubin,” she added.

Pokwang said her priority remains her daughter, Mae. “Mas priority ko rin kasi muna na maka-graduate ‘yung anak ko,” she said.

However, the actress noted that her daughter fully supports her if ever she decides to date.

“Naawa na rin naman siya sa akin. Sabi ni Mae sa akin, ‘Kung masaya ka at hindi ka masasaktan then go,” she shared.

Bigger meals earlier can help Weight Loss

Skipping breakfast and overeating in the evening have been shown to play a significant role in weight gain and obesity. A study in the journal Obesity found that consuming the heaviest meal of the day at breakfast and the lightest at dinner can lead to significant weight loss.

From June to October 2012, researchers at Tel Aviv University in Israel recruited 93 overweight and obese women to participate in a three-month, 1,400-calorie-a-day diet, an amount recommended in some weight-loss diets. The women were in their mid-40s and had metabolic syndrome, the term for a cluster of health conditions associated with Type 2 diabetes. Half the women were assigned to



a breakfast group (BF) that consumed 50% of the allotted daily calories at breakfast, 36% at lunch and 14% at dinner. A dinner group (D) did the opposite, eating 14% of calories at breakfast, 36% at midday and 50% at dinner. Participants were measured

for various body and metabolic markers every two weeks.

The BF subjects lost an average 19.1 pounds over 12 weeks, while the D group shed 7.9 pounds.

Levels of glucose, insulin and ghrelin, an appetite hormone, decreased significantly in both groups but to a greater extent in BF subjects. The BF group also had significantly lower glucose and insulin responses in post-lunch blood tests, suggesting that eating a relatively high-calorie breakfast helped to maintain stable insulin levels after the second meal of the day, researchers said.

Caveat: The study was too short to determine the long-term health benefits of high-energy intake at breakfast, they said.

Candid SPOOF (Pop-ups are not supposed to be taken seriously - EDITOR)



Players have fun during a game during the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation picnic at Milliken Park.

Crossword Answers

S	K	I	S		C	A	T		C	A	R	A
H	I	N	T		E	R	R		O	M	E	N
O	T	T	O		C	P	O		L	O	N	G
W	H	O	O	P	I		U	F	O			
					G	O	L	D	B	E	R	G
G	R	E	E	D		E	L	M		R	O	D
O	U	T	S		M	B	E		P	I	N	E
T	E	A		B	A	R		F	A	T	A	L
				T	H	E	H	A	B	I	T	
				E	L	O		O	B	R	I	A
C	E	R	A		N	U	N		I	N	M	E
A	V	E	R		E	K	E		C	R	E	W
N	E	X	T		Y	E	S		K	E	N	T

ANGELICA
continued from page 8

"Parang ganoon naman, e. Masyado lang nama-magnify kasi artista kami."

This Christmas, she and John Lloyd are already making plans to spend it outside the country or maybe spend Christmas here then take a vacation afterwards.

Asked what gift she would like to receive from John Lloyd, Angelica said nothing in particular since she loves "moments" and "memories."

Her favorite moments of hers and John Lloyd's? Running along the beach. The highly acclaimed actor, however, is such a private person that he doesn't want these things to be seen in public.

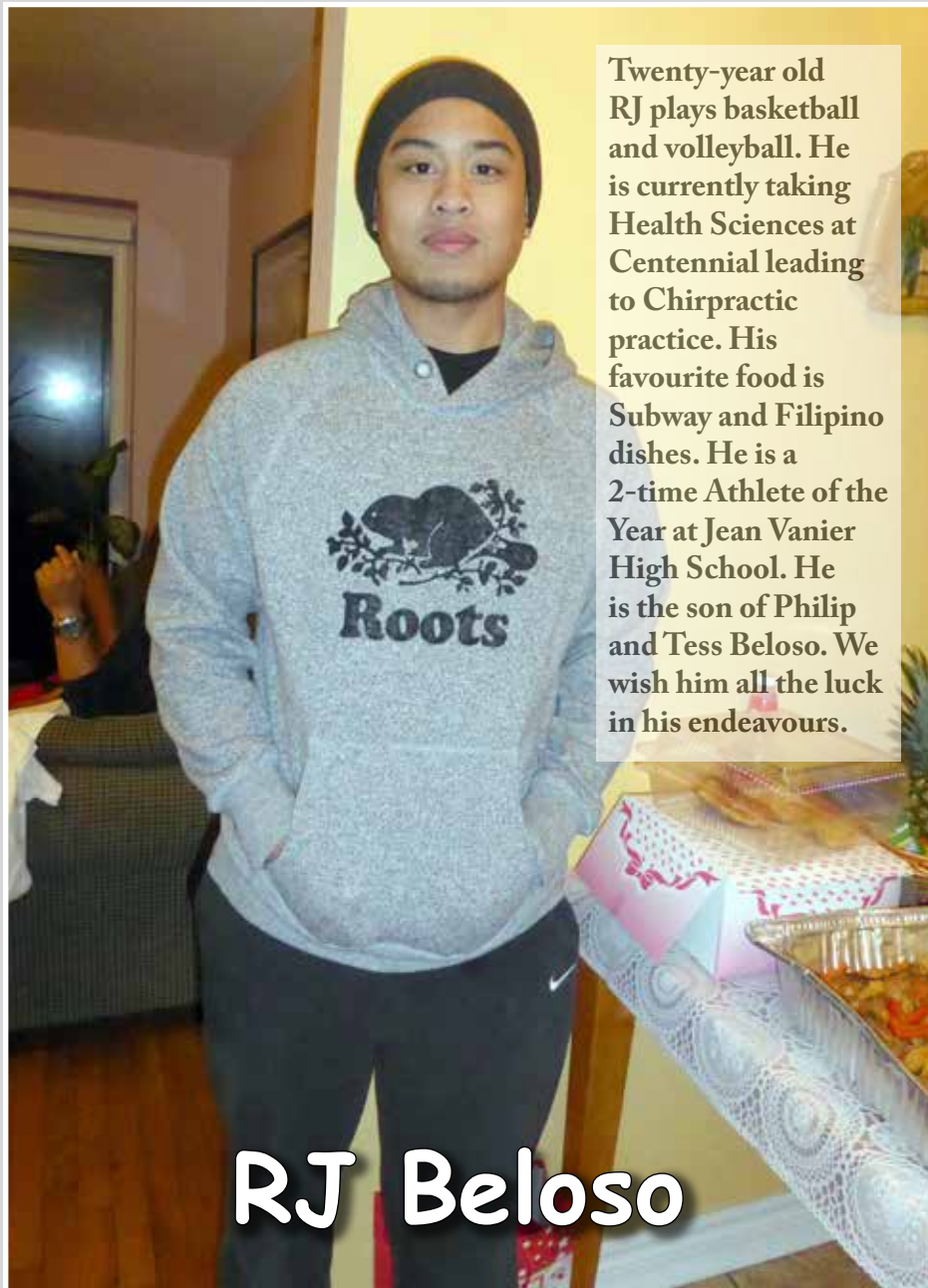
Angelica said she can post pictures of them as long as the actor doesn't see it.

Ryan Agoncillo
address Infidelity
Rumours

Ryan Agoncillo doesn't mind that rumors link him to other girls. In fact, what should worry him is when he and wife Judy Ann Santos are not the topic of conversations anymore. Rumors about him and other girls have never affected their family life, however. "Pero kasi, hindi naman kami apektado sa bahay. So, para sa akin ang tsismis, para sa ibang tao, hindi para sa akin." He doesn't have any reaction to these rumors. "Hindi ko alam kung matatawa ba ako o malinis." Ryan admits to getting attracted by other women, but at the end of the day, it is Juday he wants and loves. He doesn't want to be a hypocrite and say he doesn't notice attractive girls. "Kasal ako, hindi bulag." But how does he fight off temptation? One look at Juday and he knows what he wants in his life. There may be other beautiful girls out there, but the TV host is sure he's got the best of them.



Hunk Shot



Twenty-year old RJ plays basketball and volleyball. He is currently taking Health Sciences at Centennial leading to Chiropractic practice. His favourite food is Subway and Filipino dishes. He is a 2-time Athlete of the Year at Jean Vanier High School. He is the son of Philip and Tess Beloso. We wish him all the luck in his endeavours.

RJ Beloso

Tacloban Journalists out of a Job

TACLOBAN CITY, Philippines—Journalists here have temporarily lost their livelihood after Supertyphoon "Yolanda" destroyed their offices. Some have found ways to earn a living—by working as stringers.

One of them, Jazmine Bonifacio, was connected with radio station dyDW or Radio Diwa, which is managed by the Society of Divine Word (SVD) with dyRF in Cebu as its main station.

For the past six days now, Bonifacio has been working with Nathan Lane, an American journalist based in Japan who is working for Reuters.

Bonifacio works as a buddy/stringer for Reuters and earns P2,000 daily, which she receives at the end of the day's work that starts at 7 a.m. and ends before 6 p.m.

"This is a good relief, a good opportunity for me. I have no job right now as our station remains inoperational due to Yolanda," Bonifacio said. The station was badly battered and its equipment was destroyed by the supertyphoon, she said.

Bonifacio said she has no idea when the station would resume operations.

"But one thing is sure, it would take some months before the station could start airing again," Bonifacio said.

Lane said he was lucky to have Bonifacio as a buddy-stringer.

"She (Bonifacio) has helped me a lot. I'm an American and I don't know anything about this place (Tacloban). He, however, could not say how long he would stay in Tacloban to cover events related to Yolanda that practically leveled Tacloban.

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