

Why are there so many Filipino Nurses in the US?

by Rodel Rodis



This was the question posed to me by a curious TV reporter on May 7, just three days after a stretch limousine traveling across the San Mateo Bridge carrying nine Filipino nurses to a bridal party suddenly burst into flames killing five of the occupants, including the bride.

When she interviewed me in my law office in San Francisco, Ann Notarangelo, the reporter who is the weekend anchor of CBS 5's Eyewitness News, explained that she was only asking the question because it was on the minds of her viewers. She thought I might know the answer as I taught Filipino American History at San Francisco State University and I am the legal counsel of the Philippine Nurses Association of Northern California. Plus, I added, I am also married to a Filipino nurse.

Ann said that she was frankly surprised to learn that 20% of all the registered nurses in California are Filipinos, a considerably large percentage since Filipinos number only 2.3 million (officially 1.2 million) out of a state population of 38 million.

"I never noticed it before," Ann told me, "because I generally don't see people in racial terms." But, she said, in reflecting back on all the times she visited friends and relatives in hospitals all over California, she now recalls

FILIPINO NURSES
continued on page 11

Confidential



Filipino Centre Toronto's Pistahan

Parada ng lechon, Singing Contests and Santacruzán are still Popular



Reina das Flores Nica Victa is one of the reinas at the Santacruzán at FCT's Pistahan. INSET FROM TOP, Newly-crowned PIDC Little Miss Philippines Britney Waito sings at the Pistahan; Michael Magali is the winner in the singing contest in the adult division; The Blessed Virgin Mary was escorted by the Hermanos and Hermanas; KC Partridge is one of the Ave Maria girls; Reina Banderada, who symbolizes the arrival of Christianity was represented by the 2013 Miss Philippines of PIDC, Lauren Fernandez, is escorted by Philip Beloso.

SEX In The PHL Embassies?

STORY INSIDE

Kalayaan Gala



Mama Ching Quejas and Dr. Solon Guzman are happy to receive a certificate of Appreciation from MPP for Mississauga East-Cooksville Dipika Damerla (CENTER).

Little Miss Philippines

Miss Little Philippines 2013 was held on June 8, 2013 at the KCC; from left to right are Chloe Cadence Aman (1st runner-up), Britney Irene Waito (Miss Little Philippines 2013), and Alexandra Manalo (2nd runner-up)

PHOTO BY ARIEL RAMOS





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PHL-Taiwan ink Accord

Taiwan and Philippines pledge not to sue force in fishing disputes as they tackle killing of Taiwanese Fisherman

MANILA - Taiwan and the Philippines have pledged not to use force in fishing disputes, officials said, as they tackle a row over the killing of a Taiwanese fisherman by Filipino coastguards.

The agreement was reached during their first preparatory meeting on fishery cooperation held in Manila, Taiwan's foreign ministry said. It said the agreement was aimed at avoiding

a recurrence of incidents such as the death of 65-year-old Hung Shih-cheng who died after his boat was fired upon by Filipino coastguards while operating in waters near a Philippine island that Taiwan also claims as part of its economic zone."

Both sides have guaranteed to avoid the use of armed force or violence in the implementation of fisheries laws," it

said. The two sides agreed to share their maritime law enforcement procedures and establish means for notifying each other without delay whenever actions are taken against vessels and crews of the other party, it said. They also agreed to develop a mechanism for the prompt

PHL-TAIWAN ACCORD
continued on page 19



Jobless rate spike despite Economic Boom

MANILA, Philippines - Joblessness rose to a three-year high in April amid record economic growth as new graduates flooded the job market while unfavorable weather conditions stymied hiring in the agricultural sector, officials said.

Based on the National Statistics Office (NSO) Labor Force Survey, unemployment reached 7.5 percent in April, up from 6.9 percent in the same period last year. The current unemployment rate was the highest since the eight percent recorded in 2010.

Sought for comment, President Aquino read a text message from

LESS JOBS IN BOOM TIME
continued on page 23

It's Official:

Drunk driving is Illegal Now

MANILA, Philippines—Don't drink and drive. This time the authorities mean it.

This admonition against drunk driving now comes with tough penalties—a fine of as much as P500,000, as well as a corresponding jail term.

President Aquino signed on May

27 Republic Act No. 10586, otherwise known as the Act Penalizing Persons Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, Dangerous Drugs and Other Similar Substances.



LEFT, Gabby Amurao of GAA Enterprises, makers of Porkie chicharons and company attend the Philippines Chamber of Commerce Toronto induction dinner.

RIGHT, Chito Gonzales and wife Linda of Western Union support Philippine Canada fashion Week.





Naku ha! by Jose Baking
LittleManilaConfidential.com

Happy to Pay High prices for Cellphone Service

According to a new study Canadian cellphone customers are totally happy paying high fees for cellphone service, and would be willing to pay even more if given the chance. This survey of 100 executives of Bell, Telus, and Rogers, is 100% accurate with an error margin of zero. Based on the survey, it gives an impression that Canadians may be unhappy paying their current bill and would pay more if given the chance.



Oral Sex causes Throat Cancer

Actor Michael Douglas said that his throat cancer was caused by giving too much oral sex. Now, the medical community wants to compel his wife, Catherine Zeta Jones to have her “intimate part” down there checked for the cause of the virus. They fear she might be a carrier. They are also calling other men, who might have gone down on catherine Zeta Jones to come in for quarantine. I see a movie here. Sort of like “Outbreak, the sequel / prequel” or “Contagion, the sequel / prequel.” I see a franchise movie here like Fast and Furious like Transformers of Iron Man.

Sex in Philippine Embassies, Consulates

Then, there is this news that sex for sale is happening in Philippine embassies, consulates and OFW offices. The offices are in Amman, Jordan, Kuwait and Syria. Charges of prostitution are being levelled against some officials. Ano ba naman iyan? But we have to wait until the investigation is finished. Hopefully, this will not take long.

Drugstore Sales go Up

Sales of feminine cleaning products shot through the roof when news of Douglas confession became news. Shoppers Drug mart, Rexall and Pharma Plus cannot keep stock of these items. Border lineups spiked for trips to CVS, Duane Reade and other drug stores in the United States. When drugstores in border cities run out of the cleaners, Canadians went further in the United States forcing legislators in the United States at every level to deny selling to Canadians. Pharmacists are now asking ID to make sure that no Canadians buy the cleaners. As one US senator said, “We have to make sure we have enough cleaners that can be used by American women. After all, we use them too.” Ehe, ano ba ito? Sus ginoo nakatihaya.



Is there an issue about Salaries?

Minister Jason Kenney suspended accepting some immigrants daw dahil he noticed that some immigrants are behind in salary level. Is that a reason to stop accepting them? Immigrants from poor countries do not expect to have salaries equal to Canadians. They do not have that illusion. What immigrants want to achieve is to work so that their children will have a brighter future. The second generations will be able to earn incomes equal to Canadians. Their parents did not come here for equal pay. They did it and continue to do it for their children. Upward mobility is going to be achieved by second generation immigrants.

Make-up Reimbursement

\$2777 was spent for personal expenses during last general election by PC MP Eve Adams and some were bills for salon visits. Liberal MP Carolyn Bennett jab at Adams during question period saying “Canadians have had enough paying for the conservative pretty department.” Bennett is complaining on the wrong issue. She should be complaining why some MP’s are not putting on make-up. And I’m talking about the men. \$2777 lang? Maganda pa iyan. Paano na kaya kung pangit pa an MP? E di mas malaki ang reimbursement na hihingin. Ehe. Diyos ko po. Ano ba ito?

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Spotlight

A Fili-Finn Romance



Real life couple, Armi Kuusela (the first Miss Universe, 1952) and businessman Virgilio Hilario PHOTO COURTESY OF VIDEO 48

Armi Kuusela

Kuusela’s parents, Aarne Kuusela (father) and Martta Kyrö (mother) met each other in Ontario, Canada and later married there. Their first baby was born in Canada. After several years in Canada, they returned to Finland to settle in Muhos. Martta gave birth to five girls and one boy; one of the girls died when only two-and-a-half years old. Kuusela was born on August 20, 1934, she was the fourth oldest of the children.

In 1952, Miss Finland Armi Kuusela was crowned Miss Universe, the first Miss Universe pageant held June 28, 1952 at Long Beach, USA.

In February 1953, some nine months after she won the Miss Universe title, Armi was invited by the Philippine International Fair Committee to crown that year’s Miss Philippines. In the course of her stay, she met Virgilio Hilario, a Filipino businessman, through a blind date in Baguio... the two were eventually married in Tokyo that year... luckily, Armi was allowed to keep her title.

Hilario died of a heart attack on September 7, 1975, and Kuusela married an American diplomat, Albert Williams, on June 8, 1978. First they moved to Barcelona, then to İzmir, Turkey before settling in La Jolla, a community in San Diego, California. As of 2011, she and her husband were still living there. She is still active in her community, participating in charities and involved in cancer research at the Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute.



FCT Info Session

RIGHT, Congen Bolivar bao conducts an info session on immigration at the Filipino Centre Toronto.



LAUGH RESORT

Nigerians vs Filipinos

Three Nigerians and three Pinoys are travelling by train to the World football championship games in South Africa. At the station, the three Nigerians each buy a ticket and watch as the three Pinoy buy just one ticket between them.

"How the hell are the three of you going to travel on only one ticket?" asks one of the Nigerians.. "Watch and learn bro", answers one of the Pinoys.

They all board the train. The Nigerians take their respective seats but all three Pinoy cram into a toilet and close the door behind them.

Shortly after the train has departed, the conductor comes around collecting tickets.. He knocks on the toilet door and says,"Ticket please."

The door opens just a crack and a single arm emerges with a ticket in hand. The conductor takes it and moves on.

The Nigerians see this and agree it was quite a clever idea. So after the game, they decide to copy the Pinoy on the return trip and save some money (being clever with Internet scams, and all that).

When they get to the station, they buy a single ticket for the return trip. To their astonishment, the Pinoys didn't buy a ticket at all !

"How are you going to travel without a ticket?!" says one perplexed Nigerian.

"Watch and learn bro", answers one of the Pinoys.

When they board the train the three Nigerians cram into a toilet and soon after,the three Pinoys cram into another nearby. The train departs.

Shortly afterwards, one of the Pinoys leaves the toilet and walks over to the toilet where the Nigerians are hiding. He knocks on the door and says,"Ticket please."

Honey shot

Gen was born and raised in the Philippines. The only daughter of her parents from Laguna, her family lives in North York. She loves to sing and play musical instruments, and her favorite food includes kare-kare and sushi. She pursed Early Childhood Education because she enjoys being with kids.



Genesis Anne Ruiz

Japan now issuing multiple-entry visas to Filipinos

MANILA, Philippines—Filipinos who wish to visit Japan may now apply for multiple-entry tourist visas, a privilege the Japanese government extending to Philippine citizens for the first time as part of the relaxation of its visa policies toward Southeast Asians.

The Japanese Embassy in Manila this week confirmed that the cabinet of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe eased its visa policy for citizens of Southeast Asian countries as Japan aims to boost tourist visits to Japan by citizens of the fast-growing region.

"The cabinet of Prime Minister Abe decided to allow the issuance of multiple-entry visas from the Philippines," said Kenji Hirai, embassy press officer.

Previously, multiple-entry visas to Japan were issued to three categories of travelers, Hirai said: those visiting Japan for commercial purposes, artists and specialists (athletes, professors and government officials) and immediate family members of Japan residents.

The Japanese visa is known to be among the toughest to get for Filipino tourists in light of Japan's strict requirements and screening process. Japan offers other types of visas for Filipinos, including single-entry visas for spouses, relatives or friends of Japanese residents and visas for medical stay.

"We welcome the decision of the Japanese government to take important steps to further boost tourism between Japan and the countries in Southeast Asia, including the Philippines," said Assistant Secretary Raul Hernandez, spokesperson at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

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Sex in Philippine Embassies

Officials accused of exploiting distressed OFW’s

It’s not just foreign employers who are abusing overseas Filipino workers (OFWs). Even Philippine Embassy officials are allegedly involved in the sexual exploitation of their countrymen—so says Akbayan Rep. Walden Bello. Bello, who chairs the House committee on overseas workers’ affairs, said three “predators” from Philippine overseas offices had been the subject of complaints from their coworkers.

Bello named two of the three officials during a press conference, and gave the nickname of the third. He said two of the officials—one a ranking member of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (Polo) in Amman, Jordan, and the other a local hire of Polo in Kuwait—were allegedly involved in running sex operations in Amman, Jordan, and Kuwait that use Filipino women staying at OFW shelters.

The third official, who he said was a member of the augmentation team of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) staff in the embassy in Damascus, Syria, allegedly engaged in sexual acts with OFWs staying at the embassy’s shelter for distressed workers.

Shocked at accusations

Bello claimed this was apparently part of a scheme—dubbed by some as a “sex-for-fly” operation—where sexual favors were sought in exchange for helping an OFW get home to the Philippines.

One of the officials named by Bello—Polo-Jordan welfare officer Mario Antonio—denied running a prostitution ring using OFWs.

Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) Administrator Carmelita Dimzon said she talked with Antonio and “he was shocked.” “He was denying it. But he said he is not afraid and is ready to face anybody,” Dimzon told the Inquirer over the phone. She said Antonio arrived in Manila on June 11 as his tour of duty had ended.

“Actually his tour of duty ended last year but he was appointed officer in charge labor attaché so he extended his stay there,” Dimzon added.

Prosecution urged

Dimzon said: “Let’s wait for the investigation to finish, and let’s also hear the side of those being accused. Rest assured that those who will be found at fault will be punished.” Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario will meet with Bello to seek further information on his accusations, according to the DFA.

Bello urged Del Rosario and Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz to remove the three officials from their posts, recall them to Manila and have them face criminal prosecution. “Sexual abuse on our womenfolk perpetrated by their hosts in a foreign country is an awful crime,” Bello said.

“But there is something more awful, and that is their exploitation by their own compatriots in that strange land. And it is triply terrible when they are exploited sexually by government officials who are supposed to protect them,” he added.

Palestinian clients

Bello said his information came from “unimpeachable sources” in the DFA and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

“Our sources asked us to expose the criminals in their ranks because their acts are giving the agencies a bad name and they can no longer tolerate the inaction of their superiors,” he said.

He said at least one of the victims was considering filing a formal complaint. In the case of Antonio, Bello said this official had been accused by embassy personnel and OFWs of letting some of his wards at the OFW shelter go out at night so that they could service wealthy Palestinian clients.

Citing statements from witnesses, Bello said the clients were charged as much as \$1,000 a night. He claimed Antonio’s activities had caught the attention of the Jordan government, which asked that he be recalled.

“He is, in effect, running a prostitution ring using distressed OFWs. This man’s activities are so disreputable and illegal that the government of Jordan has requested that he be removed,” Bello said.

Sex-for-hire

As for the Kuwait-based officer, he had been accused of being long involved in a sex-for-hire scheme, using his countrymen staying at the Filipino Workers’ Resource Center, Bello said. Bello said this officer had not been punished because he was supposedly a townmate of former Ambassador to Kuwait Shulan Primavera.

“Apparently, Polo officials have to condone Predator Three [referring to the Kuwait-based officer] because he might spill the beans as he knows many unlawful incidents in Polo,” Bello said.

“We ask: Why, with all the evidence of using OFWs as prostitutes and cheating them, is this sexual predator allowed to remain in his post? How does a mere local hire hold a whole embassy hostage to his nefarious activities?” he said.

Criminal complicity

Bello claimed that embassy officials in Kuwait and labor authorities in Manila were guilty of criminal complicity.

In the case of the augmentation team member in Syria, Bello said this person was caught on New Year’s Day this year in an intimate act with a female OFW at the Philippine Embassy’s shelter for distressed workers in Syria. Three witnesses filed affidavits attesting to the incident.

Embassy and DFA officials in Manila later found the staff member’s actions to have violated regulations against the fraternization of embassy personnel with their wards but Bello said the employee was only given a “tap on the wrist.” Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz has ordered an investigation of the alleged “sex-for-fly” activities at the Polo office.

Baldoz also issued Administrative Order No. 239 ordering the creation of a team that will investigate the reports.

Sexual favor

“I am resolved to get to the bottom of any accusation of wrongdoing against our people to uphold their credibility and integrity,” Baldoz said in a statement.

Currently in Geneva for an international conference, Baldoz said the reports on the “sex-for-fly” practice of officials and personnel in the Polo office in Kuwait surfaced when an unidentified female OFW sought the help of a radio station and aired a complaint about an “embassy official” who allegedly demanded sexual favor to facilitate her repatriation.

Baldoz called on those with information on the modus operandi to get in touch with the investigating team at Tel. Nos. (02) 527-3000 local 705, (02) 551-1560, (02) 551-6641, (02) 722-1144 and (02) 722-1155.

“We take this kind of allegations very seriously,” she said.

The team that Baldoz ordered to investigate is composed of lawyer Leah Fortuna of the Office of the Secretary as chair, Ophelia Almenario of Owwa and Rosemarie Duquez of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

Other cases

“Our core interest is to protect our OFWs in every instance,” Assistant Secretary Raul Hernandez, the DFA spokesman, said in a statement. “We are disturbed by the news reports that we are receiving regarding the sex-related offenses allegedly committed by embassy personnel.”

Sex-related controversies have hounded the foreign service this year, with sexual harassment charges filed against Primavera and similar charges leveled against Philippine Consul General to Vancouver Jose Ampeso.

Primavera was charged with allegedly sexually abusing his household helper in Kuwait on at least three occasions last year.



Sam Milby extends his acting range by going against his image

MANILA, Philippines - People see him as a mild-mannered guy whose pretty face reflects kindness. But Sam Milby has the tendency to beat his lady black and blue. He, too, could easily point a gun at a woman without hesitation when anger builds up inside him.

Oops, before anyone frets, Sam is only capable of doing such cruel acts as soon as he starts breathing life to Eros Diomedes, his character in Huwag Ka Lang Mawawala, ABS-CBN’s latest primetime drama series to air beginning tonight. Topbilling with Sam is Judy Ann Santos and KC Concepcion.

“This is my most challenging role. The ones I did before were gentleman, romantic and kilig types. This one is far from those roles but I cannot totally say that he’s a kontrabida. He’s a bida-kontrabida. In its first week (of airing), you will know the reason why he is acting like that... na maaawa at kililigin din kayo instead of feeling hatred.”

Not a tinge of Eros’ personality ever comes close to Sam. Never in his lifetime would he dare beat a woman. That’s why, Sam feels like having nightmares whenever the role requires him to turn violent towards his family, particularly to his wife played by Judy Ann. “I really want to show that I really want to improve my craft.”

Isn’t he worried that he can no longer play wholesome after this? “You have to take a risk. You have to take something out of character because it’s the only way you can prove your potential. I want to grow; to show my versatility — that you cannot just do good (guy roles) all the time,” Sam replies.



Filipino-Canadian to launch Bamboo beer

His drive for innovation has led to the notable achievement of being the first Filipino-Canadian licensed brewer in North America and the inventor of the all-natural Bamboo Beer, classified as a premium lager by the Liquor Control Board of Ontario.

Vincent Cruz Villanis, 29, is a Filipino migrant who aspires to more than reaping profits from his unique brew. He has a passion for innovation.

To pay it forward to Hamilton, Ontario, where all the bamboo beer team members reside, Villanis said they plan to put initial earnings in a pot for the construction of a Filipino community center.

Their big day will be in July 13, when the team will launch Bamboo Beer during the Filipinos Making Waves Festival at the Yonge and Dundas Square in Toronto.

Harold Guarin with the Side A Band



Harold Guarin (STANDING 5TH FROM LEFT) of Roadsport Honda, family and friends pose with the Side A band after their highly-successful concert. PHOTO BY ARIEL RAMOS

Lucena Association



Lucena Association held their dinner-dance at Malvern Community Centre on May 11, 2013. PHOTO BY ARIEL RAMOS

Maharlika & Angels/Bayan Tie for Overall Champions of the 2013



Victoria Invitational Basketball Tournament Chair Alok Mukherjee of TPSB and Staff Supt. Jane Wilcox of the Toronto Police greet participants By Rey Tolentino



The 7th annual Victoria Invitational Basketball Tournament concluded the 2-day weekend games on May 18 & 19 at the Hoopdome in Downsview Park with exciting championship games that went down to the last seconds of the game clock to determine the winners.

Newcomers Maharlika Basketball Club and the combined Angels/Bayan clubs tied as the VIBT Champions for 2013 by virtue of their 2 division wins.

Filipino Centre Toronto, President Linda Javier led the members of the Board of Directors who were on hand to greet guests who included Dr. Alok Mukherjee of the Toronto Police Services Board and Staff Superintendent Jane Wilcox, Co-Chair of the Asia Pacific Community Consultative Committee and represented Chief Bill Blair of the Toronto Police Service. Also on hand were the candidates of the 2013 Miss Caregiver pageant with Fil-Core founder Judith Gonzalez. Breanne Tomamang sang O Canada and Exec VP Efren De Villa led the invocation. The Hand in Hand Youth & Mentorship Program was represented by PC Johnny Bobbili and Raja Kanaga.

The NBA Toronto Raptors Mascot along with the NBA Toronto Raptors Cheerleaders gave out prizes as they entertained the huge crowd of participants and spectators who filled the courts of the Hoopdome. Toronto Raptors In-stadium announcer Mark Strong added energy to the performance.

The Asia Pacific Community Consultative Committee in cooperation with the Divisional Policing Unit of the Toronto Police Service sponsored an exhibition game between the FOREX team led by 2012 FCT Entrepreneur of the Year Joseph Alilio and select players of the Toronto Police led by Sergeant Philip Mendoza and PC Renato Valdez. The Police Officers team won the exhibition game.

16 Basketball Clubs participated in this year’s VIBT with teams that competed in 7 divisions of youths aged 8 to 19. The basketball clubs that were invited to compete in this year’s

tournament included The Angels, Bayan, CKATT, Durham, Falcons, Gladiators, Grizzlies, Maharlika, MYAA, North York, Stallions and the Warriors . The Divisions they competed in were Mosquito – 8 to 9; Tykes – 10 to 11; Pee Wee – 12 to 13; Bantam – 14 to 15; Midgets – 16 to 17; Junior – 18 to 19; Girls ages 16 and under.

Philip Beloso, Tournament Director, supported by long-time VIBT volunteers Lyn Tabula and Cris Reyes with the help of many volunteers managed the game schedules, referee and scorer assignments, conflict resolution and ensured the 84 games were played on schedule and results recorded accurately. President Linda Javier led the rest of the FCT officers and volunteers who made sure the tournament was a success.

Here are the final results for the 2013 Victoria Invitational Basketball Tournament:

	Division	Champion	
MVP	Girls	Durham	# 3
Sweet Cunanan	Mosquito	Angiels/Bayan	#5
Tyler Garcia	Tykes	Angiels/Bayan	#7
Denzel Faraon	Pee Wee	Maharlika	# 2
Aaron Go	Bantam	CKATT	#11
Adrian Mendoza	Midget	Maharlika	#14
Sam Ayisi	Juniors	Grizzlies/Robinson	#11
RJ Ramirez & #3 Griffin Fernandez			

Sponsors for the VIBT 2013 included: Robinson Land Corporation, TFC - The Filipino Channel, APCCC, TPSB, Toronto Police, FV Foods, Toronto Raptors, Pinoy Radio, Hand in Hand Police Mentorship Program and Exxoto.

The Filipino Centre Toronto now turns its attention to the preparations for the Pistahan at Nathan Philips Square on June 8 & 9 to celebrate the 115th anniversary of the declaration of Philippine independence; the Dr. Guillermo de Villa Memorial Golf Tournament, scheduled for July 14 at the Granite Ridge Golf Club in Milton; the Miss Paraluman competition and the Cabbage Town Festival in the fall. In the meantime, the Free Clinic and other programs that support seniors, students, new comers and many other social events in the FCT calendar continue as scheduled.

Congratulations once again to the Filipino Centre Toronto, its partners and friends for the successful running of the Victoria Invitational Basketball Tournament 2013!

Daiana Menezes declines help from concerned groups



DAIANA Menezes made some mysterious posts about domestic violence in her Twitter account that made people suspect she’s a battered wife or something as she even showed a photo of her arm on Instagram which is black and blue with bruises. She never mentioned the name of her boyfriend who she already introduced to the press, Cagayan de Oro Cong. Benjamin Benaldo.

But a few days later, Benaldo himself confessed on TV and in an open letter that he and Daiana indeed had a fight “because of love.” He quickly added they have already patched things up and she has forgiven him, adding that they have settled their differences. This is what he wrote in his message:

“I am responding to the issues that have recently come out, I am speaking with the consent of my partner. Today, Daiana and I have settled our differences. We are together out of love. We fought because of love. She has forgiven me because she truly loves me. I am truly blessed. Like other couples, Daiana and I encounter problems. We try to resolve them privately. I have apologized to her and she has accepted. On behalf of Daiana’s actions on social media, we seek the understanding of everyone regarding her posts on her advocacies seeking help and support. “I believe that any woman, any foreigner (woman) who might be facing a situation worse than ours must find an avenue for the redress of her grievances in our country. We thank our friends and relatives for their patience and support. We thank everyone for respecting our privacy.”

Benaldo also revealed that he and Daiana are already husband and wife. “Daiana and I got married civilly in Las Vegas. Since then, we have been preparing for the big religious ceremony as we previously announced.”

Las Vegas? Domestic violence? Haven’t we just heard of this recently? Studies show that incidence of domestic violence is not an isolated case but most likely would be repeated. Maybe Daiana should talk to Ai Ai and ask for the comedienne’s advice on the matter. We’re sure we’ve not heard the end of this. Some quarters have tried to contact Daiana to hear about it directly from her but she begged off.

Carassauga Philippine Pavilion



FROM LEFT, Senator Enverga presents a certificate of Appreciation to the Culture Philippines of Ontario; FV Foods Mel and Flor pose with the mascot; Justine del Rosario performs a dance number; Alev Usta joins CPO; Singer Josie de Leon entertains the audience.

A Pistahan for All
Proud to be Pinoy

For several days in mid-June, the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) was a busy hub for Pinoys commemorating the 115th Philippine Independence. The Pistahan sa Toronto at Nathan Phillips Square, on June 8 and 9, was just one festivity among the many in the GTA that brought Pinoys together. Proud to be Pinoy, quite a few showed up clad in those t-shirts which carried the colours of our flag. While others came to enjoy the nonstop shows on stage and to savour those tasty Filipino dishes. Thanks to the ever-ready food services of FV Foods, Jesse Jr, Ilocandia Oriental Food and Inihaw Filipino Grill. Homesick for the motherland and pining for the fun times at barrio fiestas, the Filipino festivities serve as a balm for loneliness.

The opening of the Pistahan was kicked off with the admirable singing of the National Anthems by three children from the FCT’s Tagalog class. Proud Tagalog teacher, Evelyn Almeda, was nearby to make sure they did it right. Following the opening remarks by FCT Vice-Chairman Rey Tolentino, the Philippine Consul General Junever Mahilum-West gave a short speech and read a message from the Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert del Rosario. FCT President Linda Javier paved the way for the start of the program with her closing remarks.

On both the 2- day celebration, the stage presentations went non-stop till the end. They were emceed by the delightful pair Arnel Caballes and Alma Almaria Ramos and supported by the indefatigable program coordinator Wendy Arena and DJ Paul Arena.

The first day performers were: Atoy’s Band, Criselda Arellano, South East Cantel c/o Francis Favie, Overview Band, Hula Dancers c/o Leahnette, Combat Science, Vianne Gaerlan, Steel Band, Culture Philippines, Purite c/o Wendy Arena, Virgilio Vicente, Folklorico, Faith Gumahad, Cecile Wood, Parad ng Lechon, Kuwarta o Kahon, Robinson, The Flash Mob, Almarie Cansino, Rhythm Trio c/o Wendy Arena, Golden Dancers, Fashion Show c/o Tony Furto, Herbert Langiden, Edmund Arevalo, Vincent Villanueva, LCPD c/o Larry Dionisio and Barkadas Band. The fashion show was a concerted effort of the ARACONCEPT ENTERTAINMENT & BODYSHOTS. CA MODELS AND PARENTS. The FCT wishes to acknowledge their whole hearted participation in the Pistahan Sa Toronto.

Parada ng Lechon
One popular number that fascinated the tourists and kept cameras busy was the Lechon Parade or Parada ng Lechon. The brigade of 12 or more volunteers carrying the wrapped lechon on their shoulders marched single file up the stage, then down the stage to deposit their load at the booth where the choppers and lechon sorters, aproned and head-covered, were waiting. Cuts of lechon in little pouches with liver sauce drizzled in each were then distributed to the long queue of people who held the yellow lechon coupons.

A surprise show, the Flash Mob, showed up among the audience to do line-dancing and had many of the audience participating including seniors.

The second and last day brought forth



LEFT COLUMN FROM TOP; Miss Manila 2013 Danielle Ocampo walks the Santacruzian; Philip Beloso interviews Mrs. Paraluman; Singer Josie de Leon poses with fellow singers; FV Foods' Yeshami Ling serves a customer; FV Foods' Kley Garcia waits for a customer; RIGHT COLUMN FROM TOP; Kelly McGilroy walks the Santacruzian; Gene Elamparo poses with FCT's Dr. Vicky Santiago and Linda Javier; Hermanos & Hermanas walks the Santacruzian; TFC's Noemi Laguer serves a customer; Dr. Vicky Santiago is served by FV Food's owners Flor Vendiola and Mel Galeon. MORE PHOTOS AT FILIPINOGGODLIFE.COM



KC Concepcion
awaits a suitor's
'grand gesture'

SHE SAYS she's not exclusively dating anyone right now.

When the full trailer of ABS-CBN's new television series "Huwag Ka Lang Mawawala" was shown recently to the show biz press, one of the things that instantly caught everyone's attention was KC Concepcion's steamy elevator kissing scene with costar Sam Milby.

One veteran scribe couldn't help asking the 28-year-old actor-television host, "How can you do such a scene when you're loveless?" Swiftly and teasingly, Concepcion, who broke up with French filmmaker Pierre-Emmanuel Plassart earlier this year, replied, "Ayy! Loveless nga ba?"

Concepcion would not reveal the identity of her suitor—or suitors—saying she was not exclusively dating anyone right now.

"I don't want to preempt anything. I'll tell you when I'm ready," she said. "I'm just waiting for a grand gesture from one of them...and then I'll consider."

Is Houston Rockets basketball player Chandler Parsons one of them, as earlier reported? "Sa akin na lang po 'yun," Concepcion begged off.

She did admit, however, that most of her suitors were foreigners although she was quick to add she had nothing against Filipino men.

A frequent traveler, the actor was asked if she met up with her suitors when she went out of the country. "Sila ang pumupunta sa akin!" she said, laughing. "I'm the girl here!"

One of Concepcion's handlers then requested the show biz scribes to ask questions about the soap. A tad miffed, a TV reporter grudgingly fired a cornball question: "So, have you ever told anyone, 'Huwag ka lang mawawala?'"

"Yes, of course. I've been in love...But past is past," Concepcion said, effectively closing the door on inevitable follow-up questions about Piolo Pascual.

Was there anything Concepcion learned from failed relationships? "If your partner can't give you 100 percent, huwag na lang," she said.

She added, "I've learned that there's a difference between nagpapa-yummy and being disrespectful. I don't understand why it's the men who play hard to get at times."

In "Huwag Ka Lang Mawawala," for the first time in her career, Concepcion will play a villain—something, she noted, that had not been done by her mother, Sharon Cuneta. Although she shared many similarities with her mom, Concepcion said her decision to accept the role of Alexis highlighted their differences in personality. "I think I've made riskier choices...My mom would tell me that I'm a red sports car; she's a red SUV," she said.

However, she confessed that she might have turned down the offer if it was not Judy Ann Santos she would be working with. "I can say that this is my first time to do 'real' acting."

Playing Alexis is challenging, exciting and a lot of fun. This is my baptism of fire," Concepcion said.

In one of her confrontation scenes with Santos, Concepcion said the more experienced actor slapped her so hard that she swore she saw stars circling her head. "But to be slapped by Ms Juday is an honor," she said, laughing. "Not many can say that!"

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A Letter to the PCCF and it's Pinoy Fiesta Festival from President Benigno Aquino III

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

MESSAGE

My warmest greetings to the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation, as you hold your Pinoy Fiesta and Trade Show.

We have taken decisive steps to rebuild our country, and three years into this journey of reform, the Philippines is now soaring to unprecedented heights. We Filipinos take pride in this revitalization, and rightly so, for it is through the concerted efforts of each of our countrymen, from our own shores or overseas, that we write this vibrant new chapter in our continuing history. Your government thanks you for your unwavering patriotism and civic responsibility; your generosity and endeavors towards uplifting our communities empower our countrymen to take part in our ongoing renewal.

The tradition of bayanihan continues to find significance in our present undertakings. Our solidarity against any challenge remains a key driver of our success. Let us bestow the legacy of a truly transformative Philippines to coming generations and march steadfastly towards a more prosperous and progressive future.

I wish you a happy and meaningful event.

BENIGNO S. AQUINO III

MANILA
22 June 2013

MADEAG NG PANGULO NG PHILIPPINES

Angel Locsin says Phil Younghusband beats her when it comes to surprises

Kaka-celebrate lamang ng kanilang first anniversary sina Angel Locsin at Phil Younghusband bilang magkasintahan at sinurpresa daw si Phil ni Angel nang bigla siyang magpunta para manood ng kanyang football game. "Nagsurprise siya sa akin sa Singapore nanood siya ng game ko sa Singapore then we just had a nice dinner. Pagdating sa bahay niya there was a video I prepared with a lot of our memories together."

Hindi pa daw nagpropose ng kasal si Phil pero sinabi niya na unang makakaalam nito ay ang ama ni Angel na naging malapit na din sa kanya. "We're very close. he gives me a lot of advice, about my professional career, my personal life, he makes me feel welcome into the family. To have someone like that I'm very lucky ... He'll definitely be the first person to know even before Angel, so I let daddy know how I feel about Angel."



Soprano Eleanor Calbes, Pianist Solon Reyes and Beauty titlist Caitlin Pantaleon judge the Kalayaan pageants.

PHL busiest on Social Media

Free wifi in cafes is a big draw for students



MANILA, Philippines – Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia have the most active people on social media, at least among consumers who frequent Starbucks coffee shops, based on a survey released by social engagement platform Local Measure.

Local Measure ‘Starbucks’ Social Index analyzed social media conversations that

occurred in 60 Starbucks stores across Australia, United States, Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia over the past 24 months. Ten stores in prominent cities of each country were included from June 1, 2011 to June 1, 2013.

By identifying location data embedded within publicly available social content, Local Measure said it was able to identify unique insights, images posted by customers and comments about their experience in Starbucks.

Based on the survey, Malaysians are the most active on social media and twice as active as Americans, creating about 209,200 posts and check-ins on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Foursquare.

Filipinos generated the second largest

amount of content with 188,200 posts and check-ins and Indonesians came in third with 134,109 posts.

In a statement, Local Measure founder Jonathan Barouch said the survey highlighted the increasing need for businesses to mine social data that could be drawn from the real-time, social media platforms to gain insights from a business’ premises.

“With Local Measure, retailers can now use this feedback to improve their customer service and make changes to their products or services accordingly,” Barouch said.

For the Philippines, the busiest Starbucks area was in Bonifacio Global City, with 3,266 posts and 15,496 check-ins.

The busiest month for the Philippines was May, similar to Malaysia, Indonesia and the United States. The busiest period for Australia and Singapore was March.

PROUD TO BE PINOY
continued from page 8

a huge crowd under a bright sunny sky. The performers were: Cecile Wood, Teresa Panaligan, the Hula Dancers of Linda Etzkorn, Virgilio Vicente, Flasher Line Dancing, Vianne Gaerlan (the 2011 champ of the champs), Josie de Leon (the singing diva has offered free lessons at her studio to the winners of the 2013 Filipino Singing Idol), Can-Asian Dancers, Children Hula Dancers under Lynnette, Charlene Dorland, the Kayumanggi Dancers and another Parada ng Lechon.

The 2013 Filipino Singing Idol

There were 18 contestants in the exciting final competition for the 2013 Filipino Singing Idol. Judges were Toots Evidente, Leo Mascariñas and Juan Tomas while the tabulators were Evelyn Almeda and Luna Vince. Emcees were Philip Beloso and Josie de Leon.

Congratulations to the WINNERS and runners-up:

CHILDREN CATEGORY: Champion - Fiennes Mendoza; Runner-up - Joseph Pasia

TEENS CATEGORY: Champion - Alecza Marie Loanzon; Runner-up - Beatrice Joy Cerbas

ADULTS CATEGORY: Champion - Michael Nagali; Runner-up - Marylou Malicdem

The Santa Cruzan

The Santa Cruzan was a fitting conclusion for the 2-day Pistahan. The FCT singing group of Dios Te Salve, led by Perla Andres, was the background music as the procession wended around Nathan Phillips Square.

Leading the way were Avian Caballes Iumin, Elyana Caballes Iumin, Morgan Caballes, Ayana Acebedo, Emerald Paulino, Henry Arcega and Ella Santos as the little girls in white carrying tiny baskets filled with flower petals to be tossed over the Blessed Mother Mary’s image.

The AVE MARIA girls in white with angel’s wings came next. They were KC Partridge, Nicole Lan-Ang, Rogie Jovenal, Isabel Lan-Ang, Ashley Morillo, Melanie May Lazaro, Cheryl Haley and Princess Lapeña.

Most of the participating reinas were either beauty queens and/or candidates in beauty pageants. They wore fabulous ternos that caught the attention and admiration of the huge Pistahan crowd.

Spearheading the line of reinas was Reina Banderada, who symbolizes the arrival of Christianity. She was represented by the 2013 Miss Philippines of PIDC, Lauren Fernandez, escorted by Philip Beloso. Walking beside her was 1st runner-up Little Miss Philippines, Chloe Aman. Reina del Cielo was Cheryl Haley Flores, who was surrounded with little angels in white; Reina Caridad, symbolizing the virtue of charity, was Steph Foster; Representing Reina de la Paz was Hazel Alcantara, escorted by Renz Perreiro; Reina Abogada was Zarina Buce, escorted by Gerald James Garcia; Reina de las Propetas was Gelien Marie Garcia, escorted by Miguel Melo; Reina Sheba was Theryl de los Reyes, escorted by Alec de los Reyes; Reina de las Estrellas was Kelly McIlroy, escorted by Hebrew Miller, and walking by her side was Katia McIlroy; Reina de los Angeles was Robelyn Lucena and escorted by Denver Docil, and Reina de las Virgines was Anael Domingo, escorted by Sammy Tanag.

Reina de las Flores was Nika Victa, escorted by Coy Manguerra; Reina Emperatriz was represented by FCT’s 2012 Paraluman, May Montierro Garcia, who was escorted by Geriel Tadeo Garcia and Adrian Fraginal and accompanied by 2013 Paraluman candidate Gemaine Borja. At the end of the line was Reina Elena represented by Daniele Ocampo, 2013 Miss Manila, who was escorted by Prince Constantine, Julian de Juan.

The Hermanos y Hermanas Mayores were the Flores and Paulite Families. They escorted the carroza carrying the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Walking alongside were the Almaria Family, some FCT directors and the Daughters of Isabella who led the group in singing the Dios Te Salve.

A big thank you to Pistahan’s major sponsors Bell Canada and Robinson Philippines and to all who helped make this year’s Pistahan a great success.

Kalayaan 30th Anniversary



FROM TOP, Mama Ching Quejas addresses the crowd during the Kalayaan gal in celebration of the organizations’ 30th anniversary. MIDDLE, Senator Tobias “Jun” Enverga (5th from right) poses with some Kalayaan supporters. BOTTOM, Kalayaan titlists are introduced to the audience.

Why are there so many Filipino nurses in the US?

by Rodel Rodis

FILIPINO NURSES continued from page 1

seeing Filipino nurses everywhere. Not just in California, I said.

There but not quite there

The seeming anonymity of Filipino nurses in the US – of being there but not being quite there – is likely no more. The video clip of the fire-engulfed limousine was the top story in the US over the weekend. The media reported that the fatalities included Neriza Fojas, 31, a newlywed bride who was planning to get married again in the Philippines in June; Michelle Estrera, 35, the bride's Maid of Honor who worked with her at a Fresno medical facility; Jennifer Balon, 39, and Anna Alcantara, 46, of San Lorenzo, who both worked at the Fruitvale Healthcare Center; and Felomina Geronga, 43, who worked at the Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Oakland.

As the TV camera started rolling, Ann posed the question to me: "Why are there so many Filipino nurses in the US?"

There are push and pull factors that are at play, I explained. The main push factor is the poor Philippine economy where an average RN earns only about 5% of what an RN is paid in the US. The main pull factor is the nursing shortage in the US.

Americans should not be too surprised at the large number of Filipinos in the US. After all, the Philippines was a US colony from 1899 until the Japanese occupation in 1942 and, some would argue, a "neo-colony" for many decades after the Philippines was granted independence by the US in 1946.

It does not surprise the British to see many Indians and Pakistanis in England, nor does it surprise the French that there are many Algerians in France. They understand that people from the colonized countries generally tend to gravitate and immigrate to their "mother" countries, even after their native countries were granted independence.

Four waves of immigration

There are four waves of Filipino nurse immigration to the US.

The first wave came after the US began its colonization of the Philippines and needed local health care professionals to meet the health needs of the subject



Isabel L. Mina in 1921 PHOTO COURTESY OF LISSA SOBREPENA ancestry.

population which is why the US Army recruited Filipinos to work as Volunteer Auxiliary and Contract Nurses.

Under the Pensionado Act of 1903, Filipinos were sent to the US as government-funded scholars (pensionados) including those pursuing a nurse education. Some of those who stayed for employment as nurses in the US went on to form the Philippine Nurses Association of New York in 1928. The association's first president was Marta Ubana, who completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Many other pensionado nurses returned back to the Philippines to help set up and manage the 17 nursing schools that were established in the Philippines from 1903 until 1940. Large numbers of the graduates from these nursing schools thereafter immigrated to the US as, unlike with the Chinese and Japanese, there were no immigration restrictions against them since Filipinos were considered "US nationals" and even traveled with US passports.

One of the pioneer Filipino RNs was Isabel L. Mina who graduated with a nursing degree from the University of the Philippines in 1919 before working at the Mary Chiles Hospital in Manila. Together with two other Filipino nurses, Josefa Cariaga and Petra Aguinaldo, Isabel boarded a ship in 1921 to go to Hawaii where they worked in a hospital before moving to California. The three close friends then boarded a train and traveled to New York where they worked in a local hospital for several years before deciding to return back to Manila.

Information about Isabel Mina was

obtained by her San Francisco-based granddaughter, Lissa Sobrepena, who found out about her grandmother's exploits when she logged on to Ancestry.com. For a fee, the website showed her photos and documents of her grandmother including copies of the two passport applications Isabel Mina filled out when she lost her US passport while traveling in the US.

What stunned Lissa was learning that her grandmother's best friend was Petra Aguinaldo, who quite coincidentally, just happened to be the grandmother of her husband, Robert Sobrepena. Neither Lissa nor Robert knew that their grandmothers – who died before they were born – were close friends and that they had traveled together across the US as RNs.

Second wave

The next big wave of nurses from the Philippines began in 1948 when the US State Department set up an Exchange Visitor Program to "combat Soviet propaganda". According to Catherine Ceniza Choy, associate professor of ethnic studies at the University of California, Berkeley, and author of *Empire of Care: Nursing and Migration in Filipino American History* (Duke University Press, 2003), owing to the "special relationship" between the mother country and its former colony, a large percentage of the exchange visitors came from the Philippines, and many of them were nurses or nursing students.

Among these nurses was Maria Guerrero Llapitan who came to the US in 1948 to take post-graduate nursing courses at Baylor University in Texas. Maria had served as the supervisor of the operating room of a hospital in Bataan before it fell to the Japanese invaders in 1942. After completing her postgraduate studies at Baylor, Maria moved to Chicago to work at the Cook County General Hospital where she met her fiancé. She then went to Hunter College for Women in New York to get her nursing degree while working at Sloane-Kettering Memorial Hospital in New York.

Maria married her fiancé in San Francisco where they set up a family in 1951. She later was among the Filipino nurses who formed the Philippine Nurses Association of Northern California in 1961.

Third wave

The third wave of Filipino nurse immigration to the US came after 1965 when US Immigration laws were liberalized to allow Filipino nurses and other professionals to immigrate to the US. It also allowed Filipino nurses to come to the US on tourist visas without prearranged employment and to then adjust their status in the US.

During this period, the number of nursing schools in the Philippines soared from 17 in 1940 to 170 in 1990 to more than 429 at the present time. Many of these nursing schools were diploma mills exploiting the desire of many Filipinos to enter the nursing profession.

Unfortunately, as a result of the only 15-20% of the Filipino nurses who immigrated to the US after 1965 could pass the state nursing board exams. This led to the establishment in 1977 of the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) to help prevent the exploitation of graduates of foreign nursing schools who come to the United States to work as nurses but who can't pass the nursing board exams here.

The CGFNS developed a pre-immigration certification program that consisted of: a credentials review; a test of nursing knowledge (CGFNS qualifying examination), and an English-language proficiency examination (TOEFL).

Since 1977, CGFNS has administered more than 350,000 tests to approximately 185,000 applicants in 43 test sites worldwide. From 1978 to 2000, the data showed that 73% of CGFNS test takers came from the Philippines, followed by the United Kingdom (4%), India (3%), Nigeria (3%), and Ireland (3%).

Role model

Menchu Sanchez immigrated to the US in 1980s and has worked as an RN for more than 25 years, the last three years at the New York University Langone Medical Center. When Superstorm Sandy battered New York last October, Menchu was taking care of 20 at-risk infants in the Intensive Care Unit of her hospital. Sandy knocked out the electric power to the

FILIPINO NURSES continued from page 19

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Filipino Good Life

Fairbanks is Gone, Long Live Backstage Theatre

A strip joint that we discovered as Fairbanks Hotel - but you cannot stay there - evolved into the more aptly-named Fairbanks Gentleman's Club. Now, it is a private club called Backstage Theatre with a membership fee of \$1 and an entrance fee of \$2.00. But the product remains the same.



TOP, Manny Concepcion (STANDING) bumps into friends at Buzzy's on Niagara falls Blvd, famous for their cheap wings. • INSET, A Calvin Klein outlet store does good business. BELOW, Vehicles with Ontario plates are seen.

The last time I went there was last March 30, 2013 and it was still named Fairbanks Gentleman's Club. Last May 31st, I came back with a friend and found the new membership fee and the new name. The product remains the same but the price has gone up - in a way. Barely-dressed dancers gyrate onstage. However, the dancers now cover their top with pasties. And they do not do the full monty anymore on the third song. So, you are paying more to see less skin nowadays where before you were paying to see more skin - exposed. The beer and chicken wings are more expensive. They have kept the lap dance fees the same -\$20 minimum for two dances and \$10 per song after that. I am happy for that. After all, it's not that there was any improvement to the product to warrant a price increase. If you buy a late-model car, it's more expensive than last year because there was a technology added to it. The Filipina waitress that has been there since we started coming to that

place more than 10 years ago is gone. But the Filipina dancer that we've seen there 10 years ago is still there. The entrance fee that the United States is proposing for Canadians entering their land crossings is like the entrance fee this club is charging. For cross-border shoppers, the product inside remains the same, but just like at Backstage Theatre, the prices have gone up. The products at the outlet malls have become more expensive and not really bargain prices anymore like they were 20 years ago. I went long-driving with my friend Manny Concepcion one Saturday to Buffalo so I can drop off a UPS package to be sent to New York city. I wanted to avoid the headache of getting the package stopped by US Customs because of some incomplete forms. After we dropped off the package at the UPS

store, we went to Buzzy's a restaurant famous for it's cheap and delicious wings along Niagara Falls Blvd. Manny bumped into some friends of his who were also eating at the place.



Afterwards, we went to the Fashion Outlet Mall on Military Rd. Quite a number of vehicles were from Ontario. We ended up window shopping because we cannot afford the prices anymore. Gone are the days when outlet malls were the repository of unsold merchandise from regular stores. Now, brands produce a separate lines intentionally to be sold at these outlet malls. It was a nice day to spend a Saturday.

Flag-raising at Ottawa



Photo shows the giant Philippine Flag which was carried by the members of the Philippine community headed by the Filipino-Canadian Senator Tobias C. Enverga, Jr. and Philippine Ambassador to Ottawa His Excellency The Honorable Leslie Gatan during the 115th Philippine Independence Day celebration on June 12, 2013 at the Parliament Hill, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. (Dindo Orbeso, St. Jamestown News Service)



NABA- GTA 2013 Hoop League Bounces in Thrilling and Memorable Finale

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT

Successfully and admirably hosted by North York Pinoy Athletic Association (NYPAA), the 6th Annual North American Basketball Association (NABA)-GTA Basketball League-2013 "whistled to its final time out" on Sunday, June 9, 2013 at the popular Downsview Park's Hangar, the HoopDome. The GTA League, long a major sports staple of amateur basketball players, coaches, sports officials, volunteers, parents and fans, is composed of participating Greater Toronto Area - based sports teams from Brampton, Mississauga, Newmarket, North York, Scarborough, Toronto, and Vaughan in Ontario.

Savouring proudly the precedent - setting 4 championship titles haul was Newmarket's BAYAN- Basketball Athletic Youth Alliance Neighbourhood teams. BAYAN's Tykes, Pee wee, Bantam and Junior teams swept the championship trophies for each of the four divisions. Scarborough's T.O. Falcons bagged the Open championship title. One of the memorable highlights of the 6- month weekend games was the Junior Division championship finals between Newmarket and NYPAA basketballers which the Newmarket dribblers won, 79-83, in overtime.

NABA executive adviser Gani Gregorio and NABA liaison officer Edgar Tojino officiated at the closing rites, awarding the championship trophies and medals to the tournament winners. The 2 top officers aptly represented Dr. Ron Damasco, NABA commissioner and the deputy commissioner, Frank Pendon. The NABA-GTA City Directors are: Ed Pe Benito & Marilyn Ramdass of Brampton; Noel Buenaventura of Mississauga; Alex Dooc & Cherrie Fermin of Newmarket; Bob San Juan, Vilma Tahsin & Roger Tarca of North York; Nestor Leabres of Scarborough; Arnold Carating of Toronto; and William Marasigan of Vaughan.

NYPAA president Rey Merced, presiding and acting as Emcee, cheerfully announced the winners. Providing excellent administrative and logistic support are NYPAA founders and organization leaders Vilma Tahsin, Bob San Juan, Roger Tarca, Ed Sotto and Arnel Santos. PITO official referees comprise Rod Agris, Misty Cruz and Rico Nepomuceno. Ted Badner, Jason Williams and other HoopDome officials provided game score- & time-keeping support. Ilocandia Oriental Food catered to the guests, players & volunteers all-day tasteful meals, while NABA-GTA official photographer Jude Infante recorded the day's events.

Joining and celebrating with the winning players and coaches are the guest teams of Grizzlies, Lapsley, Maharlika, PBA and Spartans. The guest team leaders include: Grizzlies' Eric Aquino & Lito Monzon ; Lapsley's Alan Abucejo; Maharlika's Domi Florido; Spartans' Raffy Abad & Edmund Espina; and Stallions' Bong Garcia.

Cherrie Fermin formally accepted and enthusiastically announced that her City of Newmarket is hosting the upcoming 26th Annual 27-City North American Basketball Association Intercity Tournament on August 30, 31 and September 1, 2013. The 26-year old Filipino Canadian and Filipino American basketball sports fest is open to all enthusiasts and supporters of "Pinoy mundo basketbol", our favourite pastime. Following are the final results, photos and MVPs of the big one-day championship games. (TSJ).

NABA-GTA 2013 Championship Games Result last Sunday, June 9 at HoopDome
Tykes Division
Champion - Newmarket
Finalist - Toronto
MVP - Tyler Garcia (#5)

Pee wee Division
Champion - Newmarket
Finalist - Grizzlies
MVP - Denzel Faraon (#7)

Bantam Division
Champion - Newmarket2
Finalist - Grizzlies
MVP - Marcus Cortes (#10)

Junior Division
Champion - Newmarket
Finalist - North York
MVP - EJ Perez (#9)

Open Division
Champion - Scarborough
Finalist - Toronto
MVP - Norman Penola (#1)

Tony A. San Juan, OCT
tnysanjuan@yahoo.ca

A black and white photograph of three women standing on a stage, likely during a pageant ceremony. They are all wearing crowns and holding large bouquets of flowers. The woman on the left is wearing a sash that says "CHARITY". The woman in the center is wearing a sash that says "2013 ANABASO". The woman on the right is wearing a sash that says "WINNER". They are all smiling and looking towards the camera.



FIRST, 2nd Runner Up Janice Hernane, Miss Philippines 2013 Lauren Fernandez and 1st Runner up Monalyn Joyce Quelnat pose for their pictures. PHOTO BY ARIEL RAMOS; SECOND, Little Miss Philippines 2013 is Britney Waito; THIRD, Officers of the PIDC take a break; FOURTH, Miss Philippines 2012 and Naomi Macapagal wait their turn to put on the sash. PHOTOS AT FILIPINOGOODLIFE.COM



Beauty titlist Kesiah Papasin and Anita Diaz of Ready Honda get ready to judge the PIDC Miss Philippines pageant.



NEW YORK—Nine owners and managers of 7-Eleven convenience stores were charged Monday in a scheme to exploit immigrants from Pakistan and the Philippines, in part by paying them using the stolen Social Security numbers of a child and three dead people while stealing most of their wages.



Most of the defendants were arrested early Monday as federal authorities raided 14 franchise stores on Long Island, New York, and in Virginia. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents were executing search warrants at more than 40 other stores across the US suspected of similar infractions, authorities said at a news conference in Brooklyn.

"These nine defendants created a modern-day plantation system, with themselves as overseers, with the immigrant workers as subjects, living in their version of a company town," US Attorney Loretta Lynch told a news conference in Brooklyn.

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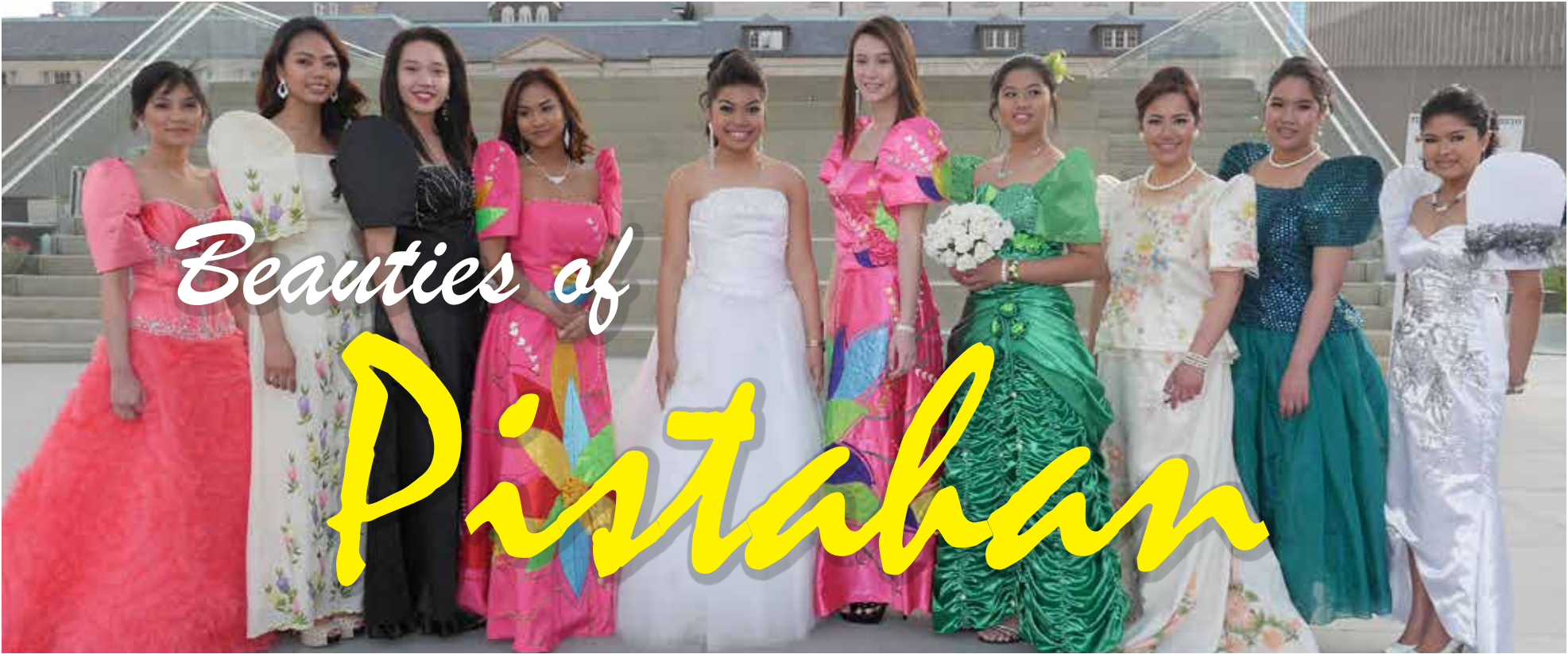
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The beauty titlists of the different organizations joined the Santacruzans as Reynas for the Filipino Centre Toronto at their annual Pistahan sa Nathan Phillips Square.

Sam Pinto wants to be a sexy, action star

+ Toni Gonzaga shows off her domestic side

AS LIDAGAT, a water goddess, in the TV series “Indio”

Do a quick Google search of model-actress Sam Pinto and the first few photos you will come across are of her in a bathing suit, posing for sexy magazines or fashion shows.

But the 23-year-old stunner said, although she had made a name as one of the most desirable ladies in show biz, doing daring movies was not necessarily the next step.

“I can show skin, but there are limits to what I will do. I can’t show everything and go all out. I’m not ready,” Pinto said.

“You’ll be very surprised to know that I’m actually really sporty and competitive!” I want to be one of those sexy, kick-ass action stars.”

At the moment, Pinto is a regular in GMA 7’s “Bubble Gang,” a television show



she did not expect to be a part of. “I was like, ‘Why me? I’m not a comedienne or anything.’”

Right timing

“It’s really hard—you need right timing and be able to improvise. I’ve learned a lot from my costars,” said Pinto. But in the recently concluded fantasy series “Indio,” where she plays Lidagat, a goddess, Pinto’s Filipino was put to the test. “Some of the words we use are very old. Nosebleed! I asked for the script in advance so I could study the words and how to pronounce them,” she said.

“I didn’t believe that I could actually sing and dance in front of many people. At least I can say that I can do those things and I can be better if I keep pushing myself,” she said.

At the time of this writing, Pinto was number two, behind fellow GMA 7 artist Marian Rivera, in this year’s FHM Sexiest

Women poll—with a strong possibility she would earn the title for the third consecutive year.

“It’s crazy. I’m glad my fans keep supporting me. I’ve been No. 1 twice so I would be happy (with whatever ranking I get),” she said.

Toni gets Cooking

Not many people are aware that Toni Gonzaga is fond of cooking. “I think lahat naman siguro ng babae gustong matutong magluto. Not that I want to have a family already but because it’s something na hinahanap ko rin as a babae,” the TV actress-host remarked during the presscon of her first cooking show Kuwentong Buhay, Kuwentong Kusina.

“Gusto ko ring magluto hindi lang para sa future ko na family ngunit para na rin sa pamilya ko na meron ako ngayon,” she added.

Toni might be one of the busiest stars in showbiz but she was able to squeeze a few cooking courses into her tight schedule. “I was given the chance to have a crash-course last year sa baking and cooking. Konting-konti pa naman ang kaalaman ko,” she revealed. But her cooking show is

teaching her more about this craft.

“Kaya nga natutuwa ako sa programang ito kasi as we go on ang dami kong natutunan. Like sa first episode talaga namin. Natutunan ko ng magluto ng kare-kare, sulipan style kay chef. Hindi nga lang siya basta kare-kare, malalaman niyo ‘yung ibig sabihin ng sulipan.”

When asked if there is a special dish she likes to cook for her beau, Paul Soriano, she commented, “Mahilig kasi ‘yun sa Mexican food, mga tacos, hindi naman niluluto ang tacos. Niluto ko for him mga soup pa lang, garlic pasta, yun pa lang naman.”

Toni further shared that her new show will bring, not only the knowledge of cooking special dishes, but also inspiration from the various stories it will present. “Ito namang programang ito ang hina-highlight namin dito ay pagkain at ang kuwento ng bawat subject na ifea-feature namin. Nandon lang ako para itawid ‘yung kwento nila para tulungang i-share kung ano ‘yung dapat gawin at ikwento, so ‘yun po ang kabuuan ng programa,” she stated.



Culture Philippines Ontario’s talented dancers perform one of the numbers at the Carassauga Festival in Mississauga.

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After 9 years, Pinoy TNT loses immigration battle in the US

Like most undocumented immigrants in the United States, Filipino Richard Cuanang is optimistic that a comprehensive immigration reform bill now pending in the U.S. Congress will be passed into law this year. Unlike most of the estimated 11 million people who are in the U.S. illegally, however, Cuanang will not be able to benefit from the proposed law that seeks to legalize their stay in the U.S.

Cuanang, who hails from the northern province of Ilocos Norte, is actually leaving the U.S. and flying back to the Philippines on Sept. 5. After staying illegally in the U.S. for nine years, Cuanang was finally caught and has been on deportation proceedings since 2011.

Rather than be forcibly deported by an immigration court and sent home in handcuffs like a criminal, Cuanang opted for voluntary deportation.

“No regrets,” Cuanang said at New York City’s Penn Station while waiting for his Amtrak train that will take him back to South Carolina, his home for the last 11 years. “I was able to earn well and send a good amount of money to my family back in the Philippines.”

Cuanang’s TNT days (TNT, for Tago Nang Tago, the Filipino term for the undocumented, which literally means “in perpetual hiding”) in the U.S. came to an abrupt stop as a result of a seemingly harmless incident: a traffic violation.

“Is this going to be the last time that I am going to see Beaufort?” Cuanang told himself.

On his second court date in October 2011, the judge told Cuanang that if he cannot not come up with an anchor by January 11, 2012, he will be subjected to a deportation proceeding.

An anchor is a reason or a person that can help someone facing an immigration court to remain in the U.S. An anchor could be a wife, children, or relatives who can and will sponsor a non-citizen for a legal permanent resident status, or what is commonly called the green card.

“My aunt (in the U.S.) said she cannot sponsor me. I do not have a child. So the only thing I could do is to marry a U.S. citizen,” Cuanang said.

The marriage option

On January 9, 2012, Cuanang got married to a woman from Savannah, Georgia, Jessica James (not her real name). “She needed someone to help her, to support her financially because she had an injury,” Cuanang said. “And I needed someone who can help me acquire a green card.”

Cuanang brought James and their marriage documents to his January 11 court appearance. The judge gave Cuanang six months to submit the necessary papers that will allow him to stay legally.

Three months into the marriage, however, their union started to unravel. Cuanang knew then that it was the end of the road for him.

On May 8, Cuanang’s lawyer, James Cyrus, requested for voluntary deportation on Cuanang’s behalf. It took the judge only five minutes to grant his petition and set Cuanang’s departure date. He gave Cuanang until Sept. 5 to leave the United States.

“I already prepared myself,” Cuanang said about his voluntary deportation. “Even though ninety-nine percent of me does not agree, I am ready.”

“It made me a better person, a better member of my family,” he said, referring to his unauthorized stay in the U.S. “I was able to provide my family with everything that I was not able to provide them when I was in the Philippines. I tried to help them the best way I could.”

Cuanang is going back to his mother, five sisters, a brother and three nieces in the Philippines.

He said he has big plans for his mother, who is retiring this November. “I’m planning to give her a huge retirement party. I plan to set up a foundation in her name.”

He plans to help manage his family’s farm in his hometown of Nagbacalan. He is seriously considering going to law school and launching a political career. At the moment, he is writing a book about his experience as an undocumented immigrant in the U.S.

After Sept. 5, a new chapter will begin for Cuanang.

Filipino Global Runner Cesar Guarin completes Middle East leg of his solo run around the world

The first Filipino global runner and the “Father of Ultramarathon” in the Philippines Cesar Guarin is back from his successful Middle East run, which lasted 30 days from April 15 to May 17, and covered a total distance of 932 kilometers.

After running in six countries in the Middle East, Guarin continues to bring pride to his countrymen through his global pursuit to join the ranks of elite global runners numbering less than 10 worldwide.

GMA International, the international arm of leading broadcast company GMA Network, has been a staunch supporter of the veteran distance runner since his Australian leg last year and has once again renewed their partnership with Guarin and The Global Run (GR) team for this ME leg.

“We are proud of Mr. Cesar Guarin for successfully completing his Middle East run, which was deemed as his most challenging global run stage of all,” said GMA Vice President and Head of International Operations Joseph T. Francia.

“We admire his passion and determination, and consider it an honor to play a significant role in his quest to become the first Filipino and Asian to finish a solo run across the globe” he added.

Guarin kicked off his ME run in Bahrain, where he conquered desert roads and oil pipelines for two days along with local female ultrarunner, Dunya Elias. Prior to his 110-km run, Guarin covered 22 kms within Bahrain’s capital and its largest city, Manama.

From Bahrain, Guarin endured major highways on desert roads and extreme temperature in Qatar to complete 209 kms in 5 days despite such challenging condition. Guarin and his GR Team Joon Malicse (project head and consultant) and Lester Fernandez (former handler and GRT volunteer) also attended the Emir Basketball Cup, where they met Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani, the Qatar Olympic Committee Secretary General and member of the royal family, and even joined a fun run in Doha.

Guarin marked the third leg of his ME run in Kuwait, where he was met by over 1,000 spectators – his biggest crowd in ME. The global runner ran 110 kms, which he finished in just 5 days.

Guarin then continued his run in Saudi Arabia on May 1 as a fitting tribute to OFWs in the country. From an initial target run of 500 kms for 7 days, it was trimmed down to a 1-day, 43-km run due to unforeseen delays in the approval of their visa. Still and all, Guarin is the first Filipino runner to be given a permit from the Saudi government to do a solo run in the Eastern province of Saudi.

According to Guarin, his run in Oman was the most difficult of all legs. But even the mountainous region of Oman did not stop Guarin from finishing the race what with his decades’ worth of experience running across the globe. He completed this stage in 6 days covering 175 kms.

The Filipino ultramarathoner capped off his ME run in UAE, where he covered a total running distance of 285 kms. For his longest leg, Guarin ran along major highways from Abu Dhabi going to Dubai for 9 days.

In between runs, Guarin and his team made their rounds in each of the country’s Philippine Embassy, where they were met by local officials and fellow Pinoys wanting to lend their support.

Guarin noted on the generous support provided by the Philippine embassies, Ministry of Sports of each country and from our kababayan working in the Middle East.

With this new achievement in place, Guarin is even more determined to finish what he started and become an inspiration to more Filipinos across the globe.

“I’ve seen Cesar ran in 14 countries already in 3 years but it still amazes me to see him every time he run each day on the road,” shared Malicse. “His determination and stamina to run under the scorching heat of the sun in the Middle East from sunrise to sundown is unbelievable. And at the end of the day he can still manage to smile genuinely and still take time to wash his clothes and do other stuff. I hope a lot people get the chance to see him run the way we do. He truly is inspiring.”

Guarin is set to take on his next stage – his 2,500-km solo run in North America, covering Alaska, Vancouver, and other key cities in the West Coast – from October to December this year bringing him closer to the fulfilment of his ultimate dream.

GMA International channels - GMA Pinoy TV, GMA Life TV and GMA News TV International - can be seen in the US, Canada, and in countries in Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and Asia Pacific.

For more details, visit the GMA International website www.gmanetwork.com/international, Facebook pages www.facebook.com/GMAPinoyTV, www.facebook.com/gmalifetv and www.facebook.com/gmanewsinternational, or Twitter pages @GMAPinoyTV and @GMA_LifeTV. (30)



Philippine Canada Fashion Week



Glamour & Fundraising for Kol Hope at Roy Thomson Hall for Philippine Canada fashion Week FROM LEFT, Ted Dayno & wife Doris (4TH & 3RD FROM LEFT) pose with the Philippine diplomatic entourage at the show; Pidoy & Ting Pacis (3RD & 4TH FROM RIGHT) of Max's fried Chicken show their support; Joseph Allio of UMAC cools it with Ambassador Leslie Gatan. PHOTOS BY ARIEL RAMOS

Illegal Tusks to be Burned

MANILA - Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Ramon Paje has directed the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) to forego the planned “ceremonial burning” of seized elephant tusks, instead they will just be crushed by road rollers.

The DENR plans to destroy on June 21 the confiscated elephant tusks to be witnessed by foreign experts and anti-ivory trade advocates in support of the global effort to end the illegal trade of wildlife species.

Under the original plan, 20 pieces of the smuggled ivory tusks will be burned for at least five minutes using kerosene, while the bigger volume will be crushed using road rollers, during ceremonies at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center in Quezon City.

Paje earlier said the decision to destroy

the ivory tusks was to “show to the whole world that the Philippines will not tolerate illegal wildlife trade.”



Mel Galeon and flor Vendiola of FV foods pose with Steve Sabados and Chris Hyndman of The Steve and Chris show at Canada Philippines fashion week. PHOTO BY ARIEL RAMOS

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ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrity News & Gossip

Bianca King on Rafael Rosell

We have a natural chemistry



Heart-wrenching and bittersweet, new GMA Afternoon Prime series Maghihintay Pa Rin revolves around the story of star-crossed lovers, Geneva and Kiko, as well as Orlando who secretly pines for Geneva's love. GMANetwork.com caught up with the said series' leading lady, Bianca King, who talked about her leading man and shared her thoughts on acting. Maghihintay Pa Rin marks Bianca King's first team-up with Rafael Rosell. Despite this, King stated that there was no awkwardness between them on or off-cam. "Actually, we had no time to prepare. We didn't have a workshop or anything like that, pero Rafael and I naman have been friends and we have natural chemistry. We get along really well. We have a lot of things to talk about," shared King. The mestizo Kapuso actress added, "I've always wanted to work with Rafael, so I'm glad nabigyan na ako ng chance." King also candidly talked about her role, Geneva, which she described as one of her dream roles. The unconventional qualities of her character are what really appealed to her. She explained, "Usually kasi, there's a stereotype na kapag ikaw 'yung mabait sa story, usually, 'yun 'yung underdog, tapos mahirap, sinasaktan, inaapi. This time naman, sobrang strong woman [ng role ko]. Geneva's so smart and she knows how to use her power for the right reasons, but she's very compassionate and she has a big heart." When asked about what other roles she would consider doing in the future, the actress-director revealed that offbeat roles. King shared, "I wanna play someone who's boyish. Gusto ko naman ay medyo kanto girl kasi medyo may side ako na ganun eh, 'yung medyo jologs talaga. Hindi ko pa 'yun medyo nalalabas sa TV. Gusto ko naman ng character na laid back and free-spirited, but a little rough around the edges." In any role that she portrays, King said that "It's always a challenge kasi siyempre there's no formula. There's no way you could calculate your mood to be able to portray a certain role and act at a certain scene. Managing yourself, your emotions and using the tools that you have is a challenge."



Dion Ignacio is busy

Just months after Magdalena, Kapuso leading man Dion Ignacio is back in the Afternoon Prime block via the drama series, Maghihintay Pa Rin. The StarStruck alumnus' newest challenge is to breathe life into Orlando, who will be the rival of Kiko (Rafael Rosell) to the affections of Geneva (Bianca King).

Ignacio's Orlando in Maghihintay Pa Rin is a good friend of Kiko who secretly pines for Kiko's girlfriend, Geneva. Since Geneva's mom is against Kiko, he gets framed up and ends up in jail abroad. Orlando takes this vulnerable situation into his own hands and proposes to Geneva. Several scenes would be filmed in Singapore, and Ignacio reveals that this adds pressure on his part. He shares, "First time kong pupunta sa ibang bansa kaya medyo kinakabahan ako. Buti na lang may kasama ako at work naman ang ipupunta ko 'dun."

Though not much of a Jet-setter, it is interesting to note that when the cameras are not rolling, the clean-cut Kapuso actor is a rocker and Martial Arts enthusiast. He confesses, "Sobrang passion ko rin 'yung paggigitara, 'yung music. Off-cam, naggigitara ako sa band na Philia. Metal po iyon!" He adds, "Nagmi-mixed Martial Arts din ako. Gusto ko rin ipakita 'yung skills ko, pero bago pa lang ako. So siguro, mapapakita ko iyon sa role na pang-action. Siguro, si Bela ang gusto kong maka-partner kapag nag-action ako. Magaan 'yung loob ko sa kanya." Ignacio's career in showbiz has spanned 10 years since his StarStruck days, and he looks forward to more roles that would test his abilities. Without hesitation, he declares, "Gay role talaga ang gustung-gusto kong gampanan." In this day and age, there would certainly be a place for someone like Dion Ignacio to show what he has got. Watch Dion as the lovelorn Orlando in Maghihintay Pa Rin, only on GMA Afternoon Prime.

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Kalayaan 30th Anniversary



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hospital causing Menchu to organize the nurses and doctors to carry the babies in warming pads down 8 flights of stairs to safety. Menchu was invited to sit beside



First Lady Michelle Obama at the State of the Nation address of US President Barack Obama on February 12, 2013.

In his speech, Pres. Obama cited Menchu as a role model: “We should follow the example of a New York City nurse named Menchu Sanchez. When Hurricane Sandy plunged her hospital into darkness, she wasn’t thinking about how her own home was faring. Her mind was on the 20 precious newborns in her care and the rescue plan she devised that kept them all safe.”

Many Filipino nurses who entered the US on H-1work visas after passing the CGFNS tests benefited from the passage of the Nursing Relief Act of 1989 which provided for their adjustment to permanent resident status if they had H-1 non-immigrant status as registered nurses and had been employed in that capacity for at least 3 years.

But the “sunsetting” of this law in 1995 effectively decreased Filipino nurse immigration to the United States. The passage of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1998 (IIRIRA) further discouraged nurse immigration to the US.

Grow your own

The passage of restrictive legislation was fueled by nativist fears of foreign nurses taking American jobs — as was expressed in July of 2009, when former Washington DC Mayor Marion Barry complained to the press: “In fact, it’s so bad, that if you go to the hospital now, you find a number of immigrants who are nurses, particularly from the Philippines,” Barry told the Examiner. “And no offense, but let’s grow our own teachers, let’s grow our own nurses — and so that we don’t have to be scrounging around in our community clinics and other kinds of places — having to hire people from somewhere else.”

Grow your own nurses the US did. According to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, US nursing schools produced close to a million nurses from 2006 to 2011.

While the demand for Filipino nurses may have waned in the US, the demand for Filipino nurses in the rest of the world did not diminish. Filipino nurses working for the National Health System (NHS) in England drew international attention last February when Britain's 91-year-old Prince Philip, while on a tour of a new cardiac centre in Bedfordshire, England, turned to a Filipino nurse and said: "The Philippines must be half-empty – you're all here running the NHS."

Not quite, not by a long shot, your majesty.

According to Reuben Seguritan, general

FILIPINO NURSES
continued on page 24

release of detained fishing vessels and their crews, in line with international practice. Further meetings would be held on fisheries cooperation including management and conservation schemes, it said. Philippine investigators said they had recommended that criminal charges be filed against coastguards involved in the fatal shooting after coastguard chiefs in Manila initially insisted the fishing vessel had tried to ram the coastguard boat and their personnel had fired in self-defense.

The killing caused outrage in Taiwan, with President Ma Ying-jeou describing it as “cold-blooded murder.”

His government ordered a freeze on the hiring of Filipinos to work in Taiwan, issued a “red-alert” warning tourists against travelling to the Philippines and



staged naval drills near Philippine waters. Philippine President Benigno Aquino repeatedly apologized and sent an envoy to Taiwan, but these

pressure from Taiwan, the Philippines agreed to joint investigations into the incident.

Taiwanese authorities were allowed to visit the Philippines, inspect the ship and interview the coastguard personnel involved. The Taiwan investigators concluded that two guns were used in the attack, including a M14 rifle that fired the fatal shot. Adding to the anger in Taiwan, authorities said the fishing boat had 50 bullet holes and there were no marks consistent with it ramming the coastguard vessel.



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Maricar Reyes & Richard Poon, happy

+ *Ritz Azul to go daring* + *other stories*

Ikinasal na ang singer na si Richard Poon at Maricar Reyes.



Pinapanood lang dati sa Betty La Fea ni Richard si Maricar at inamin niyang na-attract siya agad dito. “Nakita ko from afar her face, I thought, talagang type ko eh, Chinese, gandang babae, then later when I came near the TV, nagta-Tagalog. I think yung manager ko nung pinili siya sa aking music video, nagulat ako. Later on nalaman ko, kasi crush mo kaya namin

Para sa aktres, ang memorable sa kanilang kasal ay ang kanyang paglakad sa aisle papalapit kay Richard with her parents. Pero si Richard inamin ay ang first kiss nila sa naganap pagkatapos ng kasal. “One thing stood out eh, which I thought would never happen. noong sinabing you may kiss the bride. Siyempre ako parang ‘thank you Lord!’ I have a friend who taught me certain things. Noong sinabi niya na first time niyang kiniss yung wife niya sa altar I was like wow that’s crazy to me. Parang imposibleng gawin. But yung strongest line that hit me like a hammer was a line my ninong said to me, ‘Richard, if you do not restrain, if all of us do not restrain, e di pagsinabi ng pastor na ‘You may kiss the bride’ it’s not special kasi nangyari na eh.” Sa ikatlong try nahalikan ni Richard si Maricar

dahil natatawa ito at minsang umiwas nang dahil sa make up niya. “The first kiss would take us three tries.”

In twenty years, nakikita ng dalawa na they’d still be together with children and a blessing to other people. “In a very nice house, with stable careers. We have certain plans now, that we wish to pursue. Yung steady lang. We feel 20 years from now, we want to be able to bless more people. 2 or 3 kids. Yeah,” sabi ni Maricar. “We both talked na family is first in whatever career decision that we make specially for me. I see myself working pa rin. If there are roles for me but definitely when kids come, I have to step back a bit and make time for that as well.”

Ritz becomes more daring

Young actress Ritz Azul and model hunk actor Daniel Matsunaga will continue the summer heat this month of July as they top bill upcoming primetime series “Misibis Bay” on TV5.

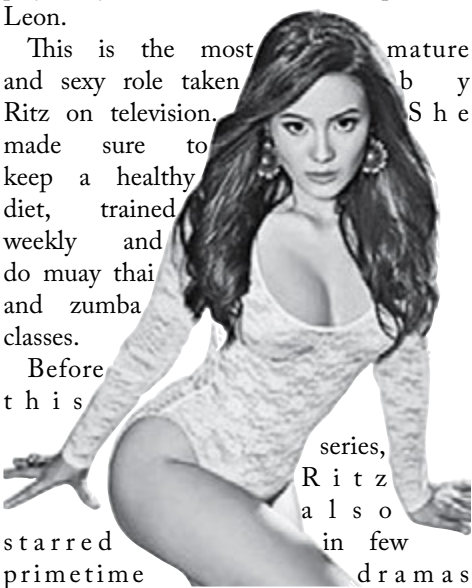
Set in a private tropical hideaway in Cagraray Island in Albay, Misibis Bay is a six-week mini-series that tells the story of a girl who dreams big and perseveres amidst all the challenges just to get the life she wanted.

Ritz will breathe life to the character of Maita Ramirez, a slum girl who only dreams of providing a comfortable life for her ailing grandmother.

She will then meet rich Andrew (Daniel), who is the eldest son of Anthony Cadiz, played by seasoned actor Christopher de Leon.

This is the most mature and sexy role taken by Ritz on television. She made sure to keep a healthy diet, trained weekly and do muay thai and zumba classes.

Before this series, Ritz also starred in few primetime



and fantaserye such as “Mga Nagbabagang Bulaklak,” “Glamorosa” and “Kidlat” opposite Derek Ramsay.

Joining Ritz and Daniel in “Misibis Bay” are Victor Silayan, Megan Young, Luke Jickain, Vin Abrenica and Malak So Shdifat

How daring will she be? “Sa pictorial pa lang with Wyg Tysman, puro two piece na ako. Talo pa ‘yung ginawa ko sa FHM. May love scene daw kami ni Mr. Christopher pero di pa nakukunan. Siyempre, may limitation naman kasi for TV ito. I trust our directors, Monti Parungao and Jon Red. I know hindi naman ako mababastos dito.”

Did she ask permission from her parents? “Siyempre naman. 19 lang ako and I’m still living with them.”

No awkward moment for Enchong Dee, Julia Montes in new series

ACTOR Enchong Dee sees no problem working with his former flame, Julia Montes, in the new series “Muling Buksan ang Puso”.

Their budding romance came to a halt last year and many speculated that their friendship also turned sour when both stars decided to move on with their separate lives.

But in an interview with Enchong during the “Four Sisters and a Wedding” press conference recently, the actor told the entertainment press that all is well between him and Julia.

The actor further revealed that they have spent some time together before taping the new series to rebuild their friendship.

“Wala nang ilangan. It’s just these people na nag-i-expect na may ilangan kami or awkwardness. Wala na. Nagkaroon kami ng bonding na kaming dalawa lang bago naming simulang lahat. Hiningi namin (ang bonding) and at the same time binigay ng management,” he said.

Enchong didn’t hide the fact that there really was an awkward stage between them but, he said, they have promised each other to start anew.

“After all that has happened, aminin naman natin na nagkaroon ng awkwardness, pero after the bonding and all, okay na ako, okay na kami. Hindi ko na inilalagay sa utak ko iyong ganoon,” he said.

Asked if he has plans of rekindling their past love, the actor said they are better off being friends.

“Kasi kahit kanino, ayaw kong magkaroon ng bad relationship to anyone. Pero kung iopen ko pa rin sa idea na ganoon, baka masira lang ngayon na nasimulan na naming ulit yung pagkakaibigan namin. Ayaw ko nang pabaya,” he said.

Meantime, Enchong is also hopeful that things will get better between “Ina, Kapatid, Anak” co-stars Maja Salvador and Kim Chiu.

He’s also wary in giving his unsolicited advice to both actresses.

“Wala kasi ako sa posisyon magsalita kahit kaibigan ko silang lahat. Unless they ask me for an advice. Ayaw kong nagbibigay ng unsolicited advice, or moves,” he said.

Echong said there’s a right time and place to settle everyone’s differences.

Is Sarah Lahbati pregnant?

Actress Ruffa Gutierrez won’t comment on news reports that her younger brother, Richard Gutierrez, and his girlfriend Sarah Lahbati are soon to be parents.

In a “TV Patrol” interview, Ruffa said she can’t give any comment on the matter as she has not seen the alleged child.

From Richard Gutierrez’s Instagram account

“Hindi naman pwedeng itago ang isang sikreto. If ever there’s a child, I’m very happy and we should consider it as a blessing... if there is one. Wag naman natin silang unahan. Can I ask him first?” she said.

Ruffa added that the young couple are in love with each other and her family supports Richard’s romantic relationship with Sarah.

“I think now Richard is in love and it’s a more mature kind of love. Sarah is a very nice girl, she very welcome to our family and whatever future they have together, they plan together, then I fully support them,” she ended.

Richard is currently in Europe visiting his girlfriend. He posted a series of photos on Instagram app while visiting Sarah in Switzerland. The photos suggest that the couple has also traveled to Italy.



Kalayaan Picnic 2013



The Kalayaan picnic was blessed with nice weather. FROM LEFT, Dr. Solon Guzman poses with CPO dancer Alev Usta and choreographer Enoch Kalash, Angeline, Dr. Guzman’s daughter is happy with what hse got at the pabitin; Shy Garrido performs for the crowd; Tony Gui and chaneuse Josie de Leon perform a duet of Ikaw.

To recall, Sarah left the Philippines in January after she had problems with her mother network, GMA-7. She claimed she was “not treated well” by the station and decided to go back to Europe to continue her studies.

In a prior interview, Richard said he supports his girlfriend’s decision

Khalil Ramos says he’s not jealous of Julian Estrada’s closeness with Julia Barretto

Khalil Ramos maintained that there’s no reason for him to feel disappointed that he didn’t get to be paired with Julia Barretto since it was never really confirmed that they would have a project together. “Wala naman pong nangyari. Hindi naman po naging official na magkakasama kami sa isang project. Right now I am focusing on Annaliza. So

far wala naman nakalatag na iba ko pang gagawin. Pero siyempre, if ever may ibigay sa akin it’s another opportunity that I should take.”

Khalil admitted in his previous interviews that he has a crush on Julia and would like to work with her if given the chance. But lately, Julia has been romantically linked to fellow Star Magic artist Julian Estrada. On Khalil’s part, he claimed that there’s nothing to be jealous about in the first place. “Focused muna ako sa acting. I’m only 17, madami pa ako pagdadaan. Kay Julian, we’re friends. Hindi naman porke’t ganon wala na, hindi na kami naguusap. Even though we have busy schedule, we get to see each other. We’re circle of friends, walang nag-aaway.”

No sexy cover for Andrea Torres

Kapuso actress Andrea Torres is not yet ready to let go of her wholesome image

by showing some skin in a magazine cover.

“Okay rin sa akin sa magazine pero not now, huwag lang ngayon,” she said during a press conference held recently in GMA-7.

Andrea said she is flattered to hear compliments about her fit body.

Andrea is back on the boob tube with Christian Bautista and Mikael Daez in the morning drama comedy series “With A Smile.”

“Ang taas lang ng emotions ko. Halo-halo na ang excitement, kinakabahan at the same time happy ako kasi ang ganda nung show and ang daming values an alam kong natutuwa sila pag napanood nila,” said Andrea, who also had Daez as leading man in the remake of drama series “Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga” last year.

The actress said she’s been waiting for this big break since she entered show biz seven years ago. Andrea said the waiting game in the business taught her to be patient, believe in one’s talent, and not to give up.

She’s also thankful to GMA for constantly giving her projects.

“Inaalagaan talaga nila ako at pinag-iisipan talaga nila yung mga binibigay nila sa akin so andun yung trust ko. As much as possible gagalingan natin ibibigay natin ang 100 percent para di naman sila magsisi,” she said.

“With a Smile” will be shown earlier than ABS-CBN’s hit daytime program “Be Careful With My Heart,” as Andrea immediately dismissed comparison between the shows.

“Ayaw namin i-compare ang sarili namin sa iba kasi siyempre, maaapektuhan yung work at iba yung story nito. So, iba naman yung makikita ng audience dito,” she said.



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Jennylyn Mercado FHM Cover

+ Marian rivera as Lady Boss + other news



boyfriend as he even wanted to upload the sexy photos of Jennylyn ahead of their publication.

When asked if there was any awkward moment while doing Jennylyn's FHM cover? The 32-year-old jokingly said: "Na-awkward ako kasi meron siyang dalawang sinuot na gusto ko sanang suotin. Ang ganda e. May hubog din naman ako kahit papaano, ganun din naman ako."

But kidding aside, the tv host said he keeps his fit body by regular Muay Thai training and he's also into mixed martial arts.

"It's always that conscious effort to stay fit. And it's not

always about going to the gym, it's about 30 percent workout and 70 percent diet. Kahit anong workout mo, pero mali yung diet mo, wala din."

Marian rivera as lady Boss

Marian Rivera was all smiles at the My Lady Boss press conference held at the Imperial Palace Suites last March 19. Together with her leading man, Richard Gutierrez, the Primetime Queen shared her experiences in filming My Lady Boss.



Following the blockbuster hit, My Best Friend's Girlfriend, it took Richard and Marian five years to reunite on the big screen. Marian explained why it took a while for them to team up again.

"Kapag may project ako, may project din siya. Hindi nagkaka-swak 'yung schedule namin at siguro mas maganda din po 'yung hindi pinipilit, 'yung kusang dumadating ang isang proyekto na ibinibigay talaga para sa amin. Ito, at least, mahaba 'yung proseso, pinag-isipan 'yung kuwento," shared the

Temptation of Wife star.

Marian added that her scenes with Richard in My Lady Boss are much more challenging and daring compared to their scenes together in My Best Friend's Girlfriend.

She said, "...sa muling pagtatambal naming ni Chard, mas naging mature po kami. May mga eksena na hindi namin nagawa before, pero dahil sa nag-mature kami parehas, nagawa na namin siya ngayon."

When asked whether it was possible for her to fall for a boss as good-looking as Richard Gutierrez, Marian replied, "Depende po, kasi ang pagkatao naman po ay hindi nakikita lahat sa hitsura, eh. Kahit na sobrang guwapo, pero hindi mo kayang i-take 'yung ugali, wala din naman. Pero why not, kung ang boss ko ay nagsusungit-sungitan pero mabait naman, at hindi naman siya taken, at hindi rin ako taken, why not?"

The 2012 Golden Screen TV Awards Best Actress also shared her outlook on her chosen career.

"Kapag nag-roll ang camera, iba po kasi 'yun. Kumbaga, iintindihin mo muna ang acting mo, 'yung character mo, hindi 'yung nararamdaman mo, kasi para po sa akin, ang trabaho ay trabaho po. Hindi ko i-involve ang personal life ko 'dun," explained Marian.

Daniel seriously courting Ritz!

AFTER makipaghiwalay ni Daniel Matsunaga kay Heart Evangelista, wala pang nagiging seryosong relasyon muli ang model-actor.



Unang napabalitang niligawan ni Daniel matapos lumipat sa TV5 ay si Eula Caballero. Nagkapartner sila ni Daniel sa Third Eye. Ilang beses na ring nag-date ang dalawa noon. Pero 'di pa ready si Eula na makipagrelasyon dahil wala pa siyang 18 noon.

Sa Misibis Bay taping, matunog na matunog na nahuhulog ang loob ni Daniel kay Ritz Azul. In fact, 'di na raw biru-biro ang panunuyo ni Daniel kay Ritz, ayon sa aming source.

Magkapartner sina Daniel at Ritz sa naturang mini soap ng TV5 at ngayong tapos na ang taping (malapit na itong ipalabas), tuloy pa rin daw ang panliligaw

ni Daniel kay Ritz.

Lovi deny tension on the set

LOVI Poe is suddenly very busy again on TV after not having any show since



"Yesterday's Bride" ended four months ago. She has started taping for "Titser," GMA News TV Channel 11's tribute to teachers co-starring Mara Lopez and Agot Isidro. Yesterday, she attended the story

conference of her new soap for GMA7. "Baka maglagare ako sa taping ng two shows ko," she says. "Pero hindi naman daw sila sabay na ipalalabas. I just don't know kung alin ang mauuna."

She's reunited with Rocco Nacino in her new soap for GMA7, along with Cesar Montano and Solenn Heussaff. "Nag-click kasi 'yung tambalan namin ni Rocco in 'Yesterday's Bride' kaya pinareha kami uli sa isa't isa. We don't know the final title yet."

While she's jobless on TV, she was able to finish two new films: "Sana Dati" and "Lihis." "Sana Dati" is an entry sa Cinemalaya this July. It's directed by Jerrold Tarog who I worked with before in 'Aswang'. The story happens only in one day. I play a bride about to be married to TJ Trinidad but continued to yearn for her dead boyfriend, Benjamin Alves, with Paulo Avelino as the videographer who'll also get involved with me. In 'Lihis', I play a spoiled rich girl who does research about NPA's in the 1970s. I meet two NPA's who turn out to be lovers, Joem Bascon and Jake Cuenca. Na-challenge akong agawin si Joem from Jake kahit alam kong bading siya. Magkakaanak kami, si Isabel Daza, and I'll be played by Tita Gloria Diaz as an older woman."

Is it true she and Jake had an LQ (lovers quarrel) while shooting the movie? "No. That's not true. Nabasa ko nga, dinededma ko raw siya. Walang ganun. We're still friends and we'll be friends forever."

Max Collins to stay covered

AYON kay Max Collins nang nakausap namin sa set ng "Bamboo Flowers" sa Bohol, 'di pa niya kayang magpakita ng katawan on screen. Marami nang humihikayat sa kanya na magpakita ng flesh,



Kalayaan Picnic 2013



Fun and fundraising were present at the Kalayaan picnic. FROM LEFT, Princess Guzman performs a Hawaiian dance, Clem tries to show what appears to be dance move with Dr. Annette Simbulan, Clem Cabillan and Dr. Annette Simbulan's hotdog fundraising drive is on full blast, Dr. Solon Guzman and Dr. Annette Simbulan chat with the winner of the hotdog eating contest. OTHER PHOTOS AT FILIPINOGOODLIFE.COM

pero nanatili pa rin siyang Filipina sa isip at pag-uugali. Kahit pa sabihing 10 years siyang straight na nanirahan sa America kasama ang kanyang American father, Pinay na Pinay pa rin si Max. Ang mother niya’y taga-Boracay sa Aklan Province.

Natuwa siya nang sabihin namin na siya (Max) ang next Alice Dixson ng showbiz. Ito ang gustong maging career path para sa kanya ni direk Maryo J. delos Reyes, ang director ng “Bamboo Flowers.” Pinahanga si Maryo J ni Max nang lumabas ang young actress sa soap na “Pahiram ng Sandali.”

Amalia’s comeback halted

FANS of ’60s movie queens Susan Roces and Amalia Fuentes hoping to see them together again in ABS-CBN’s new soap for them, “Muling Buksan ang Puso”, will surely be disappointed to know that it will no longer push through as Nena (Amalia’s nickname) has resigned due to creative differences with the production staff. Someone told us that Amalia has been making so many demands, right from the pictorial session with the rest of the cast.

“Malayung-malayo siya sa ibang senior stars na sikat din noong araw like Gloria Romero, Helen Gamboa, Divina Valencia and of course, si Susan Roces, na puro napakadaling katrabaho and have no airs whatsoever,” says someone who’ve worked with all of them. “Si Ms. Fuentes, umpisa pa lang, marami nang complaints kaya para na ring nabunutan ng tinik ang staff nang mag-resign siya.”

As for Amalia, she said she just realized that the role assigned to her is not suited to her: that of a woman living in poverty.



“Sa katawan kong ito, hindi ako babagay sa role,” she said.

Too bad. We were really excited with anticipation of the two movie queens working together again. The problem now is: Who will take her place in the soap topbilled by Julia Montes and Enrique Gil? We can’t think of anyone else who belongs to the same level and has the same stature. Can you?

Barbie goes offbeat in new soap

BARBIE Forteza plays an offbeat role as Karen in GMA7’s remake of “Anna Karenina” that starts airing on Monday to replace “Love & Lies” that ends tomorrow night. In the original version, her role was played by Sunshine Dizon, who was a bratty bad girl to Antoinette Taus and Kim de los Santos. Barbie says she welcomes the challenge.

“Sa past soaps ko like ‘Nita Negrita’ and ‘Paroa’, lagi na lang akong inaapi, iyak ako nang iyak,” she says. “So for a change, gusto ko naman ipakitang I can do other kind of roles at hindi puro pa-cute or pa-sweet lang. I want to be known as someone who’s versatile. Pero hindi naman kontrabida ang role ko rito. Ginawa lang babaeng bakla, very bubbly, masayahin. . With Gina Alajar as our director, I know playing this kind of role will help hone me better as an actress.”

Fans of her love team with Joshua Dionisio are requesting that they be reunited in one episode, but there are unconfirmed reports that Joshua is now with ABS-CBN. In “Anna Karenina”, she’s paired with Derrick Monasterio.



LESS JOBS IN BOOM TIME continued from page 3

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan attributing the decline in employment to effects of the scorching summer heat on agricultural productivity.

“It was reported that farmers delayed their planting in April. Unfortunately, the survey also was done in April. So, at the time they conducted the survey, there was a coincidence in the delay,” Aquino explained.

The country’s economy expanded 7.8 percent in the first three months of the year, outstripping China to make it Asia’s fastest-growing economy.

For Labor Undersecretary Danilo Cruz, the unemployment rate is traditionally high during April due to the large number of young people joining the labor force after graduating from college or high school.

“There is a usual increase in the number of workforce in April because of the high number of new graduates, that is why the increase in number of jobless is expected,” Cruz said.

In the NSO survey, the number of employed nationwide went down to 37.819 million in April from 37.840 million in the same period last year.

The survey also showed that the number of jobless people in April ballooned to 3.086 million from 2.8 million last year.

There were more males (61.4 percent) than females (38.6 percent) among the unemployed. Most of the unemployed belong to the 15 to 24 age group and are mostly high school and college graduates.

In the NSO report, the number of agricultural workers declined by 624,000 from 12.468 million in April 2012 to 11.844 million in April this year.

Workers in the services sector

remained the largest group, comprising more than half or 52.6 percent of the total, while workers in the agriculture sector comprised the second largest group, accounting for 31.3 percent of the total employed. Workers in the industry sector made up 16.1 percent.

Quality employment

But while job figures have dropped, the quality of employment has significantly improved, according to Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz.

“What is very encouraging in the results is the fact that the overall quality of employment continues to improve considerably, with persons in full-time employment growing by 15.3 percent, or 3.194 million, and persons in part-time employment decreasing by 18.9 percent, or 3.063 million,” Baldoz said.

“As a consequence, the mean hours of work has vastly improved from 39.2 hours a year ago to 41.8 hours in April 2013,” she added.

Citing survey results, Baldoz said wage and salary employment during the quarter was up by 619,00 while the number of self-employed dropped by 143,000 and unpaid family workers by 398,000.

“This tells us that the Millennium Development Goal indicator on employment to reduce poverty, in terms of the ratio of the self-employed and unpaid family workers to total employment, is narrowing; wage and salary and full-time employment is expanding; and mean hours of work is increasing,” she explained.

She noted that employment growth was particularly robust in private and

LESS JOBS IN BOOM TIME continued on page 24

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Diego Luna’s film recognizes role of Filipino farm workers in US history

LOS ANGELES–“I don’t know why it hasn’t been told,” actor-director Diego Luna said of Cesar Chavez who, along with Filipino and Mexican migrant workers, organized the first successful farm workers union in American history. Diego grabbed the chance to tell the saga of the farm labor leader and civic rights activist in “Chavez,” which he directs and stars in, with Richard Peña in the title role.

“It’s quite a special and heroic story about a simple man,” enthused the actor, who is also in the cast of “Elysium,” Neill Blomkamp’s much-awaited action-drama-sci-fi. “For three years now, I’ve been working on the film.”

Filipino-led strike
The good news, Diego said, was that his film would credit the Filipino farm workers’ significant contribution to the labor movement in the 1960s and 1970s. In our earlier interviews with Richard and Darion Basco (who plays Filipino-American farm labor leader Larry Itliong in “Chavez”), both likewise stressed that the Filipino farmers were being given their due in the film.

In 1965, Filipino farm workers led by Itliong, Philip Vera Cruz and Pete Velasco, among others, began a strike against California’s table grape growers to demand wages equal to the federal minimum wage. A week later, Chavez, along with Mexican workers, joined the strike that lasted for more than five years but resulted in a significant victory for farm workers.



FILIPINO NURSES continued from page 8

counsel of the Philippine Nurses Association of America (PNAA), the Philippines is the world’s largest supplier of foreign-trained nurses with 429 nursing schools and 80,000 nursing students. To place this number in perspective, City College of San Francisco, with 89,000 students, does not have the resources to accept more than 75 students into its nursing program. The nursing students are chosen by lottery from a list of about 500 students who otherwise qualify for acceptance, a selective system practiced by community colleges all over California.

Is there a fourth wave of Filipino nurse immigration to the US?

Yes, but it hasn’t arrived yet. According to recent CNN report, “Demand for health care services is expected to climb as more baby boomers retire and health care reform makes medical care accessible to more people. As older nurses start retiring, economists predict a massive nursing shortage will reemerge in the United States.”

The CNN report adds: “We’ve been really worried about the future workforce because we’ve got almost 900,000 nurses over the age of 50 who

will probably retire this decade, and we’ll have to replace them,” [economist and nurse Peter] Buerhaus said.”

The fourth wave may come as early as 2014 when the US Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, otherwise known as Obamacare, comes into effect and about 30-40 million Americans without any health insurance will finally be covered by health care insurance

LPG Marketer’s Association party-list Rep. Arnel Ty believes that Obamacare will “stimulate” the US hiring of foreign nurses. “This will hopefully spur US demand for new foreign nurses and other health practitioners such as pharmacists, physical therapists, medical technologists, radiologists, and speech pathologists,” Ty said.

To another question posed by the TV reporter, I answered that do not know the exact number of Filipino nurses in the US. All I know is that number, whatever it is, was significantly reduced by 5 on the evening of May 4, 2013.

Kalayaan Picnic 2013

Mann Nacario, Alma Torreno, Mama Ching Quejas and Dr. Solon Guzman enjoy the festivities at the picnic.



Most Holy Trinity of Alangalang, Leyte Celebration

On August 3, 2013, Saturday, Alangalanganons from all over United States, Canada and even from the Philippines will be in Toronto to celebrate the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity, patron saint of the town of Alangalang, Leyte. Now on its 3rd year, following the initial celebration in Washington DC in 2011 and in Dallas in 2012, this year’s celebration promises to be an even bigger event providing an opportunity for a lot of Alangalanganons with their families, to once again renew friendship or get acquainted with their fellow townmates in various parts of North America.

The Feast will start with a Mass to honor the Most Holy Trinity at 11:00 a.m., to be celebrated by Fr. Joel Pabilona, a parish priest in Scarborough and himself an Alangalanganon, at the Transfiguration of Our Lord Church at 45 Ludstone Dr., Etobicoke, ON M9R 2J2. The mass will be followed with a lunch celebration at the church hall for all attendees until 4:00 pm and will be capped by a Gala Event planned at the nearby beautiful Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Toronto (www.torontoairport.doubletree.com) in the evening

Alangalang is a 2nd class municipality in the province of Leyte with an area of 151 km² divided into 54 barangays and a population of, according 2010 census, over 43,000. An agricultural town with mainly rice and coconut as its main produce, the town is slowly being transformed commercially because of its proximity to the capital city of Tacloban which is only 29 kilometers away and the fact that it lies in the route to other towns in Leyte such as Barugo, Jaro, Carigara and Ormoc City. According to the old folks, the name Alangalang was given to the town, from the vernacular word “alang-alang” which means indecision. On the way to Carigara, there is a steel bridge spanning the Mainit River. Soon after it, there is a smaller bridge and there was a time when only footpaths existed instead, so when this river was too wide for a leap and too narrow to wade in, the traveler was undecided what to do.

Provincially, the town is known for its well planned development such as a beautiful church, a nice park, an elementary school and a town hall centrally located in the town proper. On the cultural side, it also the proud home of Tribu Lingganay, a cultural group run by a Foundation, of young people mainly out of the local high school which has won competitions provincially and nationally. The Tribu Lingganay was the 2013 and 2012 Grand Parade Champion of the Sinulog Festival in Cebu City and also won a lot of competitions in the Pintadus Festival in Tacloban City. Also located in Alangalang is a branch or a campus of the Leyte State University mainly offering agricultural courses.

According to Pempe Saavedra, the 2013 host and Hermano, he got a very enthusiastic response from his invitation to his town mates especially the plan to conclude the celebration with a Gala Night. He is expecting attendees from all over North America like those coming from the New York/New Jersey area, San Francisco Bay area, Los Angeles/San Diego area, Chicago area, Dallas and Houston area, Washington DC/North Virginia area and even from the Las Vegas area not to mention those coming from Montreal, Ottawa and Calgary. In his invitation he said in local waray wary dialect, “Maupay unta kung makakadi kamo upod ang pamilya ngan kasangkayan para kita ngatanan magkaurosa hini nga celebrasyon” It would be nice if you can come together with you family and friends so we can be together in this celebration).

Everybody is of course invited to join in the celebration. For further details, please feel free to call Pempe Saavedra (416.780.1545), Kavin Antoni (647.308.5634) or May Tridinidad (647.622.2849).

Jobless rate goes up even in time of Economic Boom

LESS JOBS IN BOOM TIME continued from page 23

government establishments. Together, private and public sector employment expanded by 667,000 from a year earlier, she said.

Underemployment, she said, decreased from 19.3 percent last year to 19.2 percent in April this year. But she said the latest job data should be viewed as a challenge to government and its private sector partners.

“Thus, if the low earnings can be directly related to our workers’ need to acquire additional skills or to upgrade their skills, which could be a reason why it is difficult for them to access other job opportunities, the DOLE’s immediate response is to offer them the Training for Work Scholarship of the TESDA,” she said.

University of the Philippines School of Labor and Industrial Relations professor Rene Ofreneo said the government needs to do more to create jobs and make the country’s strong economic growth felt by more Filipinos.

“The message of the statistics is clear. The economy is growing but it is not translating to jobs for the people. Not enough jobs are being created,” he told The STAR.

To create more jobs, he said the government should give more attention to the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. He added the government should also address the high cost of power as well as rampant smuggling.

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“Thus the net job loss for April was approximately 21,000

LESS JOBS IN BOOM TIME continued on page 27

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Spotlight



The Love Bus was a much ballyhooed project of the Martial Law regime, and fortunately for the public, it was one that really worked wonderfully, and really provided a cool, reasonably priced (P2.50 per route: Ali Mall, Escolta, Ayala) ride. These were the first air conditioned buses that plied the streets of Metro Manila. Everyone fell in love with the Love Bus, and many couples fell in love in these buses too!

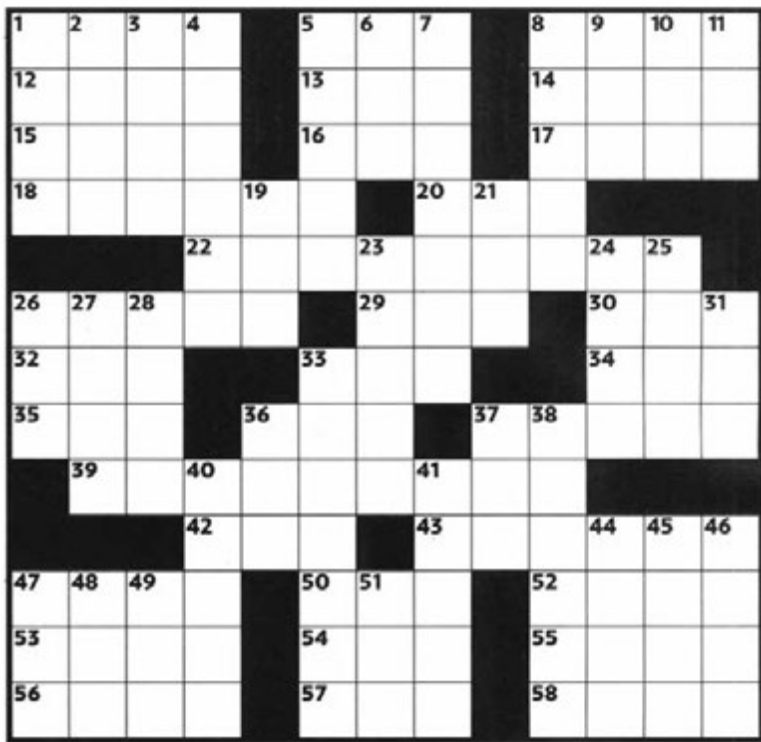
Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Berenger and Brokaw
- 5 Rihanna hit (inits.)
- 8 North ____ (where Santa lives)
- 12 Emmy-winning Baldwin
- 13 Sweet ____ (Popeye's baby)
- 14 22 Across was the season 4 winner of American ____
- 15 Star Wars' Princess ____
- 16 Seabird
- 17 Actor Sandler
- 18 First name of 22 Across
- 20 Actor Cheadle
- 22 With 18 Across, Grammy-winning country singer
- 26 Actress Hayek
- 29 ____'s Labyrinth
- 30 Actress Ryan
- 32 Wheel of Fortune buy (2 wds.)
- 33 Double curve
- 34 Rapper Vanilla ____
- 35 Brooks or Gibson
- 36 Javier Bardem's "year"
- 37 The ____ (S.A.G. award statuette)
- 39 Star of Hancock and Seven Pounds (2 wds.)
- 42 Mariah Carey's "____ Be There"
- 43 Michael, Martin and Charlie
- 47 "____ Hearts" (22 Across's multi-platinum debut album)
- 50 Courteney Cox Arquette's home state (abbr.)
- 52 Esau's wife
- 53 Ashton Kutcher's "____ Like Love" (2 wds.)
- 54 By way of
- 55 A ____ to Kill with Samuel L. Jackson
- 56 Showcase record
- 57 B.P.O.E. member
- 58 Mary Higgins Clark's He ____ You When You're Sleeping

DOWN

- 1 Bath powder
- 2 Olive-tree genus
- 3 Israel's Golda ____
- 4 Harum ____ (Elvis Presley movie)
- 5 Runaway-bus thriller with Keanu Reeves
- 6 Above, to poets
- 7 Bullock and Oh
- 8 "____ Man" by Billy Joel
- 9 The ____ Couple
- 10 Mauna ____ (Hawaiian volcano)
- 11 Favorite street of Freddy Krueger
- 19 Message ____ Bottle (2 wds.)
- 21 We ____ the Night stars Mark Wahlberg
- 23 ____ Downs (British racetrack)
- 24 Leave out
- 25 Erté (Art ____ designer)
- 26 Frost/Nixon actor Rockwell
- 27 Freshly
- 28 Actress Taylor of many indie films
- 31 Heidi Klum's homeland (abbr.)
- 33 To deprive of freedom
- 36 "____-American Girl" (No. 1 country single by 22 Across)
- 37 Physically active in sports (abbr.)
- 38 No. 1 country single by 22 Across "Before He ____"
- 40 ____ Me stars Tim Roth and Kelli Williams (2 wds.)
- 41 "Wicked Game" singer Chris ____
- 44 Adams or Falco
- 45 "Last ____" (song by 22 Across)
- 46 Jimmy Cozier's "____ All I Got"
- 47 "____ Songs (Say So Much)" by Elton John
- 48 Bravo for bullfighter Manolete
- 49 Serial ____
- 51 Rapper ____ Wayne



Scenes from Kalayaan Gala



LEFT, Kalayaan Chairman Dr. Solon Guzman shows off his pride and joy, his daughters Angeline and Princess. RIGHT, Dr. Solon shows off his dancing talent in one of the presentations.

Answers on
Page 26

Cesar pursuing Sunshine

Christian Bautista bounces back after Party Pilipinas

Cesar Montano has dismissed circulating annulment rumors about him and actress Sunshine Cruz. “Wala kaming dini-discuss na ganun,” Cesar told PEP in an interview during a story conference of GMA-7’s new drama series, “Hanggang Ngayon.” “I’m very positive and optimistic about it – about our relationship.”

Recall that January this year, Sunshine revealed her decision to live apart from his husband of 13 years, allegedly after the latter was linked to one of his co-star.

In a previous interview with Sunshine in April, the actress said she has no plans of going back to Cesar soon.

The multi-awarded actor admits that while their relationship is still undergoing the “healing process,” he continues to woo his wife “from day one of the trouble” to show his genuine intention of reconciliation.

“...from day one, nandun ang intensiyon ko until today,” read the quote.

Cesar also said that he frequently visits his wife and kids, for he misses “everything” about her, even “(‘yung) amoy niya.”

“We still have private moments, we talk about things.”

The 50-year-old film director narrates that he doesn’t “rush things,” and is just being “very optimistic” with what he hopes would eventually be a reunion.

“Gusto ko rin makita niya na kumportable na siya. Gusto ko sa kanya na rin manggaling na okay na,” he said.

Cesar strongly believes in the unifying essence of marriage, and that he is still one with his wife.

“Iisa lang naman, eh. Kapag nag-asawa kayo, isa na lang kayo, ‘di ba?”

He ended, “it’s been awhile, pero hindi pa naman ako titigil, nandidito ako para sa kanya.”

Christian Bautista bounces back after end of ‘Party Pilipinas’

“WE FALL, we get up, brush off the dust and move on.”

Singer-actor Christian Bautista said he felt disheartened when GMA 7 canceled the variety show “Party Pilipinas,” his first program in the network after transferring from rival ABS-CBN in April.

Negative feedback on Twitter made him feel worse, Bautista told Inquirer recently. “People said I made the wrong decision... and that nothing good could happen now to my career. A few even blamed me for what happened to the show, saying I brought bad luck.”

But while there were bashers, Bautista said, he also caught some inspiring comments. “I just told myself that at least people cared enough to tweet about it,” he said. “I never doubted my decision to transfer. From the start, my management (Stages) and I agreed that, whatever happened we would pursue, cooperate, fight and work hard.”

When he was included in “Sunday All Stars,” which replaced “Party Pilipinas” on June 16, the singer said he took on the challenge with renewed vigor. “I’m excited about the new show. That’s how it goes—we fall, we get up, brush off the dust and move on.”

Bautista will also appear in “With a Smile,” an early morning “dramedy,” with Andrea Torres and Mikael Daez.

Asked about the rumor that he left ABS-CBN for its failure to give him more acting projects, he said, “ABS-CBN presented its plans for me during negotiations. GMA7 had its own [plans]. We decided, based on my goals and current status in life, that GMA 7’s offer was the perfect fit.”

Is “With a Smile” the Kapuso network’s answer to ABS-CBN’s top-rating morning show “Be Careful with My Heart?”

Bautista said, “This [GMA7 show] airs earlier. And while its story is also light and funny... it’s patterned after ‘Lovers in Paris’ and the angle is different—two men are fighting over a girl.”

“With a Smile” is Bautista’s first lead role in a TV series in a long while. He teamed up with Anne Curtis in the Kapamilya drama “Kampanerang Kuba” in 2005.

It airs weekdays before “Unexpected You.”



Viagra for Women

Promise of Boost in Satisfaction is Irresistible

A pill that purports to make a woman’s brain more sensitive to “sexual cues” has emerged as the newest front-runner in the high-stakes rush to bring the first drug for female sexual dysfunctions to market.

According to the makers of Lybrido, the drug increases sexual satisfaction and sexual “functioning” in women whose sexual desire is waning, to non-existent.

Both Lybrido, and a related medication Lybridos, which is said to act on the neurotransmitters or brain chemicals that control a woman’s sexual inhibitions, could be taken “on demand,” three to six hours before a woman has sex, according to Dutch developer, Emotional Brain.

The stakes are enormous: Studies show up to a third of women report problems with sexual desire and arousal. About half of those meet criteria for desire disorder, some experts say.

Emotional Brain, maker of the female libido-enhancing drug, is carefully screening calls from reporters

But some observers are uneasy with what they see as the “medicalization” of women’s sexual problems and the push to package desire in a pill. One week after the Dutch libido boosters were featured in the New York Times Magazine, Emotional Brain is carefully screening calls from reporters. The company says that its only interest is in making sure all publicity about its products will be favourable. “We have to be careful, critical and take care that publicity is added value for our research company,” a personal assistant to company founder Adriaan Tuiten said.

Others say the need for new treatments for female sexual dysfunction is significant.

“I am not soliciting patients here, and I can tell you that I have women coming and complaining about low sexual desire every single day in my clinic,” said Dr. Wendy Wolfman, director of the menopause unit at Toronto’s Mount Sinai Hospital.

“The problem exists,” she said. “People believe that sexual contact is a very important part of their relationship,” she said. “It’s very large for some women.”

For others, their lack of interest in sex isn’t in any way bothersome. “We’re not suggesting that women should be thrown medications for a quick fix,” Wolfman said. It’s known from studies that one of the best treatments for low sexual desire is a new partner, she said, “not that we like to publicize that.” Nor is she recommending it.

Doctors can suggest sexual counselling, sex toys and erotic literature. But when it comes to medical treatments, “it’s abysmal,” Wolfman said. Women are using testosterone gels, pills and patches designed and officially approved only for men “because we don’t have anything to offer women that has been approved,” Wolfman said.

“I really think we need something. It’s very frustrating.”

Candid SPOOF

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



Kalayaan’s Resty del Rosario ang Carlos Padilla have a chat at the Kalayaan gala in celebration of Philippine Independence Day in Mississauga.

Crossword Answers

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

LESS JOBS IN BOOM TIME
continued from page 24

jobs,” she added.

In Laguindingan, Misamis Oriental where he inaugurated an airport, Aquino also largely blamed the weather for the unfavorable employment data.

“There is this perception that if it’s too hot and there are unfavorable weather conditions, the farmers do not want to plant,” he said.

“As you know, farmers will always have the weather dictating their planting cycles. There have been offsets, improvements in the industry and service sectors; wage and salary workers working full-time increased in both sectors,” he pointed out.

“Therefore, the net result was a net job loss of 21,000. Can I just add that in the two years between 2010 and 2012, the net new jobs generated was a total of 1.57 million.”

“The number of new persons employed in the wage and salary category – this category is a widely used indicator of quality jobs – increased by 1.99 million during the same period,” he added.

“You know, there’s a suspicion that when a respondent in a survey is asked as to his employment status, there have been many who say they’re self-employed, which might be a euphemism for not employed,” he said.

DOLE’s Cruz also said that contrary to expectations, the recent elections did not create many jobs.

“During elections, the Commission on Elections banned many government infrastructure projects, thus there is low hiring rate in the construction industry,” Cruz explained.

“Not even the election spending can boost employment since the election

hunk shot



Eighteen-year old Austin loves sushi. He plays football to stay in shape. He goes to St. Patricks school. He wants to be a doctor someday. We wish him all the luck in his endeavour.

Austin Reyes

period is very short and temporary. A lot of money may circulate, but it does not mean additional jobs for the people,” Cruz added.

Meanwhile, Vice President Jejomar Binay said the Philippines should take lessons from Germany’s dual vocational system to curb unemployment.

“We hope we can apply a similar scheme in the Philippines, especially with the implementation of the K-12 program and we look forward to a possible cooperation with Germany on this in the future,” Binay said.

The vice president recently had a working visit to Germany where he met with Labor Minister Ursula von der Leyen.

“They are offering us how we can adopt it and how we can use it, especially with our K-12, K-12 plus two years. This vocational will be included in dual system,” Binay said.

Binay said the German dual vocational system combines apprenticeships in a company and vocational education at a vocational school.

He said that in-firm training takes from two to 3.5 years after which trainees receive certificates.

Binay also said he and the German official are eyeing a bilateral agreement on equivalency of academic degrees.

“We believe such an agreement would lead towards an eventual mutual recognition of degrees for professional purposes,” Binay said.

Currently, there is an existing tie-up between the University of Santo Tomas and the International University Cooperation Education (iUCE). Filipino students enrolled under this program have the option to continue their studies in Germany.

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