

DECEMBER 2015



**L**ittle **M**anila

# Confidential

**Merry Christmas**  
*sa inyong lahat*



and  
let's  
pray for

## PEACE

### Comelec disqualifies Poe

### Duterte calls the Pope a SOB



Miss Nancy Sumaya presents herself to the judges on the way to the Ms. Paraluman 2015 title.



Kalyeserye star

# MAINE MENDOZA

## ENJOYING THE PERKS OF FAME

### Philippines must worry about ISIS

#### Paris attack is a taste of WWII - FVR

MANILA - The Philippines has to raise its alarm against terror threats following the deadly attacks in Paris, a security analyst said.

Professor Rommel Banlaoi said the Philippine government as well as all citizens should be wary of the threats emanating from the terrorist organization Islamic State of Syria or ISIS, considering its presence in the country and its spreading global acts.

"We should not be complacent about the threat posed by ISIS because right now, we monitored at least six self-proclaimed ISIS followers in the Philippines. And if you will review all the videos of the Abu Sayyaf Group, they are displaying the black flag of ISIS, so they are bandwagoning on the popularity, the global popularity of ISIS now," he said.

The ISIS claimed responsibility over the bombings and shootings on last November 13 which resulted in over a hundred of deaths in Paris.

Banlaoi described the attacks as a major blow not only against France but against all democratic states such as the United States, Germany and Great Britain.

He said that the Philippines must also be cautious of ISIS' aggressive recruitment, especially with the presence of social media.

"Right now ISIS is very aggressive in recruiting followers through social media mechanism. They are very active in Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and they don't need to send actual organizers to go to the Philippines. They just need to access the Internet and start recruiting people from the Internet, particularly those younger ones," Banlaoi said.

The security analyst explained that

**PHILIPPINES**  
continued on page 25

### Scenes in the City



ABOVE LEFT, Filipino Centre Toronto presented their Most Outstanding Students Awards. In photo are Mary Ann San, Chairman of the Outstanding Awards Committee (OSA) committee, students Myla Santos Bouckley, Naomi Grace Joson, Jensine Aure, Jarred Laganas and OSA member Tony San Juan. CENTRE, Camilineos President Harold Guarin of Roadsport Honda (*in the suit*) poses with guests at their Christmas fundraising dinner (PHOTO BY NOLI GUMAPAC OF 4ENS PHOTOGRAPHY). RIGHT, Manny Yanga of Scarborough Toyota poses with Reyna Laciste, Mrs Philippines Canada 2015 Ambassador of Goodwill.



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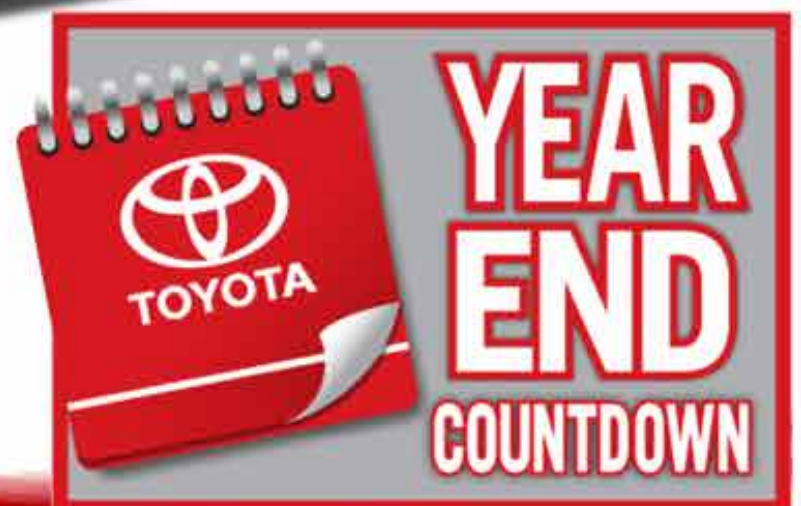


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# Palace smarting from solons' rap

## Opposition blast government as heartless

MANILA - A Place official lashed out at opposition leaders for saying that the Aquino administration lacks compassion for Filipinos who are the highest taxed people in Southeast Asia, but suffer sub-standard public services.

"They should never ever say that the government has no heart, that the government has no malasakit [compassion]," Presidential Spokesman Edwin Lacierda said.

"In the six years of our government, everything will be done to help those who are at the fringes of society," he said, adding that opposition leaders are only making political appeals for votes in next year's elections.

Lacierda hit Senator Ferdinand Marcos and his cousin Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez for claiming that the Aquino administration does not want to push a tax cut bill in Congress because they don't care about the sufferings of Filipinos.

Marcos, the son of former President Ferdinand Marcos, is running for vice president while Romualdez, the son of former Ambassador Benjamin Romualdez, is seeking his first term in the Senate.

"Everybody is saying 'I'm in favor of lowering this, I'm in favor of lowering that' because it's campaign season. Elections are already near," Lacierda said.

"But we are government. We have to be responsible. We recognize there's a concern. We recognize that some people would like to lower the tax rates and we're saying, 'we're all together in this,'" he said.

But the public should not expect a "Christmas gift" like a new tax rate cut law, as suggested by Marcos, because the government wants to review the tax law "comprehensively."

"Again, we are all in favor of greater take



Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez

home pay but we need to review the tax laws comprehensively," he said.

Lacierda also lashed at Romualdez for saying that the Aquino administration has no compassion for people who continue to endure sub-standard public services while economic growth has slowed down because of government underspending.

Lacierda said the Aquino administration has invested P75 billion for its Conditional Cash Transfer Program which financially assists 4.4-million families, or over 20 million Filipinos.

The coverage of the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) has also been expanded under the Aquino administration, Lacierda said.

"Sabihin mo kay Martin Romualdez, hindi ba iyan malasakit? [You tell Martin Romualdez, is that not compassion?]," Lacierda asked.

"You tell me if that is not malasakit. Don't go out there saying that this government does

not care for its people. We have invested so much government revenues," he added.

Lacierda slammed Romualdez a day after presidential aspirant Sen. Grace Poe admitted she was disappointed Romualdez could not be included in her senatorial slate because the congressman has been fighting for many of the things she too wanted, especially help for his constituents in Eastern Visayas who were devastated by Super Typhoon "Yolanda."

Poe, the presidential frontrunner in the most recent opinion surveys, also asked the public to support someone like Romualdez because his platform of government is anchored on good governance, accountability and transparency.

But Romualdez's House allies came to his defense and said it was a congressman's duty to fight for his constituents and Romualdez's advocacy for reasonable income tax rates proves he is worthy of the Senate.

"[That is the] height of insensitivity," 1-BAP Rep. Silvestre Bello told The Standard in response to Palace's admonition against Romualdez.

"This administration has the propensity to cater to the convenience of big business rather than addressing the needs of our marginalized countrymen," Bello said. "Sino ba talaga ang boss nila? Ayala o ang masa? [Who are really their bosses? The Ayalas or the masses?]"

Bello said his party-list, the Unang Barangay Ating Paunlarin with 60,000 members, will support the Romualdez senatorial bid because he can help improve the justice system and address the education and health needs of barangays.

**PALACE**  
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### Maja Salvador describes Sam Milby as 'urong-sulong'

Nagpa-interview si Maja at nagbigay reaction sa napapabalitang closeness nila ngayon ni Sam Milby.

"Hindi ko nga po alam kung saan galing ang balitang iyan pero magkaibigan kami ni Sam and mayroon kasi kaming group na nagkakausap sa isang phone app kaya siguro ganun."

Makahulugan naman ang nag-ing sagot ni Maja sa description niya para kay Sam.

"Mabait at gentleman si Sam. Urong-sulong (laughs)."

Sinagot din ni Maja ang usapin na isa siya sa nailisip ng netizens na qualified na gumanap sa iconic role bilang Darna.

"Salamat sa kanila kasi isa ako sa nailisip nila para sa Darna. Napaka iconic ng role na yan at malaking responsibility yan dahil ilan na sa malalaking names sa showbiz ang gumanap sa role ng Darna."

## Trudeau is APEC Hottie

**Trudeau whisked away from adoring Manila mob**

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had to be whisked away from a summit by police bodyguards on Thursday as hundreds of excited journalists and staff swarmed around him in a bid to take photos and say hello.

I know the feeling. I had to flee a mob once too. I just can't remember if they were adoring or a lynch mob.

Ehe, sus Guinoo ko.



### MY FEARLESS PREDICTION

Right now, the newspapers feature civilian employees making the bed of the military barracks for the refugees.

But in one year or just six months after Syrian refugees are housed in the military barracks, they will be complaining of in-humane living conditions, of having to live in one barrack (ROOM) per family. The photos will show unmade bed, litter all over the floor, etc...the same conditions that exists already with the Canadian poor. The sympathetic write-up will be big news in the Toronto Star. There will be a quote from a refugee something like “don't get me wrong. We are grateful to the Canadian government but no human should have to live in this kind of conditions.” Every media outlet and their commentators will echo the same sympathetic tone, afraid to be called racist, except the readers who will be furious. The National Post and Toronto Sun will be the exception among the media also. Prime Minister Trudeau will promise to investigate the situation.

### It's not final until Comelec says it's OK

Is he secretly hoping that Comelec will refuse his candidacy? Is his substitution candidacy official yet?

### Poe is out (for now until presstime for us here in Toronto). But Is Duterte still in?

Duterte entered the race because he said Poe is not a natural-born Filipino and he does not like the Philippines to be ruled by a foreigner. Now that Poe has been disqualified, is Duterte going to withdraw? Even if he stays, by the way he is going he looks like he is trying to lose anyway.

### Tourism is next growth driver

Is he high on something?

Cayetano Paderanga, an economics professor at the University of the Philippines, said that the country's tourism sector has the potential to drive economic growth.

With the kidnapping of two Canadians among 4 people in Davao just in September still unsolved, and the extortion among other rackets in our main airport, the Ninoy Aquino International Airport still going on, how do you expect tourists to come here? The only people who will come here are balikbayans, and some

of them jsut because they have no choice, just like some OFW's.

### What is Canada's contribution?

A Muslim man was being interviewed and he talked about ISIS recruiting young people who feel they are being ignored is no different than gangs recruiting these same people saying “join us and we'll take care of those people for you.” As for about Trudeau's plan to still pull Canada out of the bombing missions, he says, “I don't think the coalition will miss 6 planes, which is Canada's contribution to the bombing mission. Other countries have far more planes involved.”

However, is this any way to show support for our allies?

Trudeau said he will increase Canadian advisers on the ground. I hope he doesn't have to deal with some of those advisers being kidnapped by ISIS or other terrorist groups and beheaded.

### Paris bombed by terrorists

Trudeau also said that his plan to bring 25,000 Syrian refugees has not changed. However, Saskatchewan wants to suspend the plan and Quebec's minister of Immigration say the target is is tough to meet. If you hear that the refugee plan seems to be going slow, you know that Trudeau has tightened security check. After all, politically, it is survivable to see refugees die out of Canada but political suicide if Canadians die on Canadian soil from a terrorist attack.

### The Power of Stupid People

Comedian George Carlin said ‘never underestimate the power of stupid people in large groups.’

However, more dangerous is “the power of stupid people in small groups shouting ‘we represent the majority’” and getting massive coverage in every media.

### What did they talk at APEC?

After Paris terrorism, and climate change, what did they tackle at APEC in Manila? Is that it? Who was the hottest APEC hottie? No solutions to poverty, terrorism, climate change, etc...Sus Guinoo na ititihaya ko...Paguwapuhan lang pala. Sumali na sana ako.

Ehe, ano ba itong nasabi ko?

## Obama Plays Matchmaker for Philippine Startup Using Salt in Lamp



U.S. President Barack Obama (center), poses for a photograph with Alibaba billionaire Jack Ma and Aisa Mijeno, an engineer and social worker, at the APEC CEO Summit in Manila on Nov. 18, 2015.

Until this week, Aisa Mijeno was yet another entrepreneur struggling to raise money for her startup in the Philippines. Then she got a call from the White House.

Now the 31-year-old engineer is getting global attention after President Barack Obama offered to play matchmaker for her company, which builds lamps that run on seawater. Mijeno, the co-founder of SALt, shared a stage with Obama and Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.'s Jack Ma at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Manila.

In a televised discussion about climate change before business and political leaders, the environmentalist pitched her marquee product: a lamp working off seawater, or a mixture of tap water and salt, to help people on the Philippines' 7,000 islands who have difficulty accessing kerosene or who depend on candles.

“We also need a lot of support in terms of funding,” she said. “That's our main challenge right now.”

To which Obama replied: “I'm serving as a matchmaker here.”The audience cheered.

### Washington Call

Mijeno's whirlwind started when she got a call from the White House asking her to join a panel that Obama would moderate. She thought it was a prank call. It turns out the U.S. president wanted to speak with the head of a startup, and his staff found her online, Mijeno said in an interview.

She was so excited she slept only three hours and almost fainted onstage during the conversation with Obama and China's second-richest man.

Mijeno developed her idea for SALt, an acronym for Sustainable Alternative Lighting, after trekking in the mountains of Kalinga in the northern Philippines, where she saw people walk six hours every other day to buy lamp fuel. That's when the electrochemist hit upon the idea of lighting that works off a resource covering 70 percent of the planet -- water.

Her LED lamp, which avoids the hazards of a combustible fuel, retails for about \$20. The rods that drive the process can last six months.

“Electricity is a basic need, light is a basic need and we should be addressing that,” she said at the APEC forum.

Mijeno's moment with Obama shone a spotlight on other Philippine startups, Monchito Ibrahim, deputy executive director of the country's Information and Communications Technology Office, said in a text message. The government provides tax exemptions for companies like SALt and wants to help at least 500 startups with a combined value of about \$2 billion, he said.

SALt needs money and assistance to move into mass production, Mijeno said. Investors have offered to buy her startup, yet Mijeno said she's looking for partners to help build a research-and-development unit to make power generators fueled by the sea.

“We want to be the Philips of renewable energy,” Mijeno said.



### UMAC DELIVERS WITH LOVE

Photo shows the smiling man and ladies of the UMAC Forwarders Express Inc. which include Fedie Baguisa (middle), operations head; Anna Carina Eusebio (extreme left), manager; and Aloha Gregorio, business associate. They said that UMAC promotes love in delivery of balikbayan boxes to any places in the Philippines. (St. Jamestown News Service, Romy Zetazate)

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# L.M. Confidential

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Ed Tubale

# LAUGH RESORT

## Betty Crocker

A husband is at home watching a football game when his wife interrupts him.

"Honey, could you fix the light in the hallway? It's been flickering for weeks now."

He looks at her and says angrily, "Fix the lights now? Does it look like I have a GE logo printed on my forehead? I don't think so."

"Fine." Then the wife asks, "Well then could you fix the fridge door? It won't close right."

To which he replied, "Fix the fridge door? Does it look like I have 'Westinghouse' written on my forehead? I don't think so."

"Fine," she says. "Then at least you could fix the steps to the front door? They are about to break."

"I'm not a carpenter and I don't want to fix steps," he says. "Does it look like I have 'Ace Hardware' written on my forehead? I don't think so. I've had enough of you. I'm going to the bar!"

So he goes to the bar and drinks for a couple of hours. He starts feeling guilty about how he treated his wife, and decides to go home.

As he walks into the house he notices that the steps are already fixed. As he enters the house, he sees the hall light is working. As he goes to get a beer, he notices the fridge door is fixed.

"Honey," he asks, "how did all this get fixed?"

"Ah well, when you left I sat outside and cried. Just then a nice young man asked me what was wrong, and I told him. He offered to do all the repairs, and all I had to do was either go to bed with him or bake a cake."

He asked, "So what kind of cake did you bake him?"

She replied, "Helloooo, do you see 'Betty Crocker' written on my forehead? I don't think so."

# Honey Shot

Audrey Bushell is PCCF Miss Philippines Canada 2015 1st Runner up. She won Best in Talent, Best in Casual, and Best in Terno. Her talents are singing and dancing.



Audrey Bushell

## Masarap katrabaho si Diether, maging sa kissing scenes - RITZ

Ritz Azul is so happy to be paired with Diether Ocampo in "Wattpad Presents Wicked Ways".

"Ang dami niyang movies at TV shows na napanood ko noong wala pa ako sa showbiz," she says.



"Hindi ko talaga akalaing balang araw, makakapareha ko siya. Masarap siyang katrabaho dahil very professional siya, maging sa kissing scenes and love scenes na ginawa namin."

Ritz' contract with TV5 is expiring this coming January. Now that Viva's Vic del Rosario will be handling the entertainment programs of TV5, what will happen to her career? "Siyempre, kinabahan ako when I learned that Viva na ang hahawak sa TV5 shows. But I am supposed to have a meeting with Viva soon and confident naman akong maisasama pa rin nila ako sa shows na gagawin nila for TV5 dahil ibabalik daw nila ang mga teleserye. At sana, makagawa rin ako ng movie with them eventually. As of now, kasa-ma pa rin naman ako sa 'Happy Truck ng Bayan', seen on Sundays sa TV5. Hindi lang naman ako ang homegrown talent ng TV5 na naghihintay kung ano ang magiging move nila about us, nandiyan din sina Mark Neumann, Eula Caballero, Vin Abrenica and the rest sa Artista Academy. As of now, wait and see lang muna kami."

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US to send more warships

MANILA- US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said the US Navy will send more warships to sail close to artificial islands built by Beijing in disputed areas of the South China Sea.

“We will fly, sail and operate wherever international law permits and whenever our operational needs require,” Carter told the US Senate Armed Services Committee Tuesday.

The USS Lassen guided missile destroyer sailed within 12 nautical miles of at least one of the land formations claimed by China in the disputed Spratly Islands chain.

The move infuriated Beijing, which summoned the US ambassador and denounced what it called a threat to its sovereignty.

“We will do it again,” a US official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. “We sail in international waters at a time and place of our choosing.”

The USS Lassen sailed through waters claimed by China, the Philippines and Vietnam near Mischief Reef in the Spratlys. The official said the sailing lasted about two hours.

China said two of its vessels had

shadowed the USS Lassen. Another US official said there had been “routine”



communication between the US and Chinese ships.

Tensions have mounted since China transformed reefs in the area—also claimed by several neighboring countries—into small islands capable of supporting military facilities, a move the US says threatens freedom of navigation.

WARSHIPS continued on page 26

Develop alternative cities outside Manila

MANILA - It’s time for a “centrifugal migration.”

With Metro Manila getting more congested, a real estate developer believes it’s high time people set their sights on places outside the National Capital Region.

Architect Romolo Nati, Chairman and COO of Itapinas Development Corp., said he thinks the country needs to develop its emerging cities, a move that will hopefully encourage people to reside in their places of origin.

“We think Philippines need to develop alternative cities, existing cities like Cagayan, Dumaguete, Iloilo and so on,” he said on Mornings @ ANC.

Believing that developing secondary cities is the next trend, Itapinas put up two buildings in Cagayan de Oro (CDO).

Nati also encouraged developers to try the “biomimicry” concept, a strategy of building infrastructure that is based on how nature adapts to changes.

Nati said before building the Primavera Residences in CDO, they first intensively studied the city’s weather to come up with a building that follows the nature’s principles of the place.

Nati also cited the Coral City design, a self-sustaining and disaster-resistant eco-village design for the Philippines, which is inspired by the corals’ capability of adapting to their environment.

Buildings should be eco-friendly by featuring an increased natural ventilation and shading.

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Foreign investors notice economy

MANILA - Malacanang stressed that foreign investors are looking at the big picture when investing in the country and not on political issues related to the 2016 polls. Communications Secretary Sonny Coloma said, “Foreign investors look at the big picture: The Philippines’ good governance and sound management of macro economic fundamentals, in stable and predictable investment environment.”

This is in response to reports that administration bet Mar Roxas opposes charter changes which may dampen foreign investments since some foreign businessmen have expressed concern over foreign restrictions on investments.

Coloma allayed fears, saying Roxas can sustain the country’s growth that investors are primarily looking at.

“All of these may be sustained through the continuity of Daang Matuwid,” Coloma said.

Duterte rejects lower income tax rates

DAVAO CITY: Just like President Benigno Aquino 3rd, Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte is not in favor of lowering income tax rates.

Duterte, who officially joined the presidential race, said he is against proposals to lower income taxes because it would deprive government of the needed funds for vital infrastructure projects.

“No [I am not in favor]. I need money for my [government] programs... to create jobs, invest in infrastructure. You need money to run this country,” Duterte said. The Finance department estimates that the government will lose P29 billion in revenues if income tax rates are adjusted. Duterte noted that economic growth has yet to be felt outside Metro Manila because development is limited to the capital.

“To boost our economy, we have to move the goods at a low cost at the shortest possible time. For one, we have to decongest Metro Manila. As it is, I cannot solve the problem of Metro Manila because it is overloaded with people, vehicles and factories,” the mayor said.

Duterte however said he is in favor of continuing the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program if he is elected president.



NADINE HELPS A CERTIFIED ‘OTWOLISTA’ START HER OWN BUSINESS IN “MY PUHUNAN”

Broadcast journalist Karen Davila goes to Tenement Uno where the top-rating “On The Wings of Love” (OTWOL) is currently being shot to help out a fan of the teleserye in “My Puhunan” .

Get to know nanny Lanie, a certified OTWOLista who says her life story is not far from that of Leah, one of the main characters in “OTWOL” portrayed by actress Nadine Lustre.

While Leah was left behind by her mom, Lanie was abandoned by her father, who had another family of his own.

Now 16, Lanie has already gone through many struggles that her life already seems to resemble a teleserye. She is currently working as a nanny away from her family in Apayao so she could help her mom.

Lanie’s dream to provide a better future for her family is now within reach with the help of “My Puhunan” and Nadine herself, who will give her a big surprise.

DINKY’S SECOND CHANCE

COMEDIAN Dinky Doo has just finished directing his first movie, “One Day Isang Araw, I Saw Nakakita”, starring new child actress AJ (for Alainah Jezl) Ocampo. “It’s a trilogy with AJ connecting all the stories,” he says. “The first story is a comedy about child beggars at kasama ako at sina Onyok Velasco, Brod Pete and the Wowowin Girls.

Yung second story, action, with John Regala as a syndicate boss who uses AJ and other beggars for illegal activities, like snatching.

Kasama rito si Janelle Jaymer and Niño Muhlach. The final episode is drama, with Allen Dizon and Lara Quigaman as a childless couple na nasagasaan si AJ at inampon siya. Then she will meet her real sister, si Ritz Azul. Baguhan lang si AJ but napakagaling niyang umarte. I’m producing it under my own company, Yebahdabadoo Entertainment.” Dinky says he was down and out when 2015 started. “There was a time wala akong pambayad sa renta ko, sa bills ko, I thought I’d die kasi bedridden na ako due to severe arthritis with complications. They already paid me a tribute sa ‘Wish Ko Lang’, with Tito Dolphy, Elizabeth Ramsey, Sammy Lagmay and Tiya Pusit encouraging me, saying hahaba pa ang buhay ko, which happened naman at sila ang wala na ngayon. Of course, I owe it all to God.

In January, I was introduced to the Filipino Dream, a company that provides livelihood through food carts, Pinoy Pao, selling siopao, siomai, burgers and pandesal. For P60,000, may food cart ka na and you can earn about P1,000 a day. It worked for me and the owners got me to promote the Filipino Dream to OFW’s abroad so I traveled all over the States presenting their plan at maraming nakagusto. Then they told me their only daughter, si AJ, 7 years old, gusto mag-artista. Sabi ko, let’s just produce a movie for her at ito na nga yung ‘One Day Isang Araw’. We have a free special screening for everyone na gustong manood on December 2, Wednesday, sa Meralco Theatre, 6 p.m. Lahat ng gustong manood, especially children, free, with free Pinoy Pao goodies and freebies. We’ll have the regular screening in SM next year na.”

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Butuan City tries forest-based economy to halt poverty

The Timber City of the South is looking at trees differently now.

BUTUAN CITY - Butuan City Mayor Jun Amante said the government is now shifting to a sustainable forest-based economy, instead of aimlessly utilizing resources.

“These [trees] are a God-given resource which we’ve squandered for how many years, we’re trying to bring it back. Where we failed, it is where we will rise also,” said Amante.

Amante said their reforestation project is also a mechanism to alleviate poverty in the city.

“We set a breakthrough goal, in June 2015 we’re supposed to plant 5 million tress, we exceeded the breakthrough goal, we are now down to 7.2 million. We’re supposed to plant 5 million trees to put in additional P10 billion every year to cut down our poverty incidence from 26 percent to maybe less than 10 percent by 2020,” he said.

“The tree farming is only a driver for economy, the vision really is poverty alleviation,” Amante added.

The City Mayor said he convinced people to plant more trees by emphasizing that they could earn from it. He said one hectare of tree farm can easily earn a farmer P2 million in 6 years.

“One seedling of falcata is P1.50, in six years time it can become 3,000 [pesos],” he said.

Amante said they are employing the ridge to reef concept, “planting hardwood on the mountain tops, mangroves in the shore line, in between are timber trees for production. So we divided our zone into production zone where falcata grows... 20% for the protective zone.”

In terms of increasing food production, Amante said forestry is the banner project but their agroforestry mechanism also incorporates livestock production, aquaculture, and vegetable farming.

Butuan City has recently been awarded the Islands of Good Governance, together with four other cities.

# Victims report credit card skimming in the Philippines



MANILA - As the Philippines ramps up Christmas celebrations, two women were victims of an automated teller machine (ATM) card skimming scam in an upscale mall in Metro Manila.

Nancy and Dina – both of whom declined to use their real names – said the ATM skimmers were able to withdraw thousands of pesos from their BPI debit cards between November 15 and November 19, 2015.

Nancy said she withdrew from the BPI ATM at the basement of PowerPlant Mall on Sunday, November 15, sometime between 2 to 3 pm.

Two days later, she attempted to withdraw from her debit account but the ATM said she exceeded her maximum withdrawal limit for that day.

“I actually thought it was some sort of fluke when I tried to withdraw and it kept saying I have exceeded my daily withdrawal limit. So I tried another ATM, still the same. So the next morning, I checked my online banking account. And that’s when I saw that 2 withdrawals of P10,000 (\$212.80) each were reflected,” Nancy told Rappler.

“I was in shock that it actually happened to me. I mean I’ve heard of stories [that] it has happened to other people. But I didn’t think it would

happen to me,” she added.

She immediately reported the incident to BPI. The bank verified her identity and cancelled her card. Nancy was told the bank would send her a new card in 4 days but it would take 7 days to investigate the incident.

According to her account records, someone withdrew a total of P20,000 (\$425.60) from a Bank of Commerce branch at 2:30 am.

Dina had a similar experience when she discovered that someone had withdrawn money from her account from a Bank of Commerce ATM. A second withdrawal was made from an ATM located in Cainta. She told Rappler she frequently uses the ATM at the BPI branch in Powerplant Mall.

Like Nancy, Dina also reported the incident to BPI who responded in a similar manner.

On Thursday, November 19, Dina posted a statement on her Facebook wall: “Discovered that someone copied or skimmed my BPI ATM card and did maximum withdrawals over the past two days.” Several of her friends also reported knowing of others who were victims of card skimming after using the same ATM.

Both women hope that BPI will return the money lost or stolen from their account.

On social media, others have also claimed to be victims of card skimming and tagging the Powerplant Mall BPI ATM.

## Response

BPI has confirmed reports of such unauthorized ATM withdrawal incidents..The statement also said that “BPI commits to reimburse funds lost due to unauthorized withdrawals.”

In December 2014, there were several skimming incidents involving BPI account holders. The bank then assured its clients that it continues to upgrade and improve its security measures “to thwart elements attempting to defraud innocent cardholders of their hard-earned money.”

Two men from Bulgaria were arrested last year for card skimming. Security officials believe a group composed of Eastern Europeans could be behind a card scamming ring.

In April this year, BPI president Cezar Consing said the bank plans to replace all 7-million ATM cards in circulation to EMV or Europay, MasterCard, and Visa chip-equipped cards by 2016, a year ahead of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) 2017 deadline. The BSP received 1,972 reports of ATM fraud from banks in 2013, involving a combined amount of P220 million (\$4.94 million).

## Protect yourself

Card skimming is difficult to immediately detect, but ATM card holders can take precautionary steps when using an ATM.

Card holders are advised to check for any signs an ATM has been tampered with or if anything looks irregular as it could mean that the ATM has been compromised.

They are also advised to be aware of their surroundings and to keep their PIN codes secure.

# THE ONLY ONE WITH HEART

WHAT can Heart Evangelista say to the statement of husband Sen. Chiz Escudero that he is the only one among the VP candidates “na totoo at siguradong may puso?” “Natawa nga ako roon, but in a way, it’s true, di ba?” she says. “He’s the only one who’s married to someone whose name meant Puso in Tagalog.”

Heart accompanied Sen. Chiz when he recently went to Ilocos Norte, the territory of his VP opponent Bongbong Marcos, to condole with Rep. Rudy Farinas whose son JR perished in a motorcycle accident. They were interviewed in some local radio stations while they were there and Heart said she’s very happy to visit Ilocos once again as she shot the film “Temptation Island” and the fantaserye “Ang Panday” on the famous sand dunes there.

“I have good memories of my stay here, the people are so nice and friendly, so Ilocos will always have a special place in my heart,” she says.

Now that her primetime soap on GMA7, “Beautiful Strangers”, is about to end soon, Heart will have more time go around with her husband while Sen. Chiz campaigns all over the country for the coming election. “Parang bonding time na rin namin together ang magiging pagsama-sama ko sa kanya sa iba’t ibang lugar para mangampanya and win more voters for his bid sa vice presidency,” she adds.

Would she know how “Beautiful Strangers” end? “Not yet kasi we haven’t taped its conclusion. All I can say is huwag kayong bibitaw kasi each episode this coming week will be very exciting. As Lovi Poe and I join forces to bring down Dina Bonnevie as Alejandra, she has her own counter moves that will put our lives at great risk kasi she has ordered her henchmen to kill us.



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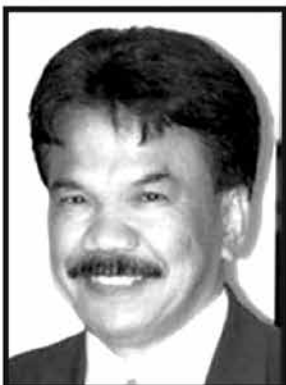
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## Hacienda evades land reform

MANILA - Eleven years after the Hacienda Luisita massacre, the militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas demanded justice for the seven farmers killed when government forces dispersed their protest at the plantation owned by President Benigno Aquino III's family on Nov. 16, 2004 and nobody has been arrest until now.

"Hacienda Luisita farmers are still fighting for justice for the massacre victims," said KMP chairman Rafael Mariano (PHOTO).

At least 50 peasant leaders from India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Taiwan, Malaysia, the United States, Australia, and the Philippines, joined the picket to show their solidarity and support for their struggle against the family of President Aquino.

The leaders are here for the Peasant Anti-Imperialist Solidarity convened by the Asian Peasant Coalition, the International Fisherfolk and Fishworkers Coalition, and the KMP.

"We are here in the Philippines to express solidarity with Filipino farmers and fortify the collective struggle of Asian peasants against globalization and its policies affecting farmers," said Rahmat Ajiguns, leader of AGRA Indonesia and secretary-general of the APC.

He said the international community is now fully aware of Aquino's record of human rights violations and the state of injustice endured by Filipinos.

"Aquino carries out his economic policies through brutal force and those who question, oppose and get in the way are either killed or persecuted. To date, almost 300 farmers were killed under Aquino's reign of terror," Mariano said.

Mariano said the Hacienda Luisita



massacre may be a distant memory for President Aquino and the Cojuangco and Aquino families, but Filipinos will never

forget it.

"Up until today, Hacienda Luisita remains in the control and stranglehold of Aquino's relatives, the Cojuangco-Aquinos and no lands were distributed to farmer-beneficiaries despite the decision of the Supreme Court in 2012. In fact, the Aquino administration, through the Department of Agrarian Reform, local courts and agencies have prevented the actual distribution of lands in Hacienda Luisita," he said.

"The Cojuangcos implemented scheme after scheme of maneuvers to undermine the farmers' struggle and to prevent actual land distribution," Mariano said.

In a manifesto, the KMP noted that "the landlord-President and the entire Cojuangco-Aquino clan utilized all state machineries and used various legal and political maneuvers to continuously deprive farmers and further strengthen landlord control over the lands."

"On top of these maneuvers, the Northern Luzon Command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines is positioned at the very gates of the Hacienda and stationed within are different units of the military, police and paramilitary including the 3rd Mechanized Infantry Battalion of the AFP, the Tarlac Provincial Police, private security guards, and the Cojuangcos' 'Yellow Army' who are wreaking havoc and perpetuating fear and violence against the people of the hacienda," it said.

## Leni admits land reform failure

The ruling Liberal Party candidate for vice president, Camarines Sur Rep. Leni Robredo, admitted that the Aquino administration has failed to distribute land to farmers under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

The admission comes weeks after a federation of agricultural workers accused President Benigno Aquino III's family of using a bogus sale of assets to retain ownership and control of the 6,453-hectare Hacienda Luisita and to frustrate the distribution of land to farm workers there.

Robredo, a member of the House committee on agrarian reform, said that many tracts of land intended for distribution were not transferred to the control of farmer-beneficiaries.

"During many of our committee hearings, there were many allegations of corruption insofar as the awarding of lots is concerned," she said.

Robredo co-authored a bill that seeks to create an Agrarian Reform Commission to investigate "circumvention and violations" of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law.

Robredo said some 1.2 million to 2.7 million hectares of land that were supposed to be distributed might not have actually been transferred to farmers.

"The creation of an independent commission would benefit agrarian reform beneficiaries, since some of them at present were not receiving the lots that were rightly theirs," she said.

Robredo added that she was in favor of extending the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law "so that the land could be distributed once and for all."

Robredo also said the government must do more than merely distribute land, it must help the farmers.

"In Mindoro, the creation of farmers' cooperatives has been very successful. When you turn them into cooperatives, this becomes a vehicle so that the lands become more contiguous and the cost of development decreases," she said.

Earlier last month, the Unyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura disclosed that Aquino's family sold the Central Azucarera de Tarlac to a businessman, Martin Lorenzo, but the company remains under the control of the family, through the President's first cousin, Fernando Cojuangco, who is a first cousin of the President.

UMA acting chairman John Milton Lozande said the sale was made to avoid paying back farmer-beneficiaries some P1.33 billion in proceeds from the sale of lands in Hacienda Luisita and to abort the distribution of land to farmers and farmworkers.

After the sale last year, Lorenzo named Cojuangco the president and chief operating officer of CAT.

Using CAT, which is within the Hacienda Luisita estate, Cojuangco immediately acquired shares of other Aquino-Cojuangco firms such as the Luisita Realty Corp. and Luisita Industrial Park Co. through the CAT Resource and Asset Holdings Inc. This effectively made the Aquino-Cojuangco family the real owners of Hacienda Luisita, Lozande said.

## Kris admits insecurity: Sad, lonely, bitter

KRIS Aquino once again attacked ex-husband James Yap for not replying to her when she texted him about their son Bimby's coming first communion. It was a long litany that she wrote against James, but in effect, what she

was saying is that James is a good for nothing dad.

This is best seen in this paragraph she wrote:

"The reason

for this post is simple, sana matauhan siya that he's missing out on being a father to such a good boy. And it's sad that there is no effort for this kind hearted & generous boy from the other person in this world who should want to be a part of his life. Hindi ko pinipigilan, walang issue na sunduin niya sa school at mag merienda sila, pero wala pong kusa. No sharing even w/ just education expense, sana man lang Time & Effort. SAD, but that's why Bimb has learned to not look for who's not there for him."

James was bashed by a lot of people because of this but he chose to keep quiet, which is a wise move. Last Thursday, the first communion was held and both James and Kris were there standing behind their son as he received his first communion. It turned out that James did reply to Kris but she just didn't get it. He even showed his text message to her and Kris just said it might because she's using an Iphone while he's using Samsung and she was in Hawaii at that time. Later, Kris posted another message: "It is hard to be an ex-couple, but for the love of a child, we just have to set aside differences & work on mutual respect. Patience & Effort lang talaga."

Again, James chose to keep quiet about Kris and just posted a message for their son: "Bimb, congratulations on your First Holy Communion.

Palagi mong gawing gabay si God hanggang sa paglaki mo. I love you so much my son at ang love ko sa 'yo ay ang isang bagay na 'di kayang alisin ng nino man sa akin. God bless you anak at napakaligaya ni papa na nagkasama tayo muli!"

Someone said it's understandable that Kris is really making an effort to be continuously talked about after her controversial sunburn issue.

She needs to be in the limelight because she has a new movie coming that is an entry in the Metro Filmfest. "Dapat siyang mag-ingay para kumita ang movie niya na, ngayon pa lang, hinuhulaan nang tatabunan sa takilya ng AlDub movie," says someone who's obviously not a Kris believer.

In a recent previous post, Kris admitted she's KSP (kulang sa pansin): "If you're observant, you'll notice that I deleted more than 50% of my posts on my IG feed. I spent a sum total of 8 hours over 2 nights cleansing my account of all the times I now realize I was insecure, KSP, self absorbed, sad, lonely, bitter, and negative over the course of roughly 4 years. What's left behind? All my pictures w/ family & friends, all the instances gratitude flowed from my heart, and moments that I should be proud of... I know I will still occasionally stumble, but I also know how much I've learned and how much I've grown up."Let's hope she is really learning and growing up. After all, she's already in her mid-40s.



## CBCP head rebukes Duterte for Pope cursing

MANILA - The president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines criticized aspiring president Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte for allegedly cursing at Pope Francis after his visit caused heavy traffic in Metro Manila.

In a Facebook post, Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Socrates Villegas said public officials should be visionaries who lead by example.

Villegas added that corruption, the "great scourge of Philippine politics," is not just limited to stealing public funds but takes on many forms, including killing, adultery and corruption.

"When we find vulgarity funny, we have really become beastly and barbaric as a people. When a revered and loved and admired man like Pope Francis is cursed by a political candidate and the audience laugh, I can only bow my head and grieve in great shame. My countrymen has gone to the dregs," he said in his Facebook post.

"Is this the leadership by example that Mayor Duterte excites in us? Is this the leadership by example that makes a public official deserving of the title 'Honorable'? I grieve for my country."

## Manila attacks Beijing S. China Sea claims in court

THE HAGUE - The Philippines has sought to debunk China's claims to disputed islands in the South China Sea, court officials said as an international tribunal wrapped up a five-day hearing. Although Beijing has refused to take part in the hearing before the Permanent Court of Arbitration, judges have now given China until January 1 to write a rebuttal to the case laid out by Manila in the Hague.

"We view China as a valued friend, and it is precisely to preserve that friendship that we initiated this arbitration," Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert Ferreros del Rosario said Monday as he closed his country's case, according to a court statement.

Beijing claims sovereignty over almost the whole of the South China Sea on the basis of a segmented line that first appeared on Chinese maps in the 1940s, pitting it against several neighbors.

But it is also a party to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.



## CAMILINEOS

### Dinner

Guests chill out at the 20th Anniverary dinner of Camilineos Association of Toronto.

PHOTOS BY NORLITO GUMAPAC

*Merry Christmas sa inyong lahat!*

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# Filipino Centre Toronto Honours 2015 Outstanding FilCan Students & Graduates

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT

TORONTO - Committed continuously in encouraging and engaging students to perform well in schools and achieve student success, the Filipino Centre Toronto (FCT) has presented recognition awards to 12 outstanding elementary school, secondary school and post-secondary graduates of Filipino heritage. The event was held on November 8, 2015 at the Rizal Hall of FCT in Toronto.

Since 2005, the Filipino Centre Toronto through its Outstanding Students Awards Committee (OSA) annually selects and recognizes exemplary students in Catholic & public schools and universities who have completed their elementary, high school and post-secondary studies with outstanding

performances. The selection criteria includes: scholastic achievement / academic marks - 50%, community involvement & extra-curricular activities - 25% and interview performance - 25%.

Those honoured who received plaques of recognition and cash prizes for 2015 are : Jarred Laganas of James Culnan Catholic School for “Outstanding Elementary School Graduate”, Hazel Ann Zenarosa of Forest Hill Collegiate for “Outstanding High School Graduate” and Monica Ann Batac of Ryerson Polytechnic for “Outstanding Post-Secondary Graduate”. Among the other honourees include : elementary graduates Jensine Kerr Aure & Naomi Grace Joson; high school graduates Timothy Calupig,

Julianne Daniell Clemente & Carel Faith Gicana; and university graduates Rachel Cabunoc and Genevieve Canizares. Also honoured were 2014 elementary graduates Jasmin Santos Boukley and Glen Mariel Santos.

The guest speakers were Gary Poole, TCDSB associate director of academic affairs, as keynote speaker and Dr. Ethel Tungohan, 2013 FCT outstanding graduate awardee, as inspirational speaker. Chaired by Mary Ann San Juan, the Outstanding Awards Committee (OSA) is composed of Wendy Arena, Ed Birondo, Cora De Villa, Aida D’Orazio, Rosalinda Javier, Marilou Parcerro, Marisa Roque, Tony A. San Juan and Luna Vince. The Selection Committee

members are Fermer Santos ,Tony A. San Juan, and Frank Villanueva.

Donors and sponsors of the prizes are Atty. Ramon Andal ( in memory of Brian Raymond Andal), Luminous Financials , Himelfarb Prozanski- LLP, Precy & Segundo Tumalak, Bayani & Daisy Bernabe and Bebet Paguirigan. FCT president Rosalinda Javier, in her brief message, acknowledged the combined efforts of the many service volunteers of the Centre including academic tutors, Pilipino instructors, career mentors, seniors and other professionals. FCT vice president Theresa Lumanlan aptly served as

**OUTSTANDING  
continued on page 15**

## Japan hires domestics

MANILA - Japan will soon open its doors to Filipino domestic workers.

This was one of the topics discussed during the bilateral meeting between President Benigno Aquino III and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Japan currently accepts a limited number of foreign nurses and caregivers. Press Secretary spokesperson Yasuhisa Kawamura said Filipino domestic workers will initially be accepted in three prefectures including Osaka and Kanagawa, which is part of the greater Tokyo area.

“Japan’s reception of the Filipino household workers to Japanese economic special zones... we requested, on the side of the Philippines, that they also prepare the necessary systems,” Kawamura said.

Kawamura also said the Japanese government also pledged a P93-billion Official Development Assistance for the Philippines north-south commuter railway project linking Tutuban, Manila and Malolos, Bulacan.

The project is expected to be completed in the year 2021. Japan has also announced it will continue assisting Mindanao through various economic activities.

“We welcome the development, advancement, of the so-called road map of transportation infrastructure corporation in the Manila urban area. JPY15 billion, a project called Agri-Business Promotion Project, which would support economic independence, economic autonomy in Mindanao,” he said.

On the defense side, Kawamura announced that Prime Minister Abe is considering the request of President Aquino for more large patrol vessels.

Japan also plans to speed up the signing of the agreement for the Defense Agreement Transfer.

Kawamura could not say what equipment the Philippines will get, but he said it will be in the field of ocean security.

Abe has also reiterated his support for Manila’s arbitration case against China and he said construction activities in the South China Sea are only increasing tension in the region and must be stop.

“We’d like to issue a strong message at the upcoming East Asia Summit meeting in order to preserve an open and free and peaceful ocean,” Kawamura said.

Kawamura also revealed that Japanese emperor Akihito and his wife Empress Michiko will visit the Philippines early next year as part of the 60th anniversary of the normalization of Philippine-Japan relations.

Emperor Akihito will be the first reigning Japanese emperor to visit the country.



Senate

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December 2015

### Christmas Greeting from Senator Enverga

Dear friends,

With the Christmas season upon us, I want us all to remember the message inspired by events two millennia ago in Bethlehem, and what this time of year should remind us of about hope, about peace and about sharing what we have with others.

To many, Christmas can become a trying period. Those who are separated from their loved ones, like many of our kababayans are, find it difficult, but please keep the love that those far away feel for you and you feel for them warm in your hearts. Keeping the hope of your reunification will help you persevere over the holidays, as may the companionship of those around you.

I wish for us all to come together as a community of brothers and sisters during this special time to share of ourselves and to spread the message of peace among us both in our souls and in our hearts. This peace will keep us united and keep us strong.

From my family to yours, I wish you a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Maligayang Pasko at manigong bagong taon sa inyong lahat.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Tobias C. Enverga Jr.  
Senator

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## The Fil-Am barber of NBA stars

LOS ANGELES - Basketball season is in full swing and if you take a close look at some of the players' hairstyles, you might be proud to know that a Filipino-American barber is behind some of those line-ups and fades.

JayR Mallari is a cut above the rest when it comes to haircuts.

The Vallejo-born-and-raised Fil-Am made international waves after an article by Hype Beast featured him at work as personal barber to NBA stars, including reigning MVP and world champion Steph Curry of the Golden State Warriors.

"I really believe God put me in certain situations to grow and to not only better myself but to bless others. As time went on, I gained experience and just started cutting different celebrities, different athletes, I became comfortable with the understanding they're human beings just like us, and in order to give them great service, you just treat them like yourself," he said.

Before the spotlight, Mallari started in his family's garage

at age 12, giving relatives and friends haircuts and worked at a local barber shop.

He moved to Los Angeles a few years ago and now works at the iconic Legends Barber shop where he continues to master his craft.

"I learned so much about myself, about clients, just about growing individually on how to be a better barber. There was one thing about just cutting hair but to actually be a better barber," he said.

He clips and trims like an artist, approaching his clients' hair like a canvas and knowing his tools.

"There's so many different clippers so I want to learn the clipper and see if it fits the system of how I cut hair," he said.

He carefully lines his subjects while he bonds with them, turning a grooming

service into an experience.

His hard work, dedication, and attention to detail paid off. His celebrity clients often call him to their homes and even fly him out just for a trim or for some fun off the court.



## GABBY'S SECRET: I MOISTURIZE A LOT

GABBY Concepcion is understandably happy with his first project for GMA7, "Because of You". Lately, he's been playing nothing but supporting or father roles but GMA7 brings him back to leading man status as Carla Abellana's savior in "Because of You" that starts airing on Monday after "Little Nanay". "I'm really thankful to GMA for this project," he says. "I'm very excited kasi di ko akalaing matatapos na ang taon, magkaka-roon pa ako ng new show. Ito rin kasi 'yung klase ng show na masarap gawin at masarap panoorin. Feel-good talaga. Ang gagaling ng mga kasama kong artista. Most of them, ngayon ko lang nakasama, like Valerie Concepcion who plays my estranged wife.

Pinsan nga ang tawagan namin. First time ko rin sa GMA, and everyone gave me a warm welcome, pati our director Mark Reyes. Ang ganda ng atmosphere sa set."He's leaving for the U.S. on December 17 to do a series of shows and he'll be back on January 5. "I will have shows in California and Texas. Natangnan ko na ang mga 'yun even before 'Because of You' started at di puwedeng ikansel. So ngayon, double time kami sa taping ng advanced episodes. Sometimes we tape four times a week para hindi kami maubusan habang wala ako."

As an RTW magnate in the story, he's called by the girls around him as Boss Yummy. And he has, in fact, retained his yumminess through the years. Compared to his contemporaries who look their age, he has maintained his youthful looks. He turned 51 on Nov. 5 but he can pass for someone 20 years younger. What's his secret?"Wala, I moisturize a lot lang and drink plenty of water. I try to work out. Pero diet, ang hirap, e. My metabolism is not as fast as before. My ideal weight is 165 pero 185 lbs. nga ako ngayon so I need to lose weight."

What happened to his reunion project with ex-wife Sharon Cuneta?

"Naku, willing na willing akong gawin yan. Noon ko pa hinihintay. I think yung problem is hinihintay nila ang right material. But one show I'd like to do is yung kasama ko lahat ng mga ex ko."Aside from Sharon, this would include Grace Ibuna, Jenny Syquia, Anjanette Abayari, Dindi Gallardo, and many more.

## San Francisco honors Filipinos, WW2 vets

SAN FRANCISCO - The city of San Francisco has introduced legislation to honor its Filipino citizens.

As concern continues to grow over the displacement of Filipinos in the South of Market neighborhood, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors introduced a plan to establish an official Filipino social and cultural district to preserve the Filipino American community.

Called "The Filipino Cultural Heritage District", the area would designate more than 25 buildings, sites and objects as historic to honor Fil-Am culture in the City.

"I'm really excited to introduce this resolution that will begin a year-long planning process on how we preserve and protect our cultural assets and support our institutions of small businesses but also how we can slow down and prevent the displacement of so many of our seniors and families so they can continue to call South of Market their home," said SF Supervisor, Jane Kim.

The Board of Supervisors also adopted the resolution to call on the U.S. Congress to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Filipino World War II veterans.

According to the Veterans Equity Center (VEC) there are approximately 6,000 Filipino veterans in the U.S. and 10,000 in the Philippines.

Advocates are confident that with this support the U.S. government will honor the vets before they pass away.

Luisa Antonio, the executive director of the VEC, said the support will have a huge impact in the Filipino community.

"If we are going to make an impact to those who are alive it is important that we pass the congressional gold medal legislation so we can still see most of the 6,000 who are here in the United States to come forward and receive not only the medal but a recognition and a genuine thank you from the U.S. government for the services and sacrifices they have made for this country," said Antonio.

World War II veteran Felix Damil said thanked officials for the move.

"Nagpapasalamat ako sa lahat ng tumulong sa amin sa pagbibigay ng congressional medal, sana matanggap namin," said Damil.

The Board of Supervisors hopes to get support from California state lawmakers as the bill makes its way to Congress.

## Jollibee eyes more fast-food acquisitions in US, China

MANILA - Jollibee Foods Corp. still has an appetite to acquire fast-food chains in the United States or China to expand its footprint in the world's top two economies, its chairman said.

"We felt we still have room for a few (acquisitions). We are still on the lookout, probably in the U.S. or China," Jollibee Chairman Tony Tan Caktiong said, speaking on the sidelines of a business conference alongside the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit of heads of state in Manila.

Jollibee, which outsells McDonalds Corp. and Yum Brands Inc.'s KFC restaurants in the Southeast Asian nation, last month acquired 40 percent of U.S.-based chain Smashburger for \$99 million.

Jollibee Foods Corp. currently owns and operates 87 restaurants in the US, 32 of which are Jollibee units, 33 Red Ribbon stores, 19 Chowking stores, and 3 Jinja outlets.

In the Philippines, it is the largest food service network with a total of 2,834 outlets as of August 31, 2015.

# THD

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CLIQUE “SOMEDAY “ : AN ELECTRIFYING CONCERT



From beginning to end , this concert that was just so electrifying , that it radiated in your whole body and made me want to groove some more ... that was the CLIQUE CONCERT: “SOMEDAY “ held last November 14th at the Korean Cultural centre.

These five girls , Breanna Ticsay , Keesha Cerezo , Keana Cerezo , Jam Lazaro & Vianne Alexa entertained their packed audience with their powerful musical numbers, such as “Salute “ , “ Fight Song “ , “ Boy “ “Going Nowhere “ to name a few , and two original songs “ Without You “ composed by Mark Crescini and their carrier single “ Someday “ which was written and composed by notable hit makers , Troy Samson and Kelly Rowland .

The girls also did solo numbers, proving to their raving audience that each could also stand as a solo artist. This is what the Founder, Miss Josie de Leon and husband Mr. Mark Crescini of JDL performing arts reiterated during their short thank you . These five girls enrolled at the school, individually, and they were formed and developed further as

a group, which is obviously a good decision made, as these girls, with their combined vocal prowess & dance grooves, they are a definitely a group to watch !

Aside from CLIQUE , other notable performers that has equally delivered beautiful numbers that night were the Adrenalin Dancers, Cheryl Malanum, Luka , Melissa Manaig , Katherine and Lexie, and Shairah.

This concert was a product of long hours of preparation as per Mabel Cerezo , she said that all the CLIQUE parents were involved from planning , preparation and execution .

This big production was directed by Miss Belinda Reyes with Mr . Alex Reyes as the Musical Director.

“These girls are amazing!” as Dee Chatel shared on her Facebook account and a lot has agreed.

So what is next for CLIQUE ? I heard another possible concert in Niagara...

Whatever it is , I am at 101 % support for these talented girls !

PRESS RELEASE : T. Reyes

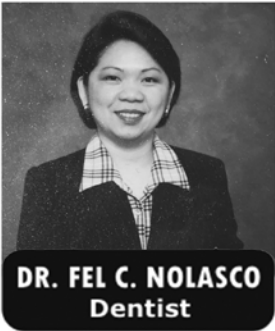
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Poe: This is not the end Comelec disqualifies Poe

MANILA - The fight Isn’t over for presidential aspirant Senator Grace Poe.



“I am disappointed in the decision, but this is not the end of the process,” Poe said, referring to the Commission on Elections (Comelec) second division’s decision to cancel her certificate of

candidacy (COC), which, in effect, disqualifies her from the 2016 presidential race.

Poe maintained that she is a natural-born Filipino and has met the 10-year residency requirement for a presidential candidate.

“We will continue to fight for the rights of foundlings and the fundamental right of the people to choose their leaders,” said Poe.

The Comelec division’s decision is a response to a disqualification case filed by lawyer Estrella Elamparo, who claimed that Poe misrepresented herself in stating that she meets the 10-year residency requirement to run for president.

In its resolution, the second division said there was deliberate attempt on the part of Poe to “mislead, misinform or hide a fact” from the electorate when she stated in her COC for president that she is a resident of the Philippines for 10 years and 11 months up to the day before the May 9, 2016 polls.

It said such declaration was intended to hide the fact Poe earlier stated in her COC for senator that she had resided in the country only since November 2006.

“Based on respondent’s own 2013 COC which remains an official document to this day, respondent shall have been a resident of the Philippines for only 9 years and 6 months up to the day before May 9, 2016.

“[I]n so declaring a residency of ‘10 years 11 months’ in her present COC, she deliberately attempted to mislead, misinform or hide a fact from the electorate for the reason that such declaration was false based on her own COC for senator in 2013,” the resolution read. Poe, for her part, expressed confidence, saying she has faith that the Comelec will rule in her favor.

“My critics will use any excuse to exclude me, much like they tried to do when FPJ ran for president, and in the process disenfranchising the people as well. They show a lack of trust in the ability of Filipinos to make the right decision.

“I have faith in the process, and we are confident that the Comelec en banc will side with the interest of the people,” Poe said.

FCT Outstanding Student Awards



Filipino Centre Toronto presents the Outstanding Student Awards. In photo are FCT people in charge of the awards and sponsors.

Big Pay Increase for politicians Nurses, teachers and police get smallest increase



MANILA - PRESIDENT Benigno Aquino III, congressmen, senators and Cabinet members granted themselves huge salary increases—including a 233-percent hike to almost P400,000 a month for Aquino—while teachers, nurses and soldiers would receive only 11 to 12 percent or P24 a day, an official said.

As a result, Rep. Antonio Tinio sought to reopen the debates on the bill proposing a Salary Standardization Law to discuss amendments that would make the salary increases for teachers, nurses and soldiers fair.

He said the increases given to the

rank and file were “an insult especially to the teachers, nurses, police, soldiers and other professionals.”

The SSL bill is now up for third and final reading and the House leadership has announced it is likely to be approved this week.

It was approved on second reading before Congress suspended its sessions during the week-long Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit.

Tinio said SSL 2015 will increase the basic salaries of teachers and nurses by only P2,205 over four years.

“In fact, government teachers, nurses, police, soldiers and other employees will receive the lowest salary increase under Aquino’s SSL 2015, ranging from 11 percent to 22 percent over the next four years,” Tinio said.

“On the other hand, the salary increases for top officials run to as high as 186.45 percent for legislators and Cabinet officials and even a whopping 233.12 percent for the President of the Philippines.

“It is clear that when it comes to basic pay, government employees in

the lowest up to the middle-level positions are disadvantaged while those occupying higher positions are greatly favored under the proposed SSL 2015 of President Aquino.”

Tinio urged the House to reconsider its approval on second reading of the SSL 2015, or House Bill 6268, and admit his proposal to increase the salaries for the bulk of government employees.

He said the House approved SSL 2015 without changing even slightly the paltry hikes proposed by Malacañang for the vast majority of those working in the government.

“After three years of not having salary increases, hundreds of thousands of rank and file government employees are furious that Congress gave its stamp of approval to this highly unjust bill,” Tinio said.

He said SSL 2015 will increase the basic salaries of teachers and nurses by only P2,205 over four years or 11.89 percent higher than their current pay. He said this amounts to additional finances of only P24 per day for these professionals.

## Phi. senate unanimously approves a standard minimum pay of P24,887 to all Filipino nurses

MANILA - An act creating a comprehensive nursing law towards quality healthcare systems was approved by THE Senate, eliciting cheers from hundreds of thousands of nurses in the country.

Senate Bill No. 2720, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Nursing Law of 2015, passed the third and final reading, and was now sent to the House of Representatives for concurrence. The bill was sponsored by Senator Antonio Trillanes IV, chairman of the Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization.

One of the more important clause of the bill is the Article IV Section 27 which provides that a minimum base pay for Filipino nurses in both government and private health institutions shall not be lower than Salary Grade 15 or its equivalent.

In his sponsorship speech, Trillanes said that "the enactment of this measure is intended to complement the talent and competence of our nurses by providing them with an updated regulatory framework."

The measure intends to "expand the scope of nursing practice to encompass not



only the nursing education service but also research, and leadership and governance, as inherent areas of the practice."

Senate President Franklin M. Drilon said the enactment of SBN 2720 into law would "help upgrade the country's nursing profession and sustain the Philippine's leading role in the health-care labor market, and address its most pressing issues, such

as unemployment and misemployment of Filipino nurses."

"Due to the growing number of nurses in the country, some are forced to work under job order or contractual terms or seek better opportunities abroad because the government fails to address the needs of their profession," Trillanes said.

## Why raise wages close to election?

### The last raise also happened before the election

MANILA - Former National Treasurer Leonor Briones has questioned the timing of President Aquino's push for a new round of salary increases for government workers, months before the May 2016 elections.

"Obviously, it's a legal form of inducing voters to vote for the administration," she said.

But Budget Secretary Florencio Abad insisted the proposal to increase salaries of state workers by an average of 45 percent had "nothing to do with the elections."

"Those are just partisan commentaries," he said, referring to Briones' allegation.

Briones noted that the last salary adjustment came in 2012, a year before the last mid-term elections.

"To cut the story short, this is connected to the election," she said. "Even the taxi driver can figure that out himself."

But Abad said the timing of the adjustment was consistent with a 2009 joint congressional resolution authorizing the President to have the compensation system for government workers reviewed



every three years.

"The legislative mandate is there," he said. "We're only following it."

Under a bill endorsed by Aquino on Monday, the P9,000 monthly salary of workers under Salary Grade 1 in 2016 will become P11,068 in 2019.

Even the President's monthly salary

of P120,000 will be increased to around P400,000, or about 70 percent of those received by top executives in the private sector. But under the law, the adjustment would benefit only Aquino's successors.

The proposed salary increase will happen in four tranches from 2016 to 2019, and will cost the government P226 billion. Abad said the amount would be covered by the miscellaneous personnel benefits fund under the annual national budget.

Briones urged the government to go slow on the proposed salary increase, saying it could lead to higher inflation unless it also translated to greater government efficiency and productivity.

"If they're not careful, inflation would kick in," she said. "The amount is enormous. This is the first time I'm hearing about the government infusing P226 billion in the economy."

But Abad dismissed Briones' projection as "speculation."

"Did she give you a computation? You see? It's a fear that's really based not on anything that's factual," he said.



## 'I get camera shy' Georgina Wilson on why she won't join showbiz

As one of the country's top models, Georgina Wilson admitted she has a sweet tooth and still enjoys indulging in chocolates. "I'm all about putting in the time and then rewarding (myself). My friends and I we work out every day. Sometimes I work out with Belle (Daza) or with Solenn (Heussaff) and we live our lives so that we can enjoy. I think life is more pleasurable and fulfilling when you're rewarding yourself after working hard for it so it's really about balance. And like any woman, I get chocolate cravings (laughs)," she shared during the launch of the new Hershey's Kisses Deluxe held last November 26 at Bonifacio High Street in Taguig.

During the event, Georgina also revealed she is looking forward to flying to Argentina for the holidays with Solenn Heussaff, Anne Curtis and Isabelle Daza.

On the other hand, even with her BFF's Anne, Solenn and Belle are all in showbiz, the Fil-British host-model divulged why she does not feel compelled to follow their career paths.

"I just don't think I can with my personality. I get camera shy. It's something that they're really good at and even if I wanted to right now, I'm very hands on with my business so I really don't have the time even for launches and stuff it's like I have to rush around town trying to get everything done. Even when Belle was on Eat Bulaga, I didn't have time to watch TV. I wish I had time," she explained.

Georgina said it's enough for her to be supportive of her pals in the industry like towards another good friend, stylist Liz Uy, who recently filed a case against Fashionpulis blogger Michael Sy Lim.

"I supported also. I posted a long message. If I was free that day I would've gone also definitely. We all backed her and stuff, that doesn't bring any good like cyber bullying should be stopped and shouldn't be tolerated. I'm very proud of Liz for really taking a stand for everyone in the industry. I have a long post about it," she commented.

## CAMILINEOS 20TH *Anniversary* Dinner

Guests at the Camilineos dinner night enjoy the night away.  
PHOTOS BY NORLITO GUMAPAC



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13

# Camilineos 20th Annnniversary



Camilineos held their Christmas dinner-dance last November 21. A good time was enjoyed by the guests. The annual Christmas dinner dance is a fundraiser to raise money for different projects back in Camiling Tarlac. There was music, dancing, entertainment and prizes raffled. Their President is Harold Guarin of Roadsport Honda.

The dinner was for the benefit of 3 schools in Camiling, Tarlac. It will be used to buy complete computer systems and school supplies for students.

**PHOTOS BY NORLITO GUMAPAC OF 4ENS PHOTOGRAPHY**



ABOVE, Camilineos President Harold Guarin shows the prizes, and poses with guests. RIGHT, Camilineos President Harold Guarin welcomes guests.



LEFT, Stacey Schroeder entertains the guests.



# FHM PH continue

MANILA – Here’s good news for Filipino men – the local edition of FHM is here to stay.

This is despite announcement of Bauer Media – the company behind the British men’s magazine – that it will suspend publication of FHM and another title, Zoo.

It noted that “men’s media habits have continually moved towards mobile and social.”

But in a statement, FHM Philippines said it is not affected by the announcement made by Bauer Media.

“The decision to suspend publication of the print and digital formats of FHM applies only to the UK edition. FHM Philippines will continue its print and digital operations,” it said.

FHM Philippines is one of the titles carried by Summit Media.

According to its website, the magazine has a circulation of 100,000 and a total monthly readership of 1 million to 1.1 million.



## OUTSTANDING continued from page 9

the event emcee.

Organized in 1999, the Filipino Centre Toronto which is currently led by president Rosalinda Javier and chairman Rey Tolentino, is a community-based, volun-

teer-run & non- profit organization and has been serving the Filipino Canadian- and- other ethnic communities through its community development and outreach & integration initiatives engaging students, youths, seniors, and professionals. Some of the Centre’s projects include seminars, workshops & activities in academic tutor-

ing, Filipino language classes, health & well-being, taxation, estate planning, social & professional functions, heritage celebrations & festivals, citizenship preparation, and immigrant- newcomers mentoring program. ( T. San Juan).



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# Miss Paraluman 2015

Paraluman 2015 was held at the Rembrandt Hall last October 31, 2015. it was another well-run affair by the Filipino Centre Toronto. President Linda Javier talked about the activities of the centre. They are involved in engaging the youth with

productive activities. They have tutoring classes at the centre. They also have the Most Outstanding Students awards. Other than the centre, she mentioned other people involved in making sure Filipino youths are involved in community

events. She cited Estring Aguinaldo, head of the Fiesta Filipina Dance Troupe as one example of a leader who engages the youth by engaging them in cultural dances. She also cited the husband and wife team of Resty and Luz del Rosario of

Culture Philippines of Ontario. The centre is also involved in cultural presentation.

**PARALUMAN**  
continued on page 25



Angeline Failano 4th Runner-Up, Eileen Rendoque 1st Runner-Up, Ms Paraluman 2015 Nancy Sumaya, Brenda Prado 3rd Runner-Up, and Jacqueline Maming 2nd Runner-Up pose after the pageant.



FROM LEFT, Former Ms. paraluman Rizelyn Catequista des her farewell walk. ABOVE, FCT President Linda Javier addresses the audience.



Ms. Paraluman 2014 Rizelyn Catequista poses with Ms. Paraluman 2015 winner Nancy Sumaya and Rafael Fabregas.



LEFT, Martha Joy sings to the crowd. RIGHT, a dancer shows his moves.



FV Food's Mel Galeon (ON RIGHT) attends with a friend.



Ready Honda's Anita Diaz, and former Ms. Paraluman beauty dances with husband Angelo.



Former Ms. Paraluman beauties grace the evening.



LEFT, The Mercantile Class meet as FV Food's Mel Galeon chats with Emiliano and Ana Hernandez of No Frills.

RIGHT, Gerry and Chris Cadnit, Precya nd Resty Muere, Marites and Philip Beloso, and Emiliano and Ana hernandez enjoy the Pageant-dinner night.



# Fiennes Mendoza soaring high on her Maiden Flight

This young artist from Stoney Creek, Ontario named Fiennes Mendoza has been singing since she was eight years old. Noticing her interest and passion for music, her parents enrolled her at the Conservatory of Music in Toronto and studied there for two years. Later on, she joined the Josie De Leon School of Performing Arts in Mississauga.

The family came from Singapore where Fiennes was born and moved to Canada when she was four. Fiennes has two older sisters who are very protective of her. The family first settled in Scarborough, Ontario upon arrival and became closed to my cousin’s family. They later moved and finally settled in Hamilton, Ontario.

My cousins who are close to the Mendoza family came for a visit and they kept hammering the name Fiennes for being a good singer. I live in Durham Region, Ontario and I am a community leader hosting and organizing charitable projects for the community. I was always inviting young artists to help me on my projects. My cousins want me to try Fiennes Mendoza to perform.

I’m not sure if it was coincidental because at that time, the Durham Filipino-Canadian community was preparing for a Filipino Cultural Night at St. Gertrude’s Catholic Church in Oshawa to raise funds for the church where I was helping in drafting the event’s program. This was also an annual event where different cultures present themselves and it was the Filipino community’s time to present our culture led and organized by Fay Graves.

Fiennes came to my door with her parents from Hamilton in mid April this year. We enjoyed a good lunch after which we let Fiennes sing using a laptop for her music without a microphone.

I captured Fiennes singing that song on my video and when the Mendozas left, I reviewed it many times asking my roommate her opinions about this girl.

“She’s good, she has a style”, that was a straight-forward analysis my roommate gave me.

Nevertheless, I put her in as one of the performers of the Filipino Cultural Night in St. Gertrude’s Parish.

After her performance there was that long, deafening round of applause. To me, it was a clear indication that people inside the room was captivated by her voice.

My cousin again pleaded me to support her bid as a beauty contestant which means I need to be on her pre-pageant competition and bring hordes of

cheering fans. I went to her pre- pageant competition at Korean Cultural Centre in Toronto where she sang “Hurt” by Christina Aguilera for her Talent portion. It was this instance that may probably have hit me on the face of who Fiennes Mendoza is. A friend in the group cried alleging Fiennes rendition with that song pierced her heart. I laughed at her but actually I was wondering if that was the case.

I thought it was time to really put this girl to a test. Fiennes Mendoza won as 3rd Runner up in that beauty competition. At this point, we have been in many community events where Fiennes performed in name of Charity. Our closeness has grown and her singing became louder and clear that I suggested a formal introduction of her as a solo artist come November. Hence, the event dubbed “Our Christmas Rendezvous with Fiennes Mendoza” was created.

The venue chosen was Delta Toronto East where Durham Region and the ones from Hamilton and Toronto guests can easily travel. It was a bit expensive but it was the best place for Fiennes Mendoza to showcase her talent. It was also at this point that we were working on her first cover songs album at Ultrasonic Recording Studios in Whitby.

The album was titled “The Maiden Flight” and it coincided with the introduction of Fiennes Mendoza at Delta hotel. I strongly believe that it is time for Fiennes Mendoza to come out of her cocoon and flap her wings. One incident solidify my trust and belief with Fiennes when a woman came up to her after her performance in Toronto, clasped her hands and said, “Can you promised me that you will not stop singing...” I think it was that strange woman deeply touched by Fiennes song that sealed that deal for Fiennes.

Last Saturday, November 21st 2015 at Our Christmas Rendezvous Dinner Party, Fiennes Mendoza soared high into the sky towards her dream to become an international singer. This journey will be long and enduring. Many sincere and dignified people who have children of their own have thrown their support to this young Sentimental Songstress named Fiennes Mendoza.

The horizon is vast and wide and we will keep her wings strong and steady all throughout her journey. For the time being, Fiennes Mendoza has lift off!

Please visit her website for more at: <http://www.fiennesmendoza.com>

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## Match made in heaven

Elmo just turned Kapamilya and now paired with Janella Salvador

Janella Salvador believes “destiny played a part” in her team up with Elmo Magalona.

“Kasi ang galing ng timing,” she said. “Elmo just moved to ABS-CBN and just like that, kami na ang ipe-pair.”

Janella added she and Elmo already have a common ground in that their parents are both “musical people.” Janella is the daughter of singer-actress Jenine Desiderio and singer Juan Miguel Salvador, while Elmo is a son of the late iconic rapper Francis Magalona.

The two star in Dreamscape Entertainment Productions’ series “Born For You” due 2016.

“Na-excite ako sa idea. Inisip ko, ‘Ano kaya ang story nito?’” she recalled thinking when the project was offered to her. “Natutuwa ako na it will dwell on music kasi we’re both musically inclined. Excited ako kung ano ang magiging bond naming dalawa.”

Asked if she and Elmo have already “bonded,” she said at the time of interview, “Well, hindi pa kami talaga masyadong nag-uusap pero I see him as a very nice guy, napaka-gentleman. He’s friendly.”

MOVING FORWARD, LOOKING BACK

Being paired with a new leading man entails some adjustments and Janella is

aware of it.

“Wala naman akong problem diyan. I’m (more) excited (than nervous) kasi maraming first for me in this series. First time ko makaka-partner si Elmo, first time ko makaka-work sa Dreamscape,” she said.

Janella was previously paired with Marlo Mortel, Manolo Pedrosa and Jerome Ponce. Isn’t she worried their fans might be saddened by this development in her career, we asked.

“Hindi natin maiiwasan na magtampo sila, malungkot sila. Pero I’m hoping na susuportahan pa rin nila ang soap and kung sino man ang naka-love team ko. Gusto ko lang din i-assure sila na hindi mawawala ang closeness ko kay Marlo, Manolo at kay Jerome,” she said.

### FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Elmo also has a good feeling on working with Janella.

“Feeling ko kasi magiging creative talaga’yung partnership namin. Like, I heard na si Janella is into old songs. She’s an old soul. Ako naman, medyo old soul din ako but with a bit of new school vibe. I feel like doon pa lang we can make something new, something fresh,” said he.

Asked why he jumped ship despite seemingly doing well on the other network, Elmo said, “It’s more of an internal thing. Gusto ko lang mag-grow, mag-try ng something new.”

Elmo added, “I’m looking for new adventures, new challenges, which, I believe, makukuha ko if I transferred.”

There’s no bad blood between him and his former home.

## God gave me you compose received warmly

The House Independent Bloc called on both houses of Congress to finally approve a measure seeking to exempt persons with disabilities (PWDs) from paying the 12-percent value add Nasa bansa ngayon ang American singer na si Bryan White para sa kanyang concert na gaganapin bukas (December 1) sa Smart Araneta Coliseum. Aniya ay overwhelmed siya sa hospitality ng mga Pinoy at lalo na sa natatanggap niyang suporta para sa kanyang kantang God Gave Me You.

Sambit niya sa panayam ng Unang Hirit, “I’ve always heard about the hospitality, just how people go far and beyond themselves just to treat people well. Of course I’ve already believed that but I’ve got to experience that on my last day of being here. I’ve been so moved by how kind everybody has been to me.”

Hindi rin daw napigilang maging emotional ni White nang malaman niyang hit dito sa bansa ang God Gave Me You. Pati ang kanyang best friend na sumulat ng kanta ay natutuwa rin daw sa mga nababalitaan tungkol dito. Aniya, “I recorded that song because I believe in it and I believe in the subject matter. I still believe in what it talks about, the message behind it.”

## Carla loses weight for project with Gabby

Carla Abellana is happy to do a light drama like “Because of You”. “It’s not the usual heavy soap seen on primetime,” she says. “This one has liberal touches of comedy and it’s good I got my training na in ‘Ismol Family’ kaya hindi na ako nahirapan sa comic scenes ko rito. Feel-good show ito na iba talaga ang treatment.”

Carla is one of the busiest Kapuso actresses. She’ll now be seen in “Because of You” from Monday to Friday starting November 30. On Saturdays, she’s seen on “Karelasyon” and on Sundays, in “Ismol Family”. And she also hosts the cooking demos “DelMonte Kitchenomics”. “I can’t complain dahil ang dami talagang blessings na ibinibigay ni Lord sa akin.”

She considers it a blessing to work with Gabby again after they worked in the movie “Yesterday Today Tomorrow” four years ago. “Ganun pa rin, masaya sa set. Kwela, Nagpapa-tawa kahit madaling araw at pagod na kami. Mabait siya sa lahat.”

Gabby’s eldest daughter, KC, is the same age as Carla’s Ate Ericka. “Pareho sila ng birthday. The same day sila pinanganak, April 7, 1985, in the same hospital at magkatabi pa ang rooms ng mom ko at ni Ms. Sharon Cuneta.”

It’s good she has lost weight and is slimmer now. “Yes, when I was doing ‘Pari Koy’, ang laki ko noon. It took five months of working out and dieting bago lumabas’yung epekto ng hard work ko. Now, the challenge is how to maintain. I only eat special food prepared for me by Healthy House na bilang talaga ang calories.”

## Maine Mendoza is the new queen of commercials + other stories

Last October 11 marked the first month since the first TV commercial (TVC) of Maine Mendoza popularly known as Yaya Dub and Alden Richards or AIDub in the the phenomenal “kalye serye” of “Eat Bulaga” broke out on multi-media platforms.

By then, Mendoza will have four endorsements to her name with at least three more coming very soon.

And the projects keep coming.

Three months after the phenomenal rise to stardom of Maine “Yaya Dub” Mendoza, advertisement and major Philippine companies are sought after the country’s biggest surprise star. With her valentine heartthrob Alden Richards, the power duo started with a commercial with fast food giant Mc Donalds with a 30 second commercial featuring TVJ’s song “Ikaw Lang ang Aking Mahal”. The rest was history, several companies also joined the advertising bandwagon such as 555 Sardines, Zonrox Bleach, Bear Brand Adult Plus, and Downy. Looks like the advertising industry have stumbled on a new cash cow.

There are a few rumored commercial that is also lined up for her commercial. After her tweet about her dysmenorrhea two days before the EB concert, Mendoza quickly tweet about her new female napkins commercial. Things are really rolling out for this new mainstream pop star.

“Next for Maine is her endorsement for Coca Cola and Head and Shoulders,” a source said.

No word if Richards would

figure on the two campaigns, and when the TVCs will break on TV.

### AIDub commercials boost McDonald’s sales almost 5X

The popular split-screen tandem of Alden Richards and Maine “Yaya Dub” Mendoza proved to be more than just ratings-crasher, but more so, an effective product endorser.

This was according to American fastfood chain McDonald’s who signed up the phenomenal AIDub loveteam as one of their celebrity endorsers recently.

Golden Arches Development Corporation’s vice president for Marketing Communications

Margot Torres confirmed an early tweet from Adobo Magazine claiming sales at McDonald’s shoot up by as much as 470% since the release of AIDub’s commercial on September 11.

The McDonald’s first installment of the commercial featured Richards and Mendoza lip-synching to the classic VST & Co. tune “Ikaw ang aking mahal”. A second installment was released to the public on September 28.

Both versions stirred the anticipation of millions of AIDub fans and supporters from all over the country and has trended online just minutes after its official release on social media. Torres said the two TV ad has drawn strong positive feedbacks from the audience and to their business, with the sales of Chicken Fillet a la King, the product the well-loved duo was endorsing, exceeding the company’s target.

“Within 24 hours of posting, the TVC (TV commercial) was viewed more than 1.5 million times

on our Facebook page,” Torres said.

Torres, however, declined to reveal the peso equivalent of their product’s phenomenal soar in sales.

The Golden Arches also promised to continue supporting AIDub as their newest brand ambassadors, which could mean the lovable pair might be featured in more commercials in the future.

### AIDub on the cover of Reader’s Digest Asia December 2015 issue

The phenomenal love team of Alden Richards and Maine ‘Yaya Dub’ Mendoza is gracing the holiday cover of Reader’s Digest Asia.

For every copy sold, P10 will be donated to the “AIDub Library” project, which aims to provide libraries for different schools in the Philippines, according to magazine distributor Emerald Headway.

After several endorsements, with an upcoming movie and an ongoing phenomenal noontime show segment, Eat Bulaga’s “Yaya Dub” is also set to be featured in two fashion and lifestyle magazines, while Alden keeps himself busy with several TV shows, mall shows, an upcoming movie, TV guestings, endorsements, and other showbiz projects.

### ”Ang dami ng pangarap na tinupad sa ‘kin ng GMA” - Kris Bernal

“Minsan, tinatanong ko ‘yung sarili ko, Lord, deserve ko ba lahat ‘to,’ ‘yan ang bungad ni Kris Bernal nang ibahagi niya ang nararamdaman sa ‘Little Nanay,’ ang big project na ibinigay sa kanya ng GMA.

Ayon kay Kris, mula raw ‘StarStruck’ Season 4 ay hindi na raw siya pinabayaan ng Kapuso network. “Grabe wala akong masabi sa pag-aalaga nila sa ‘kin. Grabe ang tiwala sa ‘kin ng GMA para ibigay sa ‘kin ‘to,’ saad ng gaganap sa role ni Tinay sa upcoming GMA Telebabad show.

Bahagi pa ni Kris, tinupad ng GMA ang pangarap niyang makapag-portray ng isang mentally challenged na character. Aniya, “Unti-unti talaga, ang dami ng pangarap na tinupad sa ‘kin ng GMA. Isa kasi ‘to sa dream roles ko eh. Tinupad na naman nila. So wala na akong mahihiling pa.”

Bukod pa sa napakagandang role, doble raw ang pasasalamat ni Kris sa GMA dahil sinamahan siya ng bigating stars tulad na lamang nina Bembol Roco, Eddie Garcia at Nora Aunor.

“Bakit ‘yung mga pangarap ko na maka-trabaho [ay] nakakasama ko ngayon? Tsaka bakit ako ‘yung pinili? ‘Yang ‘yung hanggang ngayon [ay] questions ko. Pero lahat talaga ay ino-honor ko kay God. And of course, lahat talaga [ay] ginawang posible ng GMA. So ang taba-taba talaga ng puso ko,” pagtatapos niya.

### Aljur’ new hope in career

Aljur Abrenica admits he felt so frustrated when his Metro Manila filmfest project, “Hermano Puli”, backed out from the annual festival. He was banking on it to help give his career a big boost after it dimmed when he had a falling out with GMA7. But now, there’s hope as the movie has found a new financier in businessman Rex Tiri and shooting starts this December.

“I fell in love with the material after Direk Gil Portes told me about it then I did my personal research on Apolinario de la Cruz or Hermano Puli in his hometown, Lucban, Quezon,” he says. “He led a major revolt against Spain pero hindi siya gaanong nabibigyan ng importansiya in our history books. Maski ‘yung guide ko sa Lucban, iba pa ‘yung date na sinabi sa’kin when he died, compared doon sa actual marker where Hermano Puli fought a major battle. Gusto niyang magpari pero hindi siya pinayagan dahil indio siya. May girl na gustung-gusto siya, but he wanted to remain pure at mas gusto niyang maglingkod sa Diyos kaya itinatag niya ang Cofradia de San Jose na puro indios ang members, fostering the practice of Christian virtues. Lumawak masyado ang samahan nila kaya natakot ang Spanish authorities and accused them of heresy. He fought for religious freedom and was executed in 1841 at the age of only 27. His life inspired the secular priests, the Gomburza, who were executed in 1872 while fighting for racial equality among the clergy.”

Aljur believes so much in Director Gil Portes. “I’ve seen his best works noong bata pa ako, like ‘Mga Munting Tinig’, ‘Saranggola’ and ‘Markova’, all award-winners, pero hindi pa ako aware noon na siya pala ang director ng movies na ‘yun. So I feel blessed na makatrabaho siya ngayon in this big



### PARALUMAN

Paraluman beauties present their take on different traditional dresses of the Philippines.

FAR RIGHT, rafael fabregas escorts the winner.

historical project. I'm so glad hindi siya sumuko sa project na ito kahit umurong 'yung dating producers. I hope this movie will give Hermano Puli the recognition that he deserves in our history. Happy rin ako kasi for the first time, makakasama ko rito my two younger brothers, Vin and Allen, who both play important roles in the movie."

Aljur is slowly getting back into the limelight. He's now seen regularly in "Dangwa" as one of Janine Gutierrez' leading men. He is also in two other movies, "Mabalasik" of Ato Bautista and "Walang EDSA" of Alvin Yapan.

**Janella surprised to be paired with Elmo**

Janella Salvador says she was so surprised when she was informed that she'll no longer be paired with Marlo Mortel (her ka-love team in "Be Careful" and "OMG") in her new soap,

"Born for You", but with former Kapuso actor Elmo Magalona.

"Siyempre, nagulat ako, but I feel good naman that I'll get the chance to work with someone fresh," she adds. "I'm excited kasi both our parents ni Elmo are musically inclined. The fans naman of my love team with Marlo can still watch us sa big screen in 'Haunted Mansion', our first movie together with Jerome Ponce na entry sa Metro Manila filmfest. I hope they'll also support us ni Elmo kasi puwede naman kami uli magkita ni Marlo in the future. Basta hindi ako close sa pagkakaroon ng ibang kapareha and I just hope the fans will also feel that way."

She's happy that so many wonderful things are happening in her life at the moment. "Yes, nagkita uli kami ng father ko (Juan Miguel Salvador) after so long, then I'm doing my first movie na entry pa sa filmfest, 'Haunted Mansion', and I have a new soap which is a good way to start the coming new year. Sana magtuloy-tuloy all these good projects sa 2016."



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**Filipino Centre Toronto Offers Job - Specific Mentoring Program to Internationally Trained Newcomers** By : Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

MANILA, Philippines – Ahead of ASEAN integration to be formalized this year, Senator Sonny Angara has warned that the country's high tax rates may drive Filipino skiThathe Department of Finance's suggest lower credit ratings citing that this amount is less than 1% of the government budget for 2016.

In a determined effort as part of its community outreach services, the Filipino Centre Toronto ( FCT ) launches its Mentoring Program recently. The Program is being rolled out to the Filipino Canadian community and other ethnic communities in partnership with the Toronto Region Immigrants Employment Council ( TRIEC ) , with funding from the "New Horizons for Seniors Program".

The FCT- TRIEC Mentoring Program aims to bring together internationally educated newcomer- immigrants and

established Filipino Canadian professionals in occupation-specific mentoring relationships. The Program hopes to contribute and meet the need of skilled Filipinos and other immigrants for successful career adjustment and integration into the Canadian labour market. Skilled newcomers entering the Program are given the opportunity to acquire information & insights and access to professional networks through a one-to-one professional mentoring process.

TRIEC was formed in 2003 "to find solutions to the unemployment and underemployment of immigrants. It is helping newcomers establish professional connections through mentoring and developing tools and programs to support employers and newcomers with integration" in the Greater Toronto Region labour market. The Filipino Centre Toronto

, organized in 2000, is a community-based, volunteer-run non- profit organization and has been serving the Filipino Canadian- and- other ethnic communities through its community development and outreach & integration initiatives engaging students, youths, seniors, and professionals.

Currently, FCT is encouraging and inviting experienced & practicing Filipino Canadian professionals to get involved by engaging and offering their expertise as Volunteer Mentors in the Program. On one hand, Filipino newcomers are encouraged to join the Program as Mentees.

To become a Mentee, one "must have lived in Canada for less than 3 years and have limited or no Canadian experience; have the required English skills; have at least a bachelor's degree or equivalent; be eligible to

work in Canada; currently unemployed or underemployed ;and currently actively seeking work."

"Mentors must have worked in their field for at least 3 years and have a combination of industry knowledge and experience They should have active links to professional associations and business networks and recent experience in their occupational field."

Mentors and Mentees are requested to "commit to a total of 24 hours over four months. Meetings between them can be in person, online, over the phone and include referral meetings" on arranged schedules.

For applications and further information about the FCT -TRIEC Mentoring Partnership Program, contact Mary Ann San Juan at: masj0515@gmail.com, Tel. 416- 728-9313 or Wendy Arena at: wendyarena@rogers.com , Tel.416-928-0355.( T. San Juan).

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## Kathniel dominates first-ever Push Awards



Philippine showbiz's Teen Queen and King Kathryn Bernardo and Daniel Padilla led all the winners at the first-ever PUSH Awards held last night (Nov 10) at Resorts World Manila, where the most influential stars online were recognized by ABS-CBN entertainment website PUSH.com.ph.

The "Pangako Sa 'Yo" stars swept all the awards as a tandem across all the fan-voted Digital Media Awards categories, including the PushLike Most Liked Group/Tandem, PushTweet Favorite Group/Tandem, PushGram Most Loved Group/Tandem, PushPlay Best Group/Tandem, as well as the Push Elite Group/Tandem of the Year.

The two stars also garnered the highest number of votes in individual categories, including PushTweet Favorite Female Celebrity, PushGram Most Loved Female Celebrity, and Awesome Selfie Queen for Kathryn, and Push Elite Male Celebrity of the Year and PushPlay Best Male Celebrity for Daniel.

Their fans, called Kathniels, also bagged the Ultimate

Fan Award for posting the highest number of tweets during the voting period of almost two months. The category, joined by different celebrity fan groups, amassed over 180 million tweets.

"The Voice Kids" Season 1 first runner-up Darren Espanto, meanwhile, won four awards, namely the PushLike Most Liked Newcomer, PushGram Most Loved Newcomer, PushGram Most Loved Newcomer, and Awesome Song Cover Performance.

Among the major winners were Yeng Constantino, who was named the PushTweet Favorite Music Artist, PushGram Most Loved Music Artist, and PushPlay Best Music Artist, and Maine Mendoza, who won the Awesome Lip Sync Performance, PushPlay Best Newcomer, and Push Elite Newcomer of the Year.

All the winners in the Digital Media Awards and Awesome Awards categories were determined by online votes, validated by third-party auditing group SGV & Co.

The Push Elite Awards, meanwhile, were selected from all the winners in the Digital Media Awards by a distinguished panel composed of ABS-CBN chief digital officer Donald Lim, showbiz columnist Dolly Anne Carvajal, vlogger Lloyd Cadena, blogger Richard Paglicawan, "Fashion Pulis" creator Michael Lim, professional marketer and professor Chito San Mateo, PLDT VP and head of Home Marketing Gary Dujali, and advertising executive Merlee Jayme.

PUSH Awards is the first-of-its-kind award-giving body in Philippine digital media that honors the best among the past year's certified online hits and entertainment newsmakers based on their online reach and influence, popular votes, and excellence. It honors celebrities regardless of network affiliation.

## Ruffa & mom make up

Ruffa Gutierrez happily announced that all's well that ends well between her and mom Annabelle Rama. Prior to this, they had a misunderstanding because of the former's non-showbiz beau Jordan Mouyal.

"Actually, we reconciled during my brother Elvis' wedding," she reveals. "He wanted to have a happy occasion so I made the first move. I hugged Mom and it felt good she acknowledged it. I'm relieved that everything's fine now."

According to the statuesque beauty, this is a normal phase in her relationship with her mother.

"We have our ups and downs. Of course, there are still moments when we have tiffs like this one. I guess, it happens to any mother-daughter team, right? But as the daughter, I'm always the first one to make the move for reconciliation. That's the role of the children. What's good about it is that, we both see our points after analyzing things."

Ruffa avers that she need not sacrifice her love life just to please her mom.



"Making a sacrifice is not part of the picture. I'm of age already. I think both of us just need to understand each other more. It's just a matter of respecting each other's feelings," she states.

## Broadway producer meets Pinoy talent Viray

Broadway producer and actor Shea Arender was in town recently because of his desire to meet Maine Mendoza of the AIDub phenomenon and possibly include her in a Broadway presentation which he would produce and stage in the Philippines.

"That's right," he says. "I'm eyeing the new Kia Theater as the venue. It will be in the middle of March of 2016. But unfortunately, Maine's schedule is so hectic and tight and it's impossible to get her star opposite me in the musicale."

Instead, he got Jonalyn Viray.

"Yes, I got impressed with her when I watched the Star Awards. She's got a very powerful voice and I think she fits the role to a T. I personally talked to her and she's happy to accept. I think we will complement each other on



stage."

Shea, who's the Executive producer of the Broadway show The Wonderful Wizard of Song in the US is very pleased with his maiden trip to the Philippines.

"The country is a wellspring of talent. I'm really amazed with the Filipinos' natural affinity with music. That's why I'm hiring many local musicians to be part of the band in the actual show. Definitely, I will be visible in the Philippines in the coming days. I love it here!" he says.

### TIDBITS



## Former Kapuso on reboot of series she was in

Iza Calzado is aware that one of GMA's major offerings for 2016 is the grand reboot of the telefantasya Encantadia in which she was part of the original cast in 2005.

"Actually, before it was officially announced, I already had an inkling after I've seen Direk Mark Reyes' Instagram post where Ms. Suzette (Doctolero) was also present in that meeting. Unknown to many, we have an Encantadia chat group where all of us involved in the original production get connected in spite the passing of times.

"I instantly told Direk Mark about my intuition and he just replied that it was a top secret. But it didn't take too long before they officially announced that there was indeed a remake of Encantadia. So, I already knew ahead of everyone," she avers.

The pretty actress is happy with this development.

"Oh yes! Even if I'm a Kapamilya now, I can't deny the fact that Encantadia was a huge part of my career. It helped me to further establish myself then as an actress. As Sang'gre Amihan, I became a household byword during those times. I'm glad and proud to be proud of a classic TV program which was a phenomenal hit. That's why I'm so excited with this remake."

Iza knows that the new cast, especially the four female leads will face a tough challenge.

"Playing the four Sang-gres - Pirena, Amihan, Danaya and Alena - is simply a tall order for them. They have big shoes to fill, so to speak. And actually, the whole production is hard to equal. During our time, the working relationship of everybody was solid and it was something I would take pride into. We were one big, happy family then and working towards one common goal: to make the pioneering show a smash hit and thankfully, we did."

Who does she think will be the perfect Amihan in the new Encantadia?

"I know they're holding auditions for the new cast at this point. But if I were to choose, it's either Jennylyn Mercado or Carla Abellana," ends Iza.



## Duterte replies to Robredo's claim of Peace & order

MANILA - Following Camarines Sur Rep. Leni Robredo's comment that she does not subscribe to the mailed-fist rule of Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, the presidential aspirant said he is no fan of the lawmaker's leadership.

"I do not also subscribe the style of her leadership. Tabla lang kami -- she does not like me, I do not like her, so no problem," Duterte told reporters in Davao City.

The feisty mayor did not expound on his statement.

Robredo said that Naga City was able to equal the progress of Davao City without employing harsh methods in curbing criminality.

"We achieved the same results in Naga without that kind of attitude," Robredo said.

Robredo's husband, the late Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo, served as Naga's mayor for 19 years, from 1988 to 1998 and from 2001 to 2010.

In 1999, Naga City was cited as one of the most improved cities in Asia. The late mayor was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Government Service in 2000.

The widow earlier said that her vice presidential bid in 2016 is aimed at continuing the "tsinelas leadership" of her husband. The term was coined after the late Cabinet member was seen wearing slippers, an act interpreted by his supporters as humility.

On his radio show Duterte was again asked to comment on Robredo's disdain for his iron rule.

"Ang masasabi ko lang kung ang iyong Naga City ay peaceful, wala problema sa droga, walang problema sa mga kriminal, ang leadership dili manghilabot nimo (hindi makikialam sa inyo)," Duterte said.

Senator Alan Peter Cayetano, Duterte's running mate, earlier said that the crime rate spiked in Naga from January to July 2015, at 5,692 cases.

This figure is only a little less than the 6,026 combined crime cases recorded in the five other towns of Bicol, Cayetano added.

Commenting on the numbers, Duterte said: "If that figure makes Naga City peaceful, according to Robredo e di fine... We will escape Naga. If you can improve there without my leadership, ang leadership ko, hindi manghilabot nimo (hindi makikialam sa inyo)."

Duterte, who has been tagged in extrajudicial killings in his city, was dubbed by TIME Magazine as "The Punisher" in a 2002 article.

In May 2015, Duterte admitted his links to the Davao Death Squad (DDS), which is allegedly responsible for summary executions of over 1,000 criminals in the city. He, however, later backtracked on his statement, saying he was referring to the Davao Development System.

Duterte vowed to counter crime and mold the country in the image of Davao City, if and when he is elected as president in 2016

Katrina loves to be hated

Katrina Halili joins us for lunch on the set of “Destiny Rose” and we tell her she has visibly gained weight. Gone is her sexy figure when she was launched in “Gigil” and was FHM’s Sexiest Woman for two consecutive years when she had a 24-inch waistline.

“Naku, ten years ago na ‘yun, ano?” she laughs. “These days, I’m no longer that obsessed na maging sexy. That time kasi, sarili ko lang ang iniisip ko. Ayokong tumaba, gusto ko laging sexy ako. Konting gain ng weight, gym at diet na ako. I’m not like that anymore. May baby na ako. Three years old na si Katy. Mas inuuna ko muna lahat ng needs niya bago ang sarili ko. As a mom, siyempre, siya ang priority ko. Nasa stage na siyang sobrang nakakatuwa kasi nakakapagsalita na.

Kaya lang, ang unang word na nasabi niya, papa. Eh ako itong araw-araw kasama niya. Masakit ha. Pero okay lang, ama naman niya ‘yun. Magkalapit lang ang bahay namin kaya lagi siyang nabibisita. Dahil sa anak ko, nagkaroon ng mas konkretong direction ang buhay ko.”

So is there no chance of her reconciling with Katy’s dad, singer Kris Lawrence? “Huwag na. Okay na ‘yung friends kami at nagtutulungan for our child.”

So is she dating anyone? “No. At hindi naman ako naghahanap. Okay na kami ng anak ko. Sa Christmas, uuwi kami sa El Nido sa Palawan dahil nandun ang mommy ko at mina-manage ang resort niya roon.”

She was the villain to Marian Rivera in the first “Marimar”. Who does she think is better: Marian or Megan Young as the new “Marimar”? “Ay, sorry, hindi ko napapanood ‘yung ‘Marimar’ ngayon so hindi ko sila mapagkukumpara. I think magkaiba naman sila, so for sure, magkaiba rin ang interpretations nila.”

But who’s better as the villain, she or Lauren Young? “Aba, siyempre, ako. Ike-claim ko na agad na ako. I love my own. Heto nga, back to kontrabida ako as Jasmine in ‘Destiny Rose’ kaya marami na namang galit sa’kin dahil sa pang-aapi ko kay Ken Chan. Pero ‘yung fans ngayon, sinasabi nila, we love you, Kat, but we hate you as Jasmine. So at least, alam nilang uma-acting lang ako. Abangan n’yo dahil grabe ang sampalan scene namin ni Ken this week. Susugurin ko sila ni Fabio Ide at magseselos ako kaya sasampalin ko siya. At gaganti na siya. Sobrang kaba ko before we shot the scene kasi sabi, totohanin namin. Eh, ang laki ng kamay niya, ‘no? Sabi ko, kapag sinaktan niya ako nang todo, babayaran ko siya. Ha ha ha!”

FilCan Educators Group Elects New Officers, Apilado is President

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

The Philippine Teachers Association of Canada ( PTAC ) , during its General Assembly on November 14, 2015, elected its new set of officers and directors for the 2015-2017 term. Held at the Finch - Bathurst Hub in North York, Toronto, the members of the samahan ng mga gurong Filipino in Canada chose Rose Apilado as its new president and chairman of the board, succeeding Boni Curutan who will sit in the Board as ex-officio director. .

Elected also to serve for two years are the following members of the PTAC Executive Directorate: Marissa Ciacico-Vice president for administration, Cielito Drapeza, V.P. for external affairs, Maria Concepcion Bernasor, V. P. for special projects, Perly Laganas, secretary; Alicia Bautista, asst. secretary, Mila Curutan, treasurer; Trina Andres, asst. treasurer; Gigi Reyes, Bus. Manager; Red Andres, asst. bus. mgr.; Grace de la Reyna, auditor; Rowell



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Filipino Canadian Educators Group Holds 9th Annual Teachers Conference in Toronto

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

True to their purposeful commitment and determined of meeting the challenges of teaching successfully in the Canadian school environment, the officers and members of the Philippine Teachers Association of Canada( PTAC), conducted their 9th Annual Teachers Conference on October 17, 2015 at The Hub, Finch Avenue East & Bathurst Road, North York, Toronto.

The yearly professional development event, with its theme : “The Continuing Challenges of Teaching and Learning in Ontario “ was held in partnership with Kababayan Multicultural Centre , a 38-year old prominent immigrants settlement and integration agency . The 7-hour conference proved to be a very interesting and informative activity for both old and new members of the 10- year old “samahan na mga gurong Filipino”.

Among the guest speakers and resource professionals include : Dr. Michael Salvatori, CEO & Registrar of the Ontario College of Teachers; Marissa Ciacico, DPCDSB teacher; Monica Anne Batac, technology& social media specialist; Maria Fe Villanueva-Aguinaldo, counselor, Addiction Services for York Region and Tony A. San Juan, PTAC’s immediate past president.

Topics presented in the one-day conference are : “Impact of Ontario’s Enhanced Teacher Education Program”; “Progressive Discipline in the Classroom”; “Using Social Media in the Teaching & Learning Process”; “Technology

Addiction: Indications and Solutions”; and Navigation of Teacher- Application Using the OCT Website “. The Ontario teacher certification process was also covered during the Q & A sessions.

The Event’s joint organizing committee is composed of PTAC’s Perly Santos Laganas, Maricon Bernasor, Boni Curutan,Cielito Drapeza and KMC’s Flor Dandal, Aguido Dela Cruz, Amelia Basingan, and Loida Gatchalian. Western Union, led by Chito Gonzales and his money transfer team generously sponsored the day’s culinary treats. KMC , as usual, provided the venue, certificates and other logistic support.

Rowell Perez, Grace Dela Reyna and Aguido Dela Cruz, aptly shared the program’s hosting duties.Other dedicated members of the working committees are : Bernadette Gapuz, Rose Apilado, Joel Pine, Red Andres, Mila Curutan, Trina Andres, France Ampioco, Gigi Nicholas, Gary Camu. Donna Scutariu, Arthur Apilado, Alicia Bautista, Jujelyn Brown, Erlyn Simanero, Ester Dunlawan, Marites Mayome Abubo and several KMC hard working volunteers.

Attended by over 60 guests and participants, the conference also welcomed nine new members to the 9-year old teachers’ organization, namely: Ciena Marla Acosta, Elvira Beltran, Rolilyn Cabance, Maria Jessica Consular, Sharon Dichoso, Glenda Ombao, Maureen Joy Pablo, Jeanie Rose Relova and Mary Ann Santos.

For its year-end activities, PTAC announced that it will have its officers’ election on November 14, 2015 for the 2015-2017 term as well a Pre-Christmas Party on November 28, 2015.Details are available from Secretary Maricon Bernasor at : MBernasor@yahoo.com. ( T. San Juan).

Perez, asst. auditor Monica Anne Batac, PRO; Bernadette Gapuz, asst. PRO and Directors :Marites Abubo, France Ampioco, Sheryl Andres, Arthur Apilado, Jujelyn Brown, Gary Camu, Rose Cruz, Joel Pine, Tony San Juan and Donna Scutariu.

The socio- professional teachers organization , organized in May 2006, is composed of Ontario - certified & practicing teachers in public & Catholic elementary & secondary schools and colleges in the province as well as former educators in the Philippines. It has established ongoing initiatives including partnerships and collaboration, through its outreach & in-house projects and programs, in providing voluntary professional services & assistance in the areas of education career search, mentoring & networking , group academic tutoring, professional teacher development, teacher- licensing assistance, community-based development programs and other education- related matters.

PTAC members include those: 1) currently licensed & engaged in permanent or occasional teaching, 2) in career transition, seeking teacher employment, 3 ) on in-process certification application, 4) in alternative related - education careers, 5) internationally- educated teacher-newcomers doing non-teaching work and 6) retired Ontario and / or Philippine teachers.

For membership application and further information, interested parties are requested to contact: Perly Santos Laganas at: Perly. Laganas@gmail.com or Maricon Bernasor at :Mbernasor@yahoo.com ( Tony San Juan).

Valerie insists suitor isn’t married

Valerie Concepcion Concepcion says there was a point in her life that she wanted



to leave showbiz and live a normal life. “Nag-apply akong flight attendant sa PAL last July at matatanggap na sana ako, kaya lang, may tattoo ako sa arm and they said ipabura ko muna,” she says. “A friend naman told me, give showbiz one last push bago ka mag-flight attendant. Mag-change daw ako ng manager, so I did. Si Arnold Vegafria na ang manager ko ngayon at heto nga, dumating itong offer to do ‘Because of You’ as the wife of Gabby Concepcion, so tinanggap ko na. Pareho kaming Concepcion at chance ko na to work with him kahit hindi naman kami magkamag-anak.”

We thought she has found a new boyfriend and are about to face the altar. “Ay, hindi po.”

How about that lawyer from the Bureau of Immigration who she admitted she’s dating? “We’re still going out.”

Is it true the guy is married? “His marriage has been annulled. He gave me a copy of his annulment papers. At hindi pa naman talagang kami. We’re just dating pa lang at mas gusto ko ng long dating period. Kasi ‘yung last one, a doctor, one and a half years kaming nag-date, then noong naging officially on kami, inabot lang nang 9 months. Eh ngayon, one year na kaming nagde-date, so tingnan natin.”

Can she feel that the lawyer is her Mr. Right? “Sana naman po. Gusto ko na ring magpakasal. Ang tagal ko nang naghihintay. So let’s see kung magiging talagang kami na nga.”

“Because of You” starts airing tonight after “Little Nanay” and Valerie says viewers will hate her again in this show. “Wife ako ni Gabby rito, pero iiwanan ko siya at sasama ako kay Carlo Gonzales. But when I learn na nagkakamabutihan sila ni Carla Abellana, babalik ako kasi kahit wala na ako, I don’t want to share Gabby with anyone at kakalabanin ko si Carla rito.”

GMA presents a  
feel-good teleserye



GMA Network premieres *Because of You*, a light-hearted romantic series, tonight. It is about love, family and parenting, its joys and challenges. The lead stars are Carla Abellana as Andrea, Rafael Rosell as Oliver and Gabby Concepcion as Jaime. Carla is excited about her latest project and the privilege of working with Gabby and Rafael, who she both finds professional and easy to work with. “I’m very thankful to GMA for this new project. I’m really happy to work again with Gabby. Excited ako kasi naka-work ko siya briefly lang before at doon ko nalaman na makulit pala siyang tao and very funny. Looking forward ako na mas mag-enjoy sa trabaho with him around and mas maraming matutunan from him. I’m also thrilled to be reunited with Bettina (Carlos) and Tita Celia (Rodriguez).”

Gabby likewise reveals that he is very comfortable working with Carla and viewers will definitely enjoy watching their show because it is very light and full of good vibes. “I worked with Carla before and I am so relaxed with her. Sabi nga nila, it’s a walk in the park. Kasi nakasama ko na siya, magaan siya katrabaho. And itong show na ito, light lang. It’s a different approach and story. This is a feel-good teleserye.”

Darna role is not for me - SARAH

MANILA – Singer and “The Voice of the Philippines” coach Sarah Geronimo said she was surprised when she was also considered by fans to portray the Filipina superhero Darna. Geronimo said she believes that the role of Darna does not suit her. “Nagulat nga ako... ‘Ding, ang body suit!’ ‘Yun na lang ang sasabihin ko. Pero hindi, hindi po para sa akin ang Darna,” she said. “Kasi for you to accept a role, play a role na superhero, kailangan malakas ka talaga -- mentally, emotionally, physically. ‘Di mo madadaya ang mga tao, hindi eh. Wala pa ako doon,” she added. Geronimo went on to say that she is not suited for the Darna role because she cannot wear the superhero’s two-piece costume. “At magiging honest ako. Hindi ako ever magtwo-two

piece. Sa bahay lang, sa banyo lang. Walang choice ‘yung banyo,” she said in jest. Fans continue to guess who will star in the upcoming “Darna” movie after actress Angel Locsin confirmed that she can no longer take on the role due to a spine problem. Aside from an upcoming concert, Geronimo is also recording a new album. “Nagre-record po ako for my next album. Abangan niyo po, excited ako to perform a few tracks from my album sa concert ko,” she said.

BEA: No relationship is perfect

BEA Alonzo says she and John Lloyd Cruz never expected that their hit 2007 movie, “One More Chance”, which they did when their love team was just starting, would someday have a sequel. “Actually, ni hindi nga namin ine-expect na papatok ng ganun kalaki ang movie kasi we were just showing the anatomy of a breakup,” she adds. “Then the production team came up with a book adaptation of the movie, parang nobela, and it became a bestseller. Doon namin na-realize that people really love the characters we played, Popoy and Basha, at gusto pa rin nilang malaman kung ano na ba ang nangyari sa mga ito, so that all inspired us to come up with the sequel, ito na ngang ‘A Second Chance’, na regalo namin to all the people who care for Popoy and Basha.” So what can their followers expect in the sequel? “Siyempre, ngayon, nag-level up na ang bagong movie kasi ipapakita ang marital problems na kinakaharap nina Popoy at Basha, who have also become more mature adults. Grabe nga ang response we’re getting on social media about ‘Second Chance’ kasi marami ang nagsasabing inaabangan talaga nila ang sequel.”

Does she feel any pressure that the sequel might not be as successful as the original movie? “Oo naman, but we welcome the pressure. Kasi kung walang pressure, it won’t be as much fun. The pressure helps build up the adrenalin rush. But we’re all confident nina Direk Cathy Molina na magugustuhan ng viewers ang ‘A Second Chance’ kasi we did everything para mas mapaganda ito.” Bea just comes from another hit, “The Love Affair”, with Richard Gomez, which grossed P300 million worldwide. Her last movie with John Lloyd, “The Mistress”, was still in 2012 and was also a blockbuster, so it looks like she has another big hit coming up. Meantime, her BF Zanjoe Marudo has not done a movie for a longtime. “Okay lang kasi sunud-sunod naman ang teleseryes niya,” says Bea. “May ‘Tubig at Langis’ siyang ginagawa ngayon with Cristine Reyes.” It seems their relationship is so smooth sailing now. No more rumors about cooling off or anything like that. “Just like other couples, we’re not perfect. It’s not going to be realistic naman in a relationship kung wala kayong mga pinagdararaan every now and then. The important thing is naaayos n’yo ‘yun and you move on.”

Andi Eigenmann earns praise for her role in ‘Angela Markado’

Naganap noong November 30 sa Megamall Cinema 10 ang red carpet premiere ng pelikulang Angela Markado na pinagbibidahan ni Andi Eigenmann. All red at sexy ang gown na suot ni Andi ng maglakad sa red carpet papasok ng sinehan. “Kinakabahan po ako ngayon lang ako nakagawa ng ganitong tema ng pelikula and sana magustuhan mg mga manonood.” Bukod sa cast ng pelikula, present ang ina ni Andi na si Jaclyn Jose at ang kanyang kapatid na si Gabby Eigenmann para magbigay suporta sa kanya. Matapos ang screening, marami ang nag-comment na pang best actress daw ang kalibre ng acting na ipinakita ni Andi bilang Angela Markado. “Naku nakakatuwa naman po kung ganun ang comment nila. Sana nga sana nga nakakakaba talaga.” Unang ginawa ang pelikulang Angela Markado bida ang award winning actress na si Hilda Koronel sa ilalim ng direksyon ng National Artist na si Lino Brocka. At sa bagong version nito ay binigyang direction naman ni Carlo J. Caparas.



Paraluman Pageant

RIGHT, Attendees enjoy the night at the Paraluman pageant of the Filipino Centre Toronto.



PH is 3rd poorest in Apec

The Philippines is the third poorest economy among the 21 members of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation group, a World Bank study showed. Data from the World Bank showed the Philippines was just ahead of Vietnam and Papua New Guinea with a gross domestic domestic product per capita of \$1,581.4 in 2013. Vietnam ranked the poorest in the group with a GDP per capita of \$1,028.6, followed by Papua New Guinea with \$1,121.3.

Senate Ways and means chairman Senator Sonny Angara said the Philip-pines should aim to go higher, attract more investments and put in more busi-ness friendly tax laws. “We have been alongside Indonesia, a decade ago. We should try to reach Thai-land’s [GDP per capita],” he said. The Philippines’s per capita in 2005 was at \$1,200.9, or near Indonesia’s \$1,273.5. The Philippines’ per capita 10 years after lagged behind with only a 31.6 percent growth compared with Indonesia growth of 42.15 percent. Among Apec members, the US being the world’s biggest economy has the high-est GDP per capita of \$45,710 in 2013. Next to the US was Japan with \$37,573.4 GDP per capita; Canada with \$37,528.6; Australia, \$37,491.5; and Singapore, \$36,897.9.

China, despite being the second biggest economy in the world, is the sixth poorest country in Apec with a GDP per capita of \$3,583.4. Apec said claimed the combined real GDP of the group doubled from just \$16 trillion in 1989 to \$31 trillion in 2013. Its 21 member economies are home to around 2.8 billion people and represent approximately 57 per cent of the world’s GDP and 47 percent of global trade in 2012.

A study by professional services company PricewaterhouseCoopers earlier ranked Manila near the bottom of most livable and business-friendly cities in the Asia-Pacific region. The country’s capital placed 22nd among the 28 cities included in the the study called “Building Better Cities,” which was launched at the sidelines of the Apec CEO Summit here. PwC said this was the first report that delved on the comparative rankings of cities within the Apec region.

“Our goal for this study is to spur dia-log among city leaders who are tackling challenges ranging from technological developments that make large investments outdated, to overstretched municipal budgets,” said Bob Moritz, chairman and senior partner of US-based PwC. Toronto, Vancouver and Singapore emerged as the top three most livable cities in Apec, where it is also easy to do business. Seattle and Los Angeles, the two US cities included in the survey, ranked fifth and ninth, respectively. At the bot-tom of the list are Cebu, Surabaya and Port Moresby.

PwC released the results of the study, as the Philippines hosts the Apec Sum-mit this week, forcing organizers to close several roads that affected the mobility of thousands of commuters in Metro Manila.

“This study provides a set of metrics and a diagnostic tool for mayors and ur-ban planners to see how they can improve their communities to build better cities. We hope mayors use this information to see how they can evolve their cities into more livable, sustainable, and competitive places,” said National Competitiveness Council co-chairman Guillermo Luz. Cebu ranked 26th among the 28 cities included in the study, ahead of Surabaya (Indonesia) and Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea).

Mocha Girls  
willing to quit  
sexy shows for  
Duterte

How far will one go to support a presidential candidate?

For the all-girl singing and dancing group Mocha Girls, they are willing to end their career if that would help the Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte clinch the presidency.

In a post on their Facebook page last November 27 which has since gone viral, the girls said that they are willing to put the needs of the country first before theirs.

“May nag comment po at sabi bat daw namin sinusuportahan si Duterte sa pag ka pangulo dahil daw pag sya ang naging pangulo isasara daw ang mga bar at mawawalan kami ng trabaho dahil bawal daw ang sexy performers, sabihin na natin kung eto man ay totoo, kami po ay handang tumigil mag sexy show para lang maging presidente si Duterte, we will sacrifice our career for our country to have a genuine change. Bayan muna bago ang sarili,” the post read.

The girls were seen holding a t-shirt with the words “Duterte 2016” printed on it.

The group is also distributing Duterte “baller bracelets” during their shows as a sign of support for the candidacy of the Davao City mayor.

The post has since been “liked” by more than 43,000 people and shared by more than 3,600 times.

Spotlight



Harrison Plaza atrium circa 1970

FILIPINO CENTRE TORONTO  
PRESIDENT’S BALL 2016  
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NYPAA to hold  
Winter Basketball  
House League  
Program at Antibes  
Community Centre

In support of its mandate for youth sports development, the North York Pinoy Athletic Association, is holding a Basketball House League Games during the winter season commencing on January 8, 2016. In preparation and in conjunction with the community program is the running of a free Youth Basketball Clinic.

Both programs are to be held at Antibes C.C. located at 140 Antibes Drive, North York, Toronto (Bathurst Street north Finch Avenue West). Clinic is first come-first served and in-person registration starts on December 4, 2015 from 7 PM to 9 PM at the lower level of the Community Centre. Gym space is limited to 50 registered participants per age group Scheduled gym times are: 6 PM – 8 PM for 11 years old & under and 8 PM – 10 PM for 14 years old and under.

The Basketball Clinic, which is offered free, will introduce and involve youth participants to basics of playing basketball, teamwork, how to dribble, pass, shoot & handle the ball. For the House League Youth Competition however, there is a registration fee that will cover costs for a top jersey and a trophy or medal for each participating player.

NYPAA is composed of community volunteers and its Youth program is conducted by Sports Commissioners Renato Columbano

& Mark Stevens Victoria and assisted by Youth & Sports Development Coordinators: Victor Montero, Jess Diwa, Jimi Fernandez, Christian Lalicon and Homer Obille. The 16 years old registered not-for-profit organization with Ontario Corporation Number 1783240 is headed by NYPAA President Sharonne Columbano and supported by Mylene Escalona, Joanne Ligsay, Brenda Agoncillo, Arlyn Perez, Tina Fernandez, Tim Sinclair and NYPAA founders: Ed Sotto, Vilma Tahsin, Roger Tarca and Bob San Juan.

North York Pinoy Athletic Association’s main objective is to enhance the traditional Filipino values of respect, trust and fellowship through sports. Likewise, the Association aims to promote athletic activities as a more productive and fun filled recreational time for families including parents and their children, relatives and friends within the perspective of a truly Filipino-Canadian community.

For more information or to register, please contact Sharonne Columbano at Tel. 289-200-8653 or e-mail at info@nypaa.ca or visit the website at http://nypaa.ca/. Like us at facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ NYPAA

Seven Oaks explores Cree, Ojibwa, Tagalog bilingual programs

WINNIPEG - A plan to provide school instruction in Cree, Ojibwa and Tagalog in Seven Oaks School Division starting in fall 2016 will be discussed at a board, superintendent Brian O’Leary said.

The school board is in an exploratory stage and will gauge interest through a parent

survey in the New Year, said O’Leary.

“I think the board will want to see what the response is from the community and look at it as part of their budget considerations,” he said.

Half the school day would be taught in an indigenous language or Tagalog, with the structure modelled after the Ukrainian program already running at R. F. Morrison School, O’Leary said.

Seven Oaks is currently phasing out its Hebrew program, which offered similar schooling, because of demographic shifts, said O’Leary.

Just 40 students willing to sign up for one of the languages would be enough to start the program, he said.

“I think there’s a feeling that [parents] would like to keep young people connected to the culture, and we need school programs that help the community to do that,” said O’Leary.

Some Seven Oaks schools already provide after-school language instruction in Cree, Ojibwa and Tagalog, and O’Leary believes some of those teachers would be suitable for new bilingual programs.

“We have been able to attract language teachers for that, and we’re confident that if there’s sufficient interest to warrant it, we could offer a quality program.” he said.

Seven Oaks School Division will decide whether to offer the new bilingual programs on March 15, when it passes its final budget.

Tagalog is 2nd-most common mother tongue in Winnipeg

The Filipino language of Tagalog is the second-most common mother tongue in Winnipeg, edging out French, the latest census figures show.

Statistics Canada says Tagalog is the first language

spoken by 35,620 people in the Winnipeg census metropolitan area, accounting for 4.9 per cent of the population.

Meanwhile, French is the mother tongue of 29,675 people, or 4.1 of the population.

When the last census was conducted in 2006, 23,285 people in Winnipeg said Tagalog was their mother tongue, representing 3.4 of the population.

Top non-official languages  
Statistics Canada says the top five non-official languages spoken in the Winnipeg metropolitan area are:  
Tagalog — 4.9 per cent.  
German — 2.9 per cent.  
One of the Chinese languages — 1.7 per cent.  
Ukrainian — 1.5 per cent.  
Punjabi — 1.4 per cent.

In the 2006 census, the top five non-official languages spoken in the city were, in order: Tagalog, German, Ukrainian, one of the Chinese languages, and Polish.

Tagalog is the fastest-growing language in Canada, as the number of people who report speaking it has gone up by 64 per cent between 2006 and 2011.

“There was an important wave of immigrants coming from [the] Philippines,” said François Nault, a Statistics Canada analyst.

“That explains the growth now, in the census, of people declaring either Tagalog as [their] mother tongue or as a language most often spoken at home.”

English remains the most common language in homes across the city, with 73.4 per cent of the population — or 529,405 people — saying it’s their mother tongue.

Statistics Canada defines “mother tongue” as the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood at the time the census was taken in May 2011.

Ben Apuya, who has been living in Winnipeg for 22 years, says he, his wife and their two sons speak Tagalog at home.

“I always talk to them in Tagalog so that they will not forget their original language in the Philippines,” Apuya said.

A total of 22.5 per cent of the population of metro Winnipeg has a mother tongue other than one of the official languages, an increase from 20.9 per cent in the 2006 census.

Across Manitoba, the most common mother tongue is English, followed by German, French and the aboriginal languages.

Ben stresses that he and Glaiza are just friends

BENJAMIN Alves has been linked to Glaiza de Castro since they were paired in “Dading”. He even helped Glaiza find the appropriate title for her solo album, “Synthesis”, that gave Glaiza an award in the recent PMPC Star Music Awards. But he says they’re just very good friends.



“We’re both very busy,” he adds. “I’m in ‘Beautiful Strangers’. I’ve just finished doing ‘Gayuma’ for QCinema Filmfest where I did some daring love scenes and I am now doing two more new movies. Si Glaiza naman, wala siya rito, she’s doing a concert series in several cities in Canada. We’re just both more focused on our careers. Sana nga, magkatrabaho kami uli kasi matagal na rin ‘yung ‘Dading’ na huli naming pinagsamahan.” Benjamin is very thankful to have been part of “Beautiful Strangers” that is ending soon. “Maganda ang role ko as Lawrence, the son of Christopher de Leon and

Dina Bonnevie, and I’m so happy it gave me the chance with these two accomplished actors in local showbiz who I’ve seen doing great work in some films in the past. Marami akong natutuhan just by doing some scenes with them and acting with them.”

KEN’S GF SUPPORTIVE OF HIM TURNING INTO A TRANSWOMAN

Ken Chan is overwhelmed by the good feedback he’s getting after his transformation from man to transwoman in “Destiny Rose”. “Nakakatuwa kasi nag-trending talaga kami after lumabas na ako bilang isang babae,” he says.

He’s in a love affair with Fabio Ide in the story. Would he now consider having a relationship with someone of the same gender in the future? “Definitely no. Maraming ganoon ang iniisip, na closeta talaga ako, but I know myself. I’m secure with my gender. After each scene na babae ako, nakakabitaw ako agad sa character ko. Alam ng girlfriend ko ‘yan, who’s very supportive sa pagiging transwoman ko. Alam naman niyang it’s all for ‘Destiny Rose’ lang. Siya pa nga ‘yung nagtuturo sa’kin kung paano ang tamang paglalagay ng eye-liner. She’s so amused at natatawa siya but she remains very supportive.”



Ellen at Coleen, parehong mahilig sa aso

MATINDI ang closeness na namamagitan between co-stars Ellen Adarna and Coleen Garcia mula nang magkasama sila sa Pasion de Amor. They have one common hobby: they both love dogs. One time, Coleen surprised Ellen when she gifted her a British Bulldog. Well, since the house where Ellen currently stays doesn’t look spacious enough to accommodate a new pet, since she already has quite a number na inaalaagan, she is planning to move to a bigger house.

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Since both busy ang mag-best friends na sina Kathryn Bernardo at Julia Montes, they hardly get to see each other much less, bond, kumbaga.

Pero hindi raw ito nangangahulugan, says Julia, na nagkakalimutan na sila. Heto nga at this early, iniisip na ni Julia kung ano ang puwedeng regalong ibigay niya kay Kathryn ngayong Pasko. Ano nga kaya?

Well, Julia wants daw to give Kathryn something na ‘di man expensive, tiyak naman na maa-appreciate nito.

Ang natatandaan daw ni Julia, may weakness si Kathryn sa sweets. Hindi raw kumpleto ang araw nito noong ginagawa pa nila ang series na Mara Clara, na hindi ito kumakain ng cake o cookies.

Mara Clara was their last project na magkasama, since nabigyan na nga sila ng pagkakataong magkaroon ng mga solo projects.

Right now, magkasama sina Kathryn at Daniel Padilla sa top series na Pangako Sa ‘Yo.

Julia plays a dual role naman as Kara and Sara in the primetime afternoon series Doble Kara.

Tatlo ang kanyang leading man, sina Sam Milby, Anjo Damiles at Edgar Allan Guzman.

\*\*\*

Speaking of Edgar, is it true that he and girlfriend Shaira Mae dela Cruz, TV5 talent, have broke up?

Opps, ‘pag nagkataon, magiging “malamig” ang Pasko ni Edgar who is lucky in his career pa naman these days.

Edgar has a movie, Pare, Mahal Mo Raw Ako, with singer Michael Pang-ilinan.

\*\*\*

Whoever did the make-up ni Kris Aquino sa lahat ng events na dinaluhan niya sa katatapos na APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) Summit, dapat bigyan niya ng bonus.

She has never looked so good even sa mga okasyon na kailangan niyang sumabak sa sikat ng araw.

Another thing na kapansin-pansin kay Kris, she looked her best as well sa mga damit na kanyang isinuot. Lalo na kapag naka-terno siya.

Well, Kris, congrats.

By the way, let’s wait for Kris to share with us via her social media account, her plans for herself, her sons and siblings for Christmas.

Christmas this year, as we all know, is Kris’ brod, PNoy’s last in Malacañang.

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Camilineos Charity 20th Anniversary dinner



Guests enjoy the dinner night at the Camilineos

Abakada Rep. Jonathan de la Cruz, for his part, said the issue on lowering the income tax rates was a valid election issue in any election in any country and should not be brought down to the personal level.

De la Cruz said Romualdez was merely echoing the sentiments of millions of Filipino workers as well as other policy makers who want to provide a relief to an overtaxed public that suffers some of the worst public services in the world.

Nonetheless, Lacierda insisted that lower income taxes should not be turned into an election issue and lashed at Ibon Foundation executive director Jose Enrique Africa who criticized Lilberal Party standard-bearer Manuel Roxas II for downplaying the tax issue.

“The government, the executive, has the political levers to actually push it if they want to. If they’re not pushing it, that’s a matter of choice,” he said.

“The biggest reason that the government is not willing to reform the income tax system is that they’re taxing the rich, and they are also taxing the poor,” he added.

Lacierda hit Africa’s remarks and said there is no need to debate on the need to reform the tax laws.

“There is no debate we need to reform the tax laws, but we remind the IBON Foundation, we were able to generate so much revenue without even raising, without introducing new taxes, except for rationalizing the sin tax,” Lacierda noted.

He cited the increase of revenue is due to the improved tax collections and making sure that leakages have been plugged.

PHILIPPINES  
continued from page 1

preventing the influence of terror groups also requires addressing the country’s pressing issues which terrorists use to invite and justify their violent acts.

“And the Philippines is vulnerable to the radical ideas of ISIS because of many underlying conditions and also because of the local grievances that ISIS can take advantage of,” Banlaoi said.

“This is a war against ideas because ISIS has the idea that is endorsing the use of violence and using the religion of Islam as a justification,” he said.

“So for us the challenge is to present alternative ideas against ISIS and we have to convince others that the ideas being propagated by ISIS is not the universal idea,” he added.

World War III: FVR

Former President Fidel Ramos believes that the latest terrorist attack in Paris, France

could be the start of a brewing Third World War.

At the same time, Ramos warned that the Philippines is not safe from similar attacks.

“Itong banta na international terrorism -- which the Pope and the President of France have called the beginning of World War III -- this is already World War III in chapters,” Ramos told radio dzMM

The coordinated string of bombings and shootings in the French capital left at least 129 dead and 352 others wounded. Ramos noted that such a terror attack is among the factors that have sparked earlier wars, which also included international military build-up, mass migration, and attempted assassinations of world leaders. Ramos also warned that the massacre in France, a military advanced country compared to the Philippines, proves that we are not safe from similar threats. “Itong mga acts of terrorism, talagang very surprising especially in an advance country like France. Puro superior ang kanilang security agencies, personnel and equipment [pero] ginagawa na nila ito

and it affects us,” the retired four-star army general said.

“It could happen anywhere else nearer to the Philippines, maybe in Asia-Pacific and it will affect our country.”

Ramos, however, denounced spending for a military build-up and developing nuclear weapons, saying that funds for these will be better allocated to solving social issues.

“This is our national prayer in the Philippines: Kalimutan na iyung terrorism at superpower play, iyung nagpapataasan ng alam mo na dahil sa military build-up, developing nuclear weapons of mass destruction. At iyung mga ginagastos nila sa military build-up, dito ilagay sa maritime enforcement, defenses against gobal warming, protection of people in coastal areas,” Ramos said.

“Let us devote the savings from too much spending in military weapons for mass destruction into fighting poverty, fighting pandemic diseases. Help the poor people around the world na kulang ang tubig, pagkain, kulang ang housing,” he added.

# Hunk Shot



Ren John Ignacio is from Brampton, Ontario. He is so helpful and reliable. You can always count on him in every community project. Keep up the great work RJ!

## Ren John Ignacio



## Ian Veneracion on life beyond ‘Pangako Sa ‘Yo’

HOLLYWOOD - Ian Veneracion started acting when he was just five. From then on, he has commanded the screen with his talent and good looks.

Veneracion grew up in showbiz so he is familiar with ups and downs of acting life. But he said his success now is also a big surprise to him.

Being on “Pangako Sa Yo” has earned Veneracion a new and active fandom.

But unlike other stars whose identities are wrapped in their work as actors, Veneracion is that kind of Filipino celebrity who has a full life outside of showbiz.

“I paint, because my father is a painter, so ever since na-expose kami doon. It’s always there, yung painting, but before an exhibit, I have to allot six months of not doing anything, just that. Because I think I’m using a different part of the brain, parang a different language... whether it’s the language of colors and composition and stuff,” he said.

Being a husband and a father to three kids is Veneracion’s priority.

“There’s no manual on being a father, so I’m learning as we go along as well. They’re very patient with me. Sometimes, when they see me on a billboard, sabihin nila ‘ay, pa-cute ka dyan! Pa-cute. Nagpapabata.’ I say, ‘Ganun talaga pag tumatanda,’” he said.

Though his career is hotter than ever, he said he’s not sure if acting is what he wants to do for the rest of his life.

“I’ve always been intuitive about my decisions and I think we’ll see what happens. I’m so thankful. Every single day I wake up and say ‘Thank You.’ Kasi it’s a blast talaga. What a ride,” he said.

## KEN: Babae pa rin ang gusto ko

We visited the set of GMA’s hit afternoon soap, “Destiny Rose”, and got so amused seeing Ken Chan in full drag make up as the transwoman in the title role. He was totally in character while we’re interviewing him and you’d really think he’s a girl. Is it difficult to act like that? “Very challenging, kaysa noong gay pa lang ako as Joey,” he says. “Dito kasi, dapat babae talaga ako sa movements ko, sa pagsasalita, sa lahat. Physically, may glam team ako to help transform me sa hair, makeup, stylings ko and I even have an acting coach. Pero malaking tulong din ang co-stars ko, like Katrina Halili and Michael de Mesa na tinuturuan ako ng wastong pagkilos bilang babae. Si Tito Mike (de Mesa) is one the best actors who can play gay roles convincingly at sinasabi niya kung kulang pa a sobra ang acting ko.”

He felt so relieved when reaction on social media about his transformation turned out to be very positive. “Takot na takot ako noon kung paano ako tatanggapin but now, everyday, lagi kaming trending at lahat ng feedback, comments, natutuwa sila. May gusto ngang manligaw sa akin, meron pang nag-marriage proposal. May nagsabing straight siya at hindi niya akalaing kaya pala niyang magkaroon ng feelings for a transwoman like Destiny Rose. Marami ring natutuwa kasi palaban na ako, unlike before as Joey na apl-apihan ako ng lahat. This time, abangan nyo, may sampalan kami ni Katrina Halili. Hindi na ako paapri sa kanya.”

How’s his non-showbiz girlfriend? “Break na po kami. Kasi na-realize ko kapag nagtittigan kami ni Fabio lde kung anong real identity ko.”

Everyone in front of Ken was stunned, speechless. Then he blurts out: “Joke lang. Kami pa rin po. Straight pa rin ako at babae pa rin ang mas gusto ko.”

FILIPINO CENTRE TORONTO

## Outstanding Student Awards

FCT also gave plaques of Appreciation to the student tutors at the Outstanding Student Aawards event.



## Lovi Poe sad with break up with Rocco Nacino

L O V I Poe is very sad at this ment. Not because m o - confirming her s h e ' s breakup with Rocco Nacino, but because they just had their last ing tap-day for “Beautiful Strangers” that will have its finale episode on

Friday night, to be replaced next week by “Because of You.”

“I will miss everyone involved in the show, both the cast and crew as all of us became really close while taping the it at naging maganda ang samahan namin sa 16 weeks na itinakbo ng show,” she says.

Lovi remains silent when asked about the real score between her and Rocco. Since they both won't talk, all sorts of speculations crop up, including a story that she got mad because Rocco spent all the money in their joint account without informing her. It's Rocco who's badly affected by this rumor so he's the one who answered it in his social media account: “Been receiving news about me stealing money from a joint account and having a third party involved in our relationship. There's no joint account. No third party. I have the utmost respect for Lovi. Please do respect the privacy that we both request right now. Thank you.”

We heard that during the last taping days of their soap, they were cold to each other. “Dedmahang lang sila,” says our source. And this proves something bad is really going on between them. But what about in shooting of their movie on Ka Oryang, “Lakambini”? Do they also ignore each other when Rocco plays Andres Bonifacio to Lovi's Gregoria de Jesus? Lovi is going to Europe on a vacation this Saturday. Rocco won't be with her anymore, unlike last year when they went there together.

Meanwhile, in its final episodes, “Beautiful Strangers” gets more exciting with Rocco as Noel managing to escape from the clutches of Dina Bonnevie as Alejandra who's holding him captive. He teams up with Heart Evangelista as Kristine and some cops to hunt down Dina who manages to get away from them and

hides in their house in Tagaytay with her mom, Divina Valencia as Salve.

### New Producer ‘Resurrects’ ‘Hermano Puli’

Director Gil Portes is all fired up. His pet project, “Ang Hapis at Hinagpis ni Hermano Puli”, is finally pushing through after it backed out from being an entry in the Metro film-

fest. He found a new producer who's willing to support the historical drama all the way, Rex A. Tiri, president of Lifeline Diagnostic Supplies who earlier produced Elwood Perez' “Esoterika Manila”. “Rex was introduced to me by actor Alvin Fortuna two days after I backed out,” says Gil. “After three meetings, he agreed to bankroll the project. Siguro we're really not meant to be in the filmfest and this might be a blessing in disguise kasi we'll have more time para busisiin at mapaganda ito.”

Gil says he first learned of Hermano Puli while shooting “Miguel/Michelle” in Lucban, Quezon in 1998. “I researched on him and he's one of our forgotten heroes. He has always wanted to be a priest but Indios like him are not allowed so he formed a religious Kapatiran called Cofradia de San Jose. At first, the church was supporting it but it spread to other provinces, so the Spaniards got threatened that it's becoming very powerful so they invented stories that it's a cult where orgies are performed and women get pregnant. This triggers a religious revolt led by Hermano Puli, until he was arrested, had a mock trial and was executed. His body was cut into four. His head was displayed in front of the church while the other pieces were placed on the entrances to Lucban.”

There's a movie before titled “Hermano Pule” written and directed by FV Alfon in 1979 with Tommy Abuel (a native Lucbanon) but Gil says his version will be very different, written by Eric Ramos who did thorough research with the help of a UP professor, Rina Boncalan. Aljur Abrenica has always been his only choice for the title role of “Hermano Puli”. “I was surprised when I went to Lucban as I learned nandun na si Aljur for three days, personally researching on Hermano Puli. Humanga ako sa dedication niya sa role at sa movie.”

### WARSHIPS continued from page 6

Washington has repeatedly said it does not recognize Chinese claims to territorial waters around the artificial islands.

China's Deputy Foreign Minister Zhang Yesui summoned US Ambassador Max Baucus to announce that the USS Lassen had engaged in a “serious provocation,” the official news agency Xinhua said.

“The Chinese government will resolutely safeguard territorial sovereignty and legal sea interests, and China will do whatever necessary to oppose deliberate provocation from any country,” Zhang added.

A foreign ministry spokesman said that the ship had “illegally entered” waters near the islands.

The state-run tabloid the Global Times hinted in an editorial that Beijing could respond more strongly if the US made similar trips in the future.

“We should first track the US warships. If they, instead of passing by, stop for further actions, it is necessary for us to launch electronic interventions, and even send out warships, lock them by fire-control radar and fly over the US vessels,” it said.

It added that: “At present, no country, the US included, is able to obstruct Beijing's island reclamation in the region.”

Despite the Chinese rhetoric, analysts said more such US maneuvers could be expected.

Beijing's so far limited response showed that it had had its bluff called, said Rory Medcalf, director of the international security program at the Lowy Institute in Sydney.

“The US and its allies and partners should now help the Chinese leadership in saving face, by emphasizing that freedom of navigation operations are normal, not extraordinary,” he said.

Taiwan called for a peaceful resolution of disputes in the South China Sea but reiterated its claim on the disputed territories there.

“Whether from the perspective of history, geography, or international law, the Nansha (Spratly) Islands, Shisha (Paracel) Islands, Chungsha (Macclesfield Bank), and Tungsha (Pratas) Islands, as well as their surrounding waters, are an inherent part of ROC territory and waters,” the Taiwan government said in a statement.

## Yaya Dub gets a rival

YAYA Dub (Maine Mendoza) has found a rival in Russian model Cindy Corvicova who Alden Richards met through Ai-Ai de las Alas as Lola Babah. Ai-Ai prefers Cindy to Yaya Dub because she studied in the prestigious Harvard University in the U.S.A. no less. Yaya Dub didn't take it sitting down and also dressed up like a model. She was obviously getting jealous as Pambansang Bae Alden talks sweetly to Cindy, who speaks in Russian.

When Cindy's statement was translated, Ai-Ai said she loves Alden and wants to marry him, which of course, surprised as he believes in “sa tamang panahon.” Yaya Dub got even more threatened when Cindy said: “Mas bagay kami ni Alden. You'll be mine, Alden!”

But naturally, fans of AiDub Nation quickly reacted and proclaimed they will never allow Cindy to get Alden. For them, it's so real they forgot the actors are just playing their designated roles. As someone reminded them: “Huwag nyo pong totohanin. Aktingan lang po ang lahat.” Cindy got scared and requested in her social media account: “Please, don't bash me.”

Alden and Yaya Dub are now having their first LQ (lovers quarrel) because of Cindy. Will they kiss and make up today on Eat Bulaga? Meantime, the rivalry between Ai Ai as Lola Babah and Wally Bayola as Lola Nidora also intensifies as they fight over the mansion and the missing ring of Ai Ai. But the endorsements of Alden and Yaya Dub continue to multiply. They are now both officially Bench endorsers, too.

### Celebs take action against online writers

LIZ Uy, stylist of various celebrities, was accused of recycling a gown and a jacket for Yaya Dub (Maine Mendoza) and she didn't take things sitting down.

She filed six counts of libel with grave slander against Fashion Pulis blogger Michael Lim. This was filed at the Makati Prosecutor's Office with Atty. Lorna Kapunan as her lawyer yer who said that Lim is destroying her client's reputation and Liz is just fighting for her rights.

We heard that the camp of ABS-CBN A-lister Piolo Pascual is now similarly contemplating on filing a libel case against a website that also published online something libelous against Papa P (that he has admitted to them that he is gay or bi). Here's their statement: “It has come to our attention that a site named MANILALINK.com came out with an article claiming that they had an interview with Piolo Pascual regarding his sexuality. We verified this with Mr. Piolo Pascual himself and he vehemently denied that. THE interview never happened.

This article is a HOAX. We enjoin the public to beware of HOAX sites such as manilalink.com that intend to malign and destroy the reputation of good people.”

What move they will do next is what the people ManilaLink should watch out for? Maybe this would give online writers food for thought, so they'd think before they click again something malicious about celebrities.



## Candid SPOOF

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



Jam Lazaro, Arnel Caballes and Keesha Cerezo emcees the JDL Gala night.

### PARALUMAN continued from page 16

As for Pistahan, some people say “Wala naman kay-ong ginawa kundi magparada ng lechon.” (You don't do anything but parade roasted pig.) She says, “ay tinamaan ng lintik, ano pa nga ba ang gagawin namin doon?” (What else are we going to do there?) But seriously, we present cultural dances and other performance to showcase our culture and talent to others. And we deserve to do it there, at Nathan Philips Square.”

Then, they also do fundraising, and with that, “we thank the Luminus Financial Group. The Luminus Financial Group also does remittance for allow rate to Filipinos. We have to fundraise because the centre has lots of activities. Dr. Mario Andres cannot retire because he still helps our fellow Filipinos who need medical attention. We also do tax preparation during tax-season time for our poor kababayans in the community.”

And with that she says, “I thank you for continuing to support FCT.”



Fv Foods will soon be featured on Japanese TV travel. Air in Japan , USA and Toronto. It has been chosen as one of the Best Asia foods destination in Toronto by the TV show.



Kandeys David (FAR LEFT), Bheng Basinang-Mariano poses with Liza Soberano and the Teleserye Princes, Enrique Gil, Xian Lim, Gerald Anderson, Rayver Cruz and Enchong Dee.



Alan Ocampo and Mel Galeon of FV Foods do their Black Friday shopping at Birch Run Outlet mall in Michigan.



Angel Lazaro, daughter of Dr. Mary Grace and Jonathan Lazaro, shows her range to the delight of the guests.



Fienness Mendoza (LEFT) had her album launch last November 21. TOP, Ashley, Samantha Gavin, Sheryl Malanum and Samantha perform at the Fienness Mendoza concert. ABOVE, Li Eron (WHITE PANTS) is the biggest supporter of Fienness who made this happen.



ABOVE LEFT, Britney Waito receives the Best performer of the Year award from JDL's Mark Cuizon Crescini. PHOTO BY BONG MOLANO ABOVE MIDDLE, Kassandra Adajar and Sam Gavin poses with JDL's Josie De Leon. ABOVE RIGHT, BRITNEY'S mom Mercy Lagumbay photobombs JDL's Josie de Leon and her daughter Britney Waito. PHOTO BY BONG MOLANO LEFT, The Waito family pose at the JDL Gala.



Keesha Cerezo looks resplendent in an evening gown during the concert with her group Clique.



JDL's Clique debut concert, Someday, produced by Josie de Leon and Mark Crescini, directed by Belinda Reyes of Black Diamond, entertained the capacity crowd at the Korean Cultural Centre. They are composed of Breanna Ticsay, Vianne Alexa, Keesha Cerezo, Keeana Cerezo, and Jam Lazaro! PHOTO BY BONG MOLANO

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