

How to marry a Filipina

Senate bill seeks tougher rules on foreigners marrying Pinays



*Goodbye Summer,
Hello Christmas*

It's that month of the year when Filipinos mark the start of the Christmas season when everyone ha a spring -ironically - is in every step and the smell happiness is in air and Christmas fills the airwaves.

ABOVE, That smile of Katrina de Veyra is one of the reasons lining up at FV Foods during the Taste of Manila 2015 seem pleasant. LEFT ABOVE, Little Miss Philippines PIDC 2014 Samantha Gavin walks with other beauties at the Taste of Manila parade. LEFT, Dr. Solon Guzman proudly shows off his colors at the Philippine Colleges & University Summerfest. PHOTO BY ARIEL RAMOS • LEFT BELOW, Maria Panaligan sings at the Taste of Manila 2015. PHOTO BY NOLI GUMAPAC

MANILA - Should the Philippine government impose more requirements on foreigners who want to marry Filipino women?

The Family Code currently requires foreigners who want to marry Filipinos to show proof of legal capacity to contract marriage issued by their diplomatic or consular officials.

MARRYING FILIPINA
continued on page 22

Customs to open Door to Door Boxes?

MANILA, Philippines - The Bureau of Customs said it may impose tougher measures on balikbayan boxes for fear that these tax-free packages are being used by traders to smuggle goods into the country.

"The existing rules are obsolete and we may have to reassess our coordination and processes with consolidators for stricter and improved compliance," Customs Commissioner Alberto Lina said.

DOOR TO DOOR
continued on page 21



Harold Guarin of Roadsport Honda poses with colleagues at the Scarborough Ribfest.

PCCF supports ANCOP



Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) showed their support to Answering the Cry of the Poor (ANCOP) by donating \$10,000. In photo, PCCF is represented by their beauty pageant winners Miss Teen Philippines Canada Ansha Joy Hipolito, Little Miss Phil Canada runner-up Kaila Lorey Ventura-Yaras and Miss Philippines Canada Nathalie Ramos.

ACTION MAN



Rafael Nebres (3RD FROM LEFT), Action Honda's manager, poses with JDL's Clique singing group at the Taste of Manila 2015.



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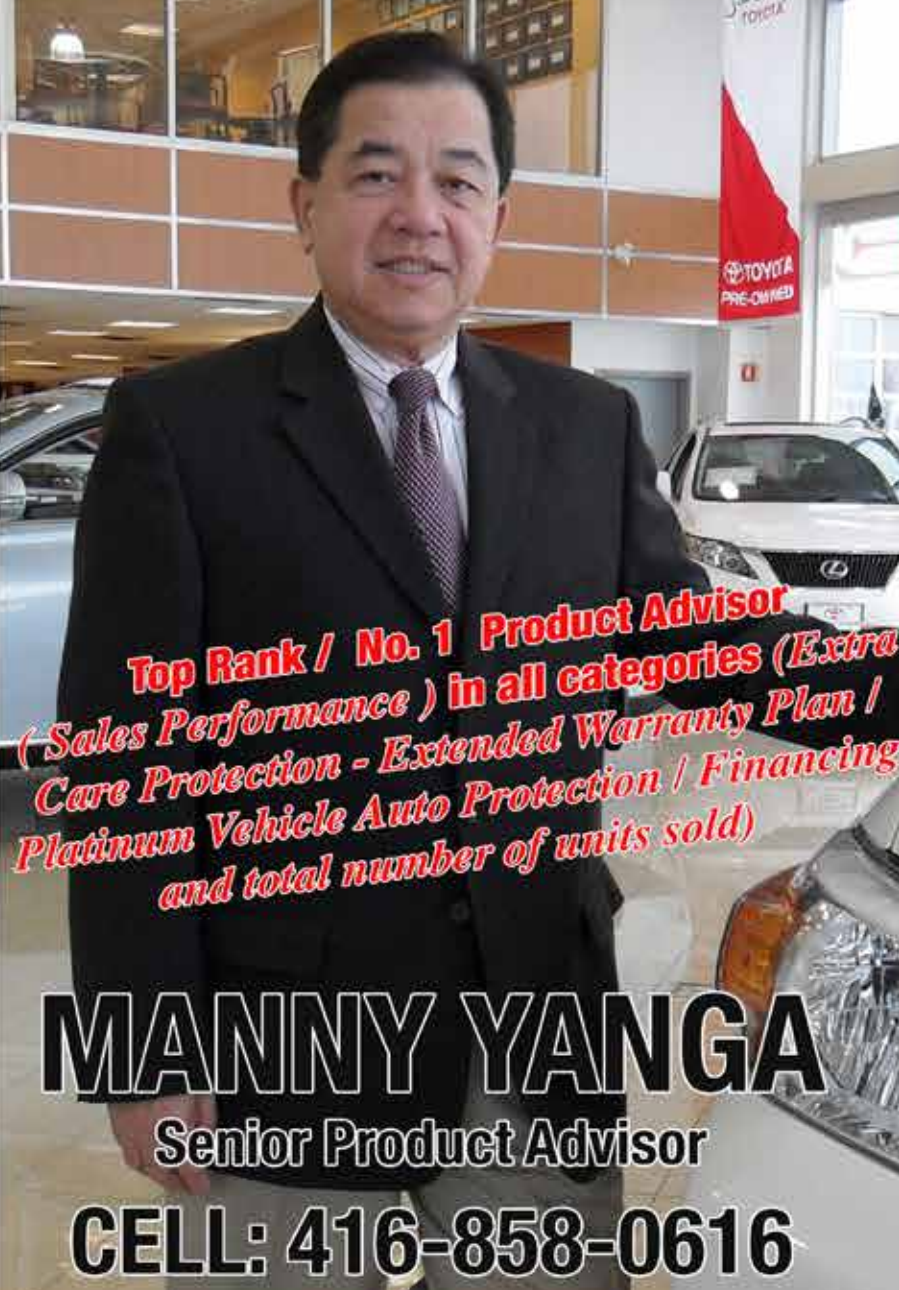


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Provide Decent Jobs

But Conditional Cash program defended by the government

PHILIPPINES - The Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program is a long-term solution to intergenerational poverty.

National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Director General Arsenio Balisacan pointed this out yesterday as he defended before the House Committee on Appropriations the continued implementation of CCT, often called the government dole-out program.

Under the proposed 2016 national budget, the CCT program will be allocated P62.67 billion, up from P62.3 billion in 2015, to benefit 4.6 million household beneficiaries, Budget Secretary Florencio "Butch" Abad told the same House panel chaired by Davao Rep. Isidro Ungab.

At the Development Budget Coordinating Committee (DBCC) briefing on the P3.002-trillion national budget for 2016 before the House Committee on Appropriations, Balisacan justified the scaling up of the CCT program or the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) to cover more beneficiaries, including those in high school and beneficiary families.

However, opposition lawmakers Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, who heads the House Independent Bloc, and House Senior Deputy Minority Leader and Bayan Muna party-list Neri Colmenares maintained that the Aquino

government should instead invest more on providing decent jobs to Filipinos rather than spending billions of pesos for the CCT.

"Let us teach our people how to catch fish and not to continuously depend on government's resources through the CCT. It is the primary duty of the state to ensure that quality and decent jobs are given to Filipinos. The need for livelihood and jobs are the real concerns now and this is a long-term solution to address the widespread poverty," Romualdez, president of the Philippine Constitution Association (Philconsa), said.

LONG-TERM SOLUTION

But Balisacan said the decision to expand to high school aged children was based on research evidence that older Filipino children have lower school attendance rates than younger ones.

"More generally, contrary to allegations that the CCT program is a dole out, I would like to emphasize that the CCT program is actually meant to provide a long-term solution to poverty.

While, admitting that they still have "a lot of ground to cover in improving our people's welfare," Balisacan said they have started to see greater inroads

PROVIDE DECENT JOBS
continued on page 22

50B PRISON NOT NEEDED

MANILA - The Catholic Church's prison ministry is opposing a government plan to build a P50-billion mega prison, stressing that the project is "unnecessary." The CBCP Episcopal Commission on Prison Pastoral Care said there are other more practical solutions to decongest the national penitentiary.

For one, said ECPPC executive secretary Rodolfo Diamante, the project "is not [in] the best interest of the prison community members."

"The ECPPC has long opposed the project on the ground that it is not the solution to the problem of the Bureau of Corrections," Diamante said in a report posted on the CBCP official website.

What is needed, he said, is to improve the existing facilities in seven colonies where inmates of National Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa can be transferred.

"Moreover, there is the law on GCTA (Good Conduct Time Allowance) that if applied would dramatically decongest the jails," Diamante said.

The law, approved by President Benigno Aquino III in May 2013, reduces the prison terms of inmates for good behavior.

"So there's really no need to spend P50 billion on what is believed to be a modern Alcatraz," the priest said.

The new prison facility will rise over the next three years in Nueva Ecija that will house convicts from the NBP.

The supposed state-of-the-art facility will be built on a 500-hectare complex within Fort Magsaysay, the country's largest military reservation.

Daniel vow to kathryn eternal

Sa Rated K, nagpasalamat ang Teen King and Queen Daniel Padilla and Kathryn Bernardo sa mga fans nila na apat na taon ng nakasuporta sa kanila. Sa apat na taon na ito, marami na ring shared memories at discoveries si Kathryn at Daniel tungkol sa isa't isa.

Ayon kay Kathryn, kilala na niya ang "moods at ugali" ni Daniel. Alam na rin niya ang mga paborito nitong pagkain. Sobrang mysterious rin daw ni Daniel pero maalagin at lahat ay tinuturing na family. Ayon naman kay Daniel, mababaw lang at madaling pasayin si Kathryn. "Bigyan mo lang yan ng cotton candy masaya na 'to e."

Marami na rin silang napuntahang lugar na magkasama sila. Ang paborito ni Kathryn ay Los Angeles. Gusto rin nila sa Norway dahil sa magandang scenery at dahil na rin naranasan nilang tumakbo sa yelo.

Nagkwento rin si Kathryn at Daniel kung ano ang mga favorite kilig scenes nila bilang Angelo Buenavista at Yna Macaspac sa teleseryeng Pangako Sa'Yo. Favorite diumano ni Daniel ang mga scenes noong "nagkakailangan sila ni Yna." Si Kathryn naman paborito ang scene kung saan hinarana siya ni Angelo at ng buong Casa Corazon.

Sinabi rin ni Daniel na ang dream date niya with Kathryn ay isang bonfire date sa "shore."

Pangako ni Kathryn kay Daniel na "after ng family ko, malaking part siya ng buhay ko forever." Hindi na raw mawawala ang mga shared memories nila ni Daniel. Si Daniel naman pangako kay Kathryn na, "lagi ako nandito, kahit anong mangyari."



BRIBERY AT BOC?

HIGHER FEES SA CUSTOMS IS THE RESULT OF BRIBERY?

I am confused. A representative of the door to door companies is saying that Customs personnel are asking for bribes to release their containers fast. Now I am confused and shocked. Oh My G.

Totoo ba ito?

I am shocked that there is bribery at Bureau of Customs (BOC). He also says that if Customs increase their container fees too much, kakaunti na lang ang mapupunta sa bulsa nila. Malalaki na at malalalim pa naman ang mga bulsa nila. Naku, siguro walang katapusan ang paghuhulog mo ng barya diyan.

What the facts are ba naman?



President Binay, VP Aquino

Headline reads “Aquino says no as Roxas’ VP.” With good reason. Imagine Roxas and him running for President and VP respectively and Roxas lost and he won as VP. Now comes the nightmare scenario for him - BINAY WINNING AS PRESIDENT. Yikes. Or does he believe that Roxas cannot win as President the reason he turned it down? As the late comedian Dolphy once said, “running for elected office is easy. What if you win?” In this case, if Aquino wins as VP to Binay’s Presidency...you imagine the scenario.

Christmas starts in September

Filipinos have three seasons; wet, dry and Christmas. Christmas for us Filipinos starts in September. it’s when everyone suddenly feel the rush of optimism in the air. I do not know why but it seems there are two events when business also makes money; Christmas and election. Fortunately or unfortunately, depends on how you analyze it, national elections only happens once every 6 years. But then again, there are still the barangay and senate, congress elections. Well, I guess all is not lost.

Customs as Cash Cow for Election

For refusing to raise P3 billion for the campaign kitty of the Liberal Party (LP), John Sevilla was pressured to resign as Bureau of Customs chief by the ruling party, the opposition United

Nationalist Alliance (UNA) said last April. UNA interim president and Navotas City Rep. Tobias Tiangco said the LP pressured Sevilla to resign after the latter refused to make the BOC a milking cow of the ruling party. Now that door to door boxes are now being subjected to scrutiny, it is becoming clear that there might be some truth to the accusation. Now, I read the news that Aquino told the BOC to stop opening boxes but only open those that looks suspicious in x-ray. Hmmm...Customs opening you box does not inspire confidence.

Sabotaging Roxas?

Is Aquino trying to sabotage Roxas campaign for president? I mean, the timing is not good to pull this kind of enforcement. And since Customs is not known for it’s honesty, can you blame OFW’s for crying foul? Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz is trying to have it both ways like Aquino. She says she is against opening of OFW boxes but that she supports Customs in doing their job. Or is Aquino already giving Roxas an excuse for an election that he feels Roxas will lose?

Headline - 4 detained rapists of vice governor’s kin shot dead

Hmmm...this is a very complicated case. I strongly believe this is a case of suicide. What else could it be? They felt remorseful, they asked for a gun from the policemen guarding them and they shot themselves. Case closed.

After proposal to lift term limits, Binay also backs economic Cha-cha



Vice President Jejomar, in his version of the State of the Nation Address (Sona) on Monday, said he supports the proposal to amend the economic provisions of the Constitution.

MANILA - The proposal first floated in the House of Representatives when Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. filed his House Resolution of Both Houses 1, which seeks to add the phrase “unless otherwise provided for by law” in the economic provisions of the Constitution. This means amending the Constitution would only take legislation.

In his Sona delivered at the Cavite State University, Binay said the entry of foreign direct investments (FDI) in the country is hindered by the administration’s opposition to the proposal to amend the economic provisions of the Charter.

“Malaking balakid sa pagpasok ng FDI ang pagtutol ng administrasyon na amyendahan ang mga economic provisions ng Saligang-Batas. Ito ang malaking balakid sa pamumuhunan ng mga dayuhang investors,” Binay said. (The administration’s refusal to amend the economic provisions of the Constitution that prohibits the entry of FDI’s from coming in.)

The Vice President said if the economic provisions of the Constitution were amended, the more foreign investments in the country would open up more employment opportunities for Filipinos.

“Kapag na-amyendahan ang economic provisions, mabubuksan ang public utilities na magreresulta naman sa pagpapabilis ng Public Private Partnerships o PPP, at higit na mabuting serbisyo at pasilidad para sa lahat,” he said. (Once these economic provisions are amended, public utilities will be opened up and will speed up formation of public-private partnerships and much-improved services and facilities for everyone.)

Binay had also floated the idea of amending the Constitution to lift the term limits of officials and allow them to run for multiple terms. Binay later clarified that his “one to sawa” statement was directed to local officials only.

“Itong term na ito ‘di talaga ako naniniwala d’yan. Kailangan one to sawa ‘yan, hangga’t gusto ng tao. Kaya kung meron amendments sa Constitution, ipapaalis ko yung term limitation. Hangga’t maaari, iboto nang iboto,” Binay said before local officials of Bacolod City.

Naia bus scheme a flop?

A public utility bus waits for passengers at Naia 3 on Sunday, Aug. 2, 2015.



MANILA - Out of the 55 public utility buses (PUBs) that were given special permits to extend their routes and pick up commuters from Terminal 3 and 4 of Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia), only about 10 buses had been turning up daily since the scheme started on July 23, officials noted.

David De Castro, spokesman of Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), said it was also observed during the weeklong trial run that only a handful of passengers—sometimes only 10 per bus—had availed themselves of the transport.

“We also noticed that in the afternoon there are hardly any buses coming to Terminal 3. One possible reason is that they are already stuck on Edsa,” De Castro said.

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) earlier issued special permits to 55 buses owned by Sevensky Express Liner Corp., Magiline Express Corp., Mayamy Transport Corp. and Naia Metro Link Bus. It allowed them to pick up and unload passengers at two stops on Domestic Road and Circulo de Mundo.

The special permit allowed the PUBs coming from Roxas Boulevard, which pass through Naia Road, to proceed through Domestic

US LOCATIONS
continued page 26

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DAD'S CONFUSION

"It's the Spring of 1957 and Bobby goes to pick up his date, Peggy Sue. Bobby's a pretty hip guy with his own car and a ducktail hairdo. When he goes to the front door, Peggy Sue's father answers and invites him in.

"Peggy Sue's not ready yet, so why don't you have a seat?" he says.

"That's cool," says Bobby. Peggy Sue's father asks Bobby what they are planning to do. Bobby replies politely that they will probably just go to the malt shop or to a drive-in movie. Peggy Sue's father responds "Why don't you kids go out and screw? I hear all of the kids are doing it."

Naturally this comes as quite a surprise to Bobby and he says "Whaaat?"

"Yeah," says Peggy Sue's father, "Peggy Sue really likes to screw; she'll Screw all night if we let her!"

Bobby's eyes light up and smiles from ear to ear. Immediately, he has revised the plans for the evening.

A few minutes later, Peggy Sue comes downstairs in her little poodle skirt with her saddle shoes and announces that she's ready to go.

Almost breathless with anticipation, Bobby escorts his date out the front door while dad is saying "Have a good evening kids," with a wink for Bobby.

About 20 minutes later, a thoroughly disheveled Peggy Sue rushes back into the house, slams the door behind her and screams at her father:

"DAMNIT DADDY! THE TWIST!!!! IT'S CALLED THE TWIST!!!!!"

Honey Shot



Elha Nympha wins the 'The Voice Kids' Season 2

Banana cue vendor Elha Mae Nympha was declared grand winner of the second season of the talent search "The Voice Kids." The 11-year-old went home with a recording contract from MCA Music Inc., a music instrument package, a family utility vehicle, a house and lot worth P2 million, P1 million cash, and a P1-million trust fund.

Elha said she planned to put up a "banan-acue restaurant" with her cash prize.

Elha's coach, rock singer Bamboo Mañalac explained why he felt emotional when his ward's name was announced. "I saw greatness in her. I was the only coach who turned for her during the blind auditions," he told the Inquirer shortly after the finale held at the Newport Performing Arts Theater of Resorts World Manila.

Elha competed with fellow Team Bamboo singer Reynan Dal-Anay, 11, as well as Esang de Torres, 8, and Sassa Dagdag, 12, of the team of Coach Sarah Geronimo.

In choosing the members of Team Kawayan, Coach Bamboo said: "I just had to bring forward the person who I feel who is ready vocally. We're looking for a star. Someone we can connect," said Bamboo prior to the finale.

Prior to the show, coach Sarah said she felt more relaxed being that none of her singers Kyle Echarri, 10, and Zephania Dimaranan, 12, made it to the finale.

The pop superstar said she already had a favorite but would not tell who.

Coach Lea Salonga, who will be leaving for the United States on Monday, said she would bring her experience with the kids with her wherever she goes. The Tony-Award winner said she would return home in 2016, after a stint on Broadway for the musical "Allegiance."

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Slow Yolanda rehab bad for Mar UN criticizes PHL for slow recovery



MANILA – An official of the Caritas Philippines said the government’s turtle-paced response to the rehabilitation of Yolanda-hit areas will haunt Liberal Party standard bearer Mar Roxas.

Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines News (CBCP News) quoted Caritas Philippines executive secretary Fr. Edu Gariguez as saying that the “dismal” performance of the government in the rebuilding of homes and relocation of survivors will definitely affect the image of President Aquino’s preferred successor.

“This government has nothing to be proud about when it comes to the rehabilitation,” Gariguez said.

Gariguez said President Aquino must back off from using Roxas’ Yolanda credentials if he wants his anointed one to succeed in the 2016 elections.

“They should not use that as part of his (Roxas) credentials because it would be embarrassing on their part,” he said.

United Nations special rapporteur on the human rights Chaloka Beyani earlier said many storm survivors in the central region have had to endure relocating to evacuation camps up to three times since the typhoon struck in 2013, and the sub-standard housing leaves them vulnerable to future typhoons.

“While the government is to be

commended in terms of its immediate responses, its attention to ensuring sustainable durable solutions for IDPs (internally displaced persons) remains inadequate to date,” Beyani said in a statement posted on the UN website.

Aside from falling short of safety standards, the wood-and-tin “bunkhouses” also leave women and girls vulnerable to sexual abuse and early pregnancy, Beyani said.

The box-like shanties also rob the storm survivors of their “privacy and dignity” as they struggle to rebuild their lives, he said.

Haiyan, the most powerful storm ever recorded to hit land, wiped out entire communities and left 7,350 dead or missing when it struck the impoverished central islands in November 2013.

Roughly 2,000 families remain in the bunkhouses as well as in palm-thatch temporary homes, said Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman.

The government aims to move 70 per cent of the 2,000 into permanent concrete homes by year-end, she said.

President Benigno Aquino has budgeted 160 billion pesos (\$3.6 billion) to rebuild after Haiyan, considered as one of the major tests of his six-year term that will end in June next year.

The Philippines is one of the world’s most disaster-prone countries, at risk from earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and an average 20 typhoons yearly.



How Dawn, Richard feel about romantic scenes now

MANILA – Former real-life couple Dawn Zulueta and Richard Gomez no longer get conscious whenever they have romantic scenes together.

Zulueta said she and Gomez have become good friends through the years.

“Pinagtatawanan namin. ‘Yung mga eksena na [may lines na], ‘Mahala pa rin kita.’ Hindi nga? Mga ganun. Pinagtatawanan na lang namin ang mga eksena na sobrang seryoso,” she said. Zulueta said they are very comfortable working with each other that they get to pick on each other while on set.

“Hindi naman kami nag-aasaran pero nagkukulitan kami. Between he and I kasi, walang pikon. Ganun pa rin siya, walang pinagbago. Pareho lang naman kaming playful. Madalas kino-comedy lang namin muna ang eksena,” she explained.

Their team-up has been dubbed in showbiz circles as “the eternal love team of all time,” since it was launched in the ‘90s romantic drama “Hihintayin Kita Sa Langit.” While they now have separate private lives, their team-up has maintained a strong fan base that they reunited in the 2013 series “Walang Hanggan.”

Following the series, Zulueta and Gomez are now set to headline the Star Cinema movie “The Love Affair.”

Asked for the secret to their love team, Zulueta said: “Hindi ko nga alam. Kasi ngayon lang naman parang nabuhay ulit. Nakakatawa nga kasi nung ‘90s naman kami nag-umpisa pero ngayon kasi may bago na kaming fan base, ‘yung mga mas bata. I think sila na ‘yung mga anak ng mga kahenerasyon natin.”

On “The Love Affair,” Zulueta and Gomez play a married couple who are undergoing challenges in their relationship.

PNOY using government funds to prop up Roxas

MANILA – A militant group scored Malacañang for allowing Interior Secretary Manula “Mar” Roxas 2nd and other members of the Cabinet who plan to run in next year’s polls to use their positions and government funds in their “pseudo campaigns.”

“Mar Roxas and Noynoy (President Benigno) Aquino (3rd) are doing the exact same thing that GMA (Gloria Macapagal Arroyo) did in 2004. They are using their position and government resources for early campaigning. That was what happened in Cebu yesterday,” Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr. said in a statement.

Reyes was referring to the officials’ visit to Cebu on Monday, accompanied by

other Cabinet officials who are believed to be running in next year’s senatorial race.

“It is shameless abuse of public funds or partisan political activity. Why in the world was the MMDA (Metro Manila Development Authority) chairman (Francis Tolentino) even in Cebu if he wasn’t running in 2016? None of these officials engaged in early campaigning even have the delicadeza to resign from their appointive positions,” Reyes said.

But Presidential Communications Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. defended the Cabinet officials’ presence in Cebu, explaining that being “alter egos” of the President, it is their duty to “touch base” with the people they serve.

Besides Roxas and Tolentino, those

who accompanied Aquino were Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, PhilHealth director Risa Hontiveros and Health Secretary Janet Garin.

“This unapologetic abuse of power is supposedly what PNoy and his party fought against, but now they are guilty of the very same evils they once condemned,” stressed the Bayan leader.

Roxas tendered his resignation as DILG Secretary but was reportedly persuaded by the President to extend his stint in the cabinet to complete several unfinished tasks, among which are the modernization of the Philippine National Police and the relocation of informal settlers in Metro Manila.

Bribery is the reason for Door to Door Fee increase

MANILA – A freight forwarder has stepped forward and revealed that there was indeed a “tara” or bribery system they adhered to with the Bureau of Customs for the faster processing of balikbayan boxes in ports.

Door to Door Consolidators Association of the Philippines chairman Ramon Ungco confirmed the supposed bribery system.

“Kailangan magbigay ka ng tara kasi kung hindi, hindi aasikasuhin

ang papeles mo,” he said.

According to Ungco, they had to pay corrupt Customs officials around P40,000 to P85,000 for each container that had balikbayan boxes. He said the bribe depended on the size of the shipment.

“Kami naman, lalo na ako, magne-negosyo ako sa Pilipinas alam kong corrupt. Magtatara ako para bumilis lang. ‘Yan lang ang hinahabol namin kasi mga balikbayan yan,” he said.

Customs also recently increased

taxes for containers from the US from P80,000 to P120,000.

“Okay lang sa akin taasan ‘yung tax up to P200,000 puwede kaya lang dapat bawasan niyo ‘yung tara niyo,” Ungco said.

Top Customs officials were not immediately available for comment as of posting time. The Bureau has come under fire from the public over a plan to do random physical inspections of balikbayan boxes. The plan has since been shelved.

Ms. Mahal Mitra-Hudson (seated) , a leading Toronto FilCan leadership & life development coach , was guest at Pinoy Radio’s “Sunday Talk Show with Randy” on August 16, 2015 .Shown L-R are : talk show host Randy Bucao, teacher-guest Mayumi Mitra - Montealto and co-host Tony A. San Juan .Not shown is DJ Ryan Orlanda. (Photo courtesy : M.M. Montealto)



Low remittance weakens Peso

MANILA - The Philippine peso, languishing at a five-year low against the dollar, will lose more ground to the greenback in the coming months as remittances from millions of Filipinos overseas slow and foreign investors rotate out of the Manila stock market.

The Philippines is one of the fastest-growing economy in the region thanks to strong private demand. The peso, unlike many emerging-market currencies in Southeast Asia, has been relatively resilient in the face of volatile capital flows ahead of an eventual rise in U.S. interest rates. While it has weakened more than 2 percent against the greenback so far this year, the decline is less than the falls in the Thai baht, Indonesian rupiah and Malaysian ringgit.

But the sputtering global economy may have at last dealt a blow to remittances - a major economic engine for the Philippines. Remittances in the first five months



of 2015 grew on average 5.4 percent, compared with 6 percent a year earlier. That compared with annual increases of 7 percent in the years after the 2008 global financial crisis. Net foreign selling of Philippine stocks has also surged, weighing on the peso.

“The current account will get smaller via lower remittances and drive the peso weaker, so the fundamentals are changing,” said Sean Yokota, head of Asia Strategy at the Scandinavian bank SEB in Singapore, adding that he expects the peso to lose more than 5 percent of its value against the greenback on a three-month horizon.

If the central bank had not intervened, the peso would have fared worse, said a trader. A central bank gauge showed the peso was the least volatile currency in Southeast Asia as of end-July. The baht, rupiah and ringgit were more than two times more volatile than the peso.

The peso drifted to as low as 45.82 per dollar, the weakest since July 2010. The peso’s fall, however, will benefit exports - another growth engine - and could help the sector bounce back from a 17.4 percent year-on-year drop in May, its steepest in more than three years.

Mark baptized at 21

TV5’S heartthrob Mark Neumann turned 21 years old yesterday, August 23, and he not only celebrated his birthday but also had his christening. Just like Ryzza Mae Dizon and Liza Soberano, Mark



had not really been baptized at all. His late Croatian mother and Pinoy dad didn’t have time to take him to church to welcome him to the Christian World.

Ryzza and Liza also had their own christening recently and Mark now officially follows, with Ogie Alcasid, TV5 entertainment head Wilma Galvante, and entertainment press icons Cristy Fermin and Ricky Lo as his ninongs and ninangs. “It’s my most memorable birthday dahil, finally, nabinyagan na ako!” he says.

He feels he really has a lot to be thankful for. “This year is really a good one for me. What with my launch with Shaira Mae in several ‘Wattpad Presents Stories’ and later, with me playing the title role in the local adaptation of the popular Koreanovela, ‘The Baker King’, that’s been extended up to September. My birthday wish now is ma-try ko naman sanang gumawa ng full length movie. I heard may balak ang TV5 for me at sana matuloy iyon. Meantime, huwag kayong bibitaw sa ‘The Baker King’ dahil marami pang exciting twists and turns in the story until it ends in September.”

Voting machines will be delivered on time

MANILA - THE Commission on Elections (Comelec) is confident that all 93,977 Optical Mark Reader (OMR) machines will have been delivered for inspection and testing even if it has yet to sign a contract with technology provider Smartmatic Corp. Comelec Chairman Andres Bautista on Tuesday said negotiations for the first lot of 23,000 OMRs is ongoing.

“After that we’re looking to issue a notice of award. With respect to the (second lot of) 70,977, the contract negotiations for that would not be as difficult as the first because we have already a template,” Bautista said. Senior Commissioner Robert Chris-

tian Lim said the machines will be delivered in several phases and the last delivery will be on Jan. 16, 2016. For the 23,000 units, the first five machines will be delivered in September, 200 in October, 6,000 in November, 6,000 in December and the rest in January 2016. “For the 70,977 units, we expect the same proportional delivery,” Lim said. He said Smartmatic will be penalized if it fails to meet the delivery deadline.

“We will deduct from their contract the total penalty which is equivalent to one-fourth of 1 percent of the contract price for every day of delay,” Lim explained.

The Comelec’s approved budget contract

for the 23,000 OMR units was P2.5 billion. The contract for the 70,997 OMR machines is P9.7 billion.

Bautista said delivery of the machines should not be delayed so that the commission will have time to test them to ensure that they are in accordance with the required specifications. Also, Comelec field personnel will demonstrate to teachers the use of the machines.

The counting machines will be manufactured in Sho Tzu, China. Some Comelec officials will go to the manufacturing site to inspect the machines, Bautista said.



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PH Internet users ‘paying more’ for slow connection speed – study

MANILA - Internet users in the Philippines are “paying more for less” as the actual speed of their connection has never reached the “advertised speed” by Internet service providers (ISPs), a study showed.

Mary Grace Santos, a research fellow of the LIRNEasia, presented the results of their study during the hearing of the Senate committee on trade on the impact of slow and expensive Internet in the country.

“Based on our study, we tested the basic data plans of the three major ISPs in the Philippines and if you can see here, from 2011, we actually saw deteriorating actual versus advertised speed from 2011 to 2014. That’s not the ideal scenario,” Santos said.

“In terms of value for money, we also saw that we’re actually paying more for

less every year,” she said.

“We actually offered the lowest value for money when we tested all these other ISPs during the first quarter of 2014. So that’s a position that we don’t want to be in because that means Filipino Internet subscribers pay more for less and the actual speed of Internet connection in the country has never reached the advertised speed.”

“Not even once. The highest average actual speed that was attained by an ISP was only 26.65 percent of the advertised speed,” she said. “That means it was always 80 percent lower than the advertised speed and speed performance actually declines for all ISP tested...,” she added. Based on the report, she said the Philippines is third to the lowest in terms of average speed and second lowest in the Asia Pacific in terms of

connection speed.

“In terms of average peak connection speed, 20.3 mbps is what was registered for the PH. As you can see, Singapore is leading with 98.5 , Hong Kong with 92.6 and South Korea at 79 mbps,” she said.

Santos said Internet connection is also “very expensive” in the Philippines, pointing out that the bandwidth in Manila would range from \$25 to \$45 per mbps or it could go up as \$70 in Cebu compared to only \$5 and \$6 in Hong Kong and Australia, respectively.

She cited two main reasons why the Philippines has been lagging behind other nations in terms of Internet connection: First, the lack of government support for Internet infrastructure and the lack of real competition in the telecommunications industry.

Philippines NEWS

PH says can still hit low end of 2015 GDP growth target

MANILA - The Philippines economy can still achieve the lower end of the official 7 to 8 percent growth target this year if the government clears bottlenecks holding up public spending, the economic planning secretary said on Monday.

“The consumption part of the economy is doing well. I hope private investments will do well. I’m hoping that the public spending program had performed better (in the second quarter) than the first quarter. Also expect exports to recover a bit in the second half of the year,” Arsenio Balisacan told reporters.

Growth in the first quarter unexpectedly slowed to a six-year low on a quarter-on-quarter basis, largely due to slow public spending.

P6b lost to traffic Rifles defective daily in 15 years

MANILA - Seantor Paolo Benigno Aquino warned that the country could lose up to P6 billion a day by 2030 if the government fails to address heavy traffic in Metro Manila.

At present, losses due to traffic congestion is estimated at P2.4 billion daily, he said, citing a study by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Aquino filed a resolution recently seeking a review of the country’s roadmap for transport infrastructure development to come up with better ways to address the worsening traffic conditions in Metro Manila.

“Commuters as well as private vehicle owners suffer the monstrous and extremely costly traffic every day in Metro Manila,” Aquino said in his resolution.

The “Roadmap for Transport Infrastructure Development for Metro Manila and Surrounding Areas” was approved Sept. 2, 2014 by the National Economic and Development Authority.

MANILA - The Armed Forces of the Philippines has 50,629 pieces of M4 assault rifles in its arsenal but these are defective and could not be used by government soldiers, a military spokesman said.

The rifles valued at P1.9 billion were supplied by the United States-based Remington Outdoor Company but the company still has to replace the defective weapons, according to Col. Noel Detoyato, AFP public affairs chief.

In August last year, the military handed 27,000 pieces of M-4 rifles to the Philippine Army and Marines in ceremonies attended by President Benigno S. Aquino III at Camp Aguinaldo.

After a technical inspection, the military’s acceptance committee rejected the rifles due to defective sights and barrel grooves, Detoyato said. He did not say when Remington would replace the rifles.

WALLY, A HIT AS LOLA NI DORA AND DUH

WALLY Bayola is no doubt such a big hit as Lola Nidora in “Eat Bulaga’s” Juan for All, All for Juan segment that launched the phenomenal AIDub loveteam in their trendsetting Kalyeserye.

Now, no doubt Wally will gain more admirers with the new character he has introduced in the show, Duhrrizz, nicknamed Duh, who is the granddaughter of Lola Nidora.



Duh is an outrageous pa-sosyal balikbayan character who speaks in English and is fond of dancing the Twerk. With her foreign twang, she pronounces sinigang as sinigong and kangkong as kungkong. She does the Pabebe Tongue, in response to the endearing and now famous Pabebe Wave and Pinky Promise of Alden Richards and Yaya Dub. When introduced to Alden, Duh does her lascivious Pabebe Tongue in her outlandish costume to seduce him, making Alden cringe and nearly wanting to throw up.

Duh quickly became a trending topic in social media and she now has own Twitter account where she shares her plans on how to snatch Alden away from Yaya Dub. Netizens warmly welcomed Duh as the newest addition in their favorite noontime show and Duh will no doubt make the Alden-Yaya Dub saga much more hilariously interesting with her as their ka-love triangle.

Meantime, the Yaya Dub-Frankie wedding last Saturday was an epic failure as it turned out that the pastor who officiated their nuptials was fake and got arrested by the cops who showed up at the venue. Lola Nidora admitted that she just engineered the whole thing and said sorry to Alden, who’s jubilant about what happened.

Dennis talks about INC movie

DENNIS Trillo feels honored to be chosen to play the title role in “Felix Manalo”, the film of the founder of the Iglesia ni Cristo who was born in 1886 and passed away in 1963. “Not everyone is given this rare chance of playing a real life character at talagang nagpapasalamat akong sa akin napunta ito,” he says. “Napakalaking proyekto nito, ginastusan nang husto ang period production design, and I know hindi ako ang first choice sa title role, but I’m thankful na ako pala ang destined to play it. Bale reunion namin ito ni Direk Joel Lamangan, who gave me my first acting awards when I did ‘Aishite Imasu’ playing the role of a transgender.”

So, how did he make himself transform into Felix Manalo? “Mahirap gawin kasi wala namang videos noong araw na puwede mong panoorin para maging peg mo in portraying him. Hindi ka naman basta puedeng mag-improvise on your own kasi baka mali ang interpretation mo. So I really want to thank ‘yung mga ministro ng iglesia, ‘yung mga kapatid na gumabay sa akin sa set habang sinu-shoot namin ito to make sure na hindi ako nalalayo sa totoong Ka Felix. Nagkaroon din ako ng immersion program about the INC before we started shooting at nakatulong din ito nang malaki sa pagganap ko.”

On TV, Dennis is also successful in playing the title role of “My Faithful Husband”. About the story that he and Jennylyn Mercado have really reconciled while taping for their show, Dennis prefers to keep mum. “It’s better to keep things private na lang para hindi na magulo.”

But their action truly speaks louder than words. Just a few days ago, he attended the birthday party of Jen’s love son, Alex Jazz, and he, along with the boy’s real dad, Patrick Garcia, were all a picture of a happy family in photos about the event that came out on social media.



Taste of Manila CEO receives a plaque of Recognition from Senator Tobias Enverga, joined by Finance Minsiter Joe Oliver.

PCCF DONATES \$13,000 TO ANCOP!

TORONTO - Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation or PCCF has once again fulfilled its promise of advocating for Charity by walking for the poor at the ANCOP Walk and donated \$13,000! The monetary donation will build more houses for poor families in the Philippines. PCCF through its advocacy of the community by holding events like the very prestigious Miss Philippines Canada, Little Miss Philippines Canada, Mrs. Philippines Canada, whose finales are being showcased in one of the biggest annual and much awaited indoor community events in Canada, the Pinoy Fiesta and Trade Show sa Toronto. Rosemer Enverga, EVP of PCCF, stated that, "This is just the start of giving back to the community and there will be more announcements to come!"

To-date, the 5th year Anniversary of Pinoy Fiesta and Trade Show sa Toronto,

PCCF has donated over \$66,000 to different worthy causes like the victims of the recent Nepal Earthquake... what an incredible accomplishment for a relatively new organization. ANCOP is one of PCCF's main beneficiaries. ANCOPS's president, Ricky Cuenca, thanked PCCF and reminded everyone that, "Answering the Cry of the Poor (ANCOP) through Faith and Action... the ANCOP Walk is an annual global fundraising event that raises funds for the poor in the Philippines and other third world countries. The donation ANCOP receives will go towards providing shelter, housing and child education programs for the poor living in extreme poverty." The annual walk in Toronto Downtown was attended by different organizations both civic and religious. Prominent among those who participated in the ANCOP Walk were Minister Joe Oliver, Senator

Enverga, PCCF VPs Mario Alpuerto, Gloria & Philip Rafanan, Secretary Lita & Tony Leano, PRO Jojo & Fe Taduran, Finance Danio Penuliar, Business Liaison Chris Jones, Community Liaison, Li Eron and of course, PCCF's Ambassadors Miss Philippines Canada - Nathalie Ramos, Miss Teen Philippines Canada -Ansha Hipolito, Little Miss Philippines Canada runners- up, Jasmine Flores and Kyla Ventura, and Little Mr. Philippines Canada, Edward Jones.

Romy Rafael, President of PCCF indicated, "we would like to thank everyone who supported the events of PCCF, they had fun and were able to help at the same time!"

For more information, volunteer and sponsorship opportunities please visit www.philippinecanadianfoundation.com or find PCCF on facebook.



Derek explains role in controversial movie

DEREK Ramsay is back with ABS-CBN and Star Cinema in the movie "Ex With Benefits" that opens in theaters on September 2. He's paired for the first time with the youthful Coleen Garcia and also works for the first time with the youthful director Gino Santos, who made waves in indie films like "The Animals" and "#Y" in Cinemalaya.

The movie became controversial as Coleen plays Arki, a medical representative who goes to bed with Derek as Adam, a doctor to whom she's promoting her products. Some med reps complained that this paints a bad and cheap picture of them.

"We don't mean to offend anyone," Derek says at the movie's presscon.

"To all med reps, I just want to let you know that I have complete respect for the work you do. Alam kong mahirap ang trabaho nyo at mahirap makuha ang tiwala ng mga doctor. But sana, panoorin nyo muna ang movie before assuming na negative ang image na ipinapakita namin about medreps. When an action movie has a corrupt cop or politician, we don't assume all cops and politicians are corrupt. So watch it first and after you've seen it, I'm sure that you'd have nothing to worry about."

To which, Direk Gino Santos adds: "I hope they watch the film before judging it. I respect all professionals and the hard work they all put into their respective professions. The film is really more about exes than it is about med reps sleeping with doctors. And if they'd watch the film, they will see that. Derek and Coleen here are former sweethearts. After ten years, they meet again. Doctor na si Derek and med rep si Coleen. They realize that they haven't really let go of their feelings for each other. That's what the film is all about, not us maligning med reps."

In a way, they should be thankful to those who complained because they are somehow inadvertently promoting the movie, which got more talked about because of the controversy. "Ex With Benefits" also stars Rayver Cruz, Tirso Cruz III, Carmi Martin, Kitkat, Juan Rodrigo, Jobelle Salvador, Nina Ricci Alagao and Menggie Cobarrubias, written by Jeff Stelton based on a Wattpad Series novel.

PM Harper's' Low-tax, Balanced Budget Plan benefits to all Canadian Families

Conservatives focusing on the family



Today Prime Minister Stephen Harper highlighted how his low-tax, balanced budget plan is providing real, concrete tax relief and enhanced benefits to all Canadian families with children.

"Our Government's plan is anchored by prudent economic management and a commitment to help hard-working Canadian families buy and invest in their homes, cover the costs of child care, save for a child's education, and prepare for retirement," the Prime Minister said. "By controlling spending, balancing the budget, and keeping our debt low, we can provide real help to Canadian parents while fuelling economic growth at the same time."

The Harper Government has provided substantial tax relief in every budget since 2006 and the typical family with children is now receiving tax relief and

increased benefits of up to \$6,600 per year. This includes (but is not limited to):

- Cutting the GST from seven to six to five percent
- Establishing and expanding the Universal Child Care Benefit
- Enacting the Family Tax Cut
- Increasing the annual Child-care Expense Deduction Limit
- Introducing and doubling the Children's Fitness Tax Credit

This tax relief and enhanced benefits is rooted in a foundation of solid fiscal management based on controlling spending, eliminating the deficit, and keeping Canada's debt levels at the lowest level in the G-7 by far. The Department of Finance reported last week that the federal government recorded a \$5 billion budget surplus in the first three months of the current fiscal year.

"As a result of our careful economic and fiscal plan, we're able to let Canadian families keep more of their hard-earned money for their own needs and priorities," the Prime Minister said.

"The budget is balanced, taxes are lower, and benefits for parents are higher. Our plan is working."

Prime Minister Harper pointed out that his Government's hard work to lower taxes and enhance benefits for Canadian parents would be lost if Justin Trudeau's Liberals or Thomas Mulcair's NDP were elected. Both would add billions of dollars in new federal spending, plunging the country back into deficit. And both would take away tax relief and enhanced benefits from Canadian families, and add billions more in new taxes. Neither leader has been up-front about the impact their unsustainable fiscal plans would have on Canadians, meaning that Canadian families face a real and serious financial risk with either Justin's Liberals or Mulcair's NDP.

"Justin's ongoing deficits and higher taxes would hurt Canadian families. And Canadian families just can't afford Thomas Mulcair and the NDP," noted the Prime Minister. "The choice is clear: only the Conservative Government can be trusted to keep the budget balanced and keep taxes low and benefits in place for all Canadian families."

Filipino madam in UK sex probe

Late former PM Edward Heath being investigated



Myra Ling-Ling Forde ran a brothel close to the late Sir Edward Heath's residence in Salisbury.

SAN FRANCISCO — A Filipino prostitute, who ran a brothel close to the late Prime Minister's former home in Salisbury, U.K., has emerged as a central figure in the police probe into the late Prime Minister Edward Heath's alleged sexual abuse of children.

Myra Ling-Ling Forde, 67, twice jailed for prostitution, operated as a madam out of home in the Wiltshire town where Heath lived after leaving office.

In the early 1990s she allegedly had charges against her dropped after threatening to expose Heath as a pedophile, according to a report by the Telegraph.

Heath headed the Conservative government between 1970 and 1974 and never married. He died in 2005 at 89.

He is now among the targets of Scotland Yard's "Operation Midland," an investigation into an alleged VIP pedophile ring that operated in the 1970s and 1980s.

Allegations against Heath, including claims that he raped a 12-year-old boy in London in the 1960s, are now being investigated by the Metropolitan Police.

A retired senior detective last year alleged that police quietly dropped a prosecution of Forde in order to protect the reputation of the former Tory leader. An Independent Police Complaints (IPCC) is now investigating the allegation involving Forde. Wiltshire Police have also appealed to possible victims of Heath to come forward.

Despite her alleged threats against Heath to avoid prosecution in the early 1990s, Forde was successfully convicted in 1995 of running a brothel full of underage girls, often runaways or wards picked up from the care system.

Forde became a prostitute herself in the early 1990s after falling behind on her mortgage but she denied recruiting children. After getting out of prison, she returned to the trade and was again arrested in 2009 on suspicion of running a brothel.

She pleaded guilty, was sentenced to five years in prison and ordered to pay back £25,000 under the Proceeds of Crime Act. Forde's sister, Mia Pablico, said she did not know where she was now living, but knew what Forde did in Salisbury and said her sister "knew a lot of politicians and celebrities because of it."



The late Conservative U.K. Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath.



Max Collins and Sef Cadayona

Max Collins and the challenge of comedy

She may be part of the comedy gag show "Bubble Gang" but 22-year-old Max Collins insists making people laugh as a job remains a big challenge for her.

Collins revealed she's not the funny type. However she knows she has to bring her comedy A game, especially after being cast as the leading lady of comedian Sef Cadayona in "Juan Tamad."

"Noong una nailang ako kasi 'yung character niya (Sef) laging naka-nganga, naka-titig sa akin na parang scary, hindi ako sanay. Although matagal na kaming magkaibigan, iba pa rin kasi kapag tala-gang eksena na," Collins said.

She maintained, "Ang galing ni Sef na humirit. Minsan, natatawa na lang ako bigla. So, nahirapan talaga ako kasi hindi ako sanay sa proseso niya as an actor."

Believing her forte to be drama, she said, "Hindi talaga ako nakakatawa kaya siya talaga 'yung nagdadala nung mga eksena namin. Feeling ko sa drama pa rin ako mapupunta sa future."

She added, "Sumasayaw lang naman po ako, di ba? Nag-ko-comment lang pero hindi po talaga ako 'yung nagbibitaw ng jokes." What she likes about doing a comedy is the light atmosphere on set.

"Ang kagandahan sa comedy is that hindi di siya mabigat emotionally. Your bonding is more on a friendship bonding; like kami ni Sef, lahat kami dito friends," she said.

"Sa set po namin masaya lahat ng katrabaho, magaan at marami po akong natutunan sa kanila. Iba 'yung comedy na ito eh, matalino 'yung comedy na ito. At tsaka silang lahat, ang galing nilang mag-adlib."

Juan Tamad is back

The name "Juan Tamad" commonly refers to a negative trait of Filipinos. However, instead of focusing on this shortcoming, the show hopes to impart good values to its young audience. Add to this, the kids will enjoy Max and Def's funny tandem.

"I think sobrang magugustuhan ng mga bata 'yung show kasi nakakatawa siya and may lessons naman lahat ng episodes at lalo na po dahil first love team ni Sef ito, so I'm honored to be his first love team (partner)," Collins said.

Joey Albert battling cancer again

VANCOUVER, Canada – OPM legend and now Filipino Canadian singer Joey Albert has confirmed her battle with cancer again. Despite this, Albert beamed with pride for daughter Trixie Pacis, who was at an awarding ceremony at Consulate in Vancouver.

Filipino-Canadian Pacis was part of the Philippine women's rugby team that won bronze at the recent SEA Games in Singapore. For mom and daughter, celebrating the moment meant much more ever since Albert was diagnosed with cancer again.

"You have to see these little things as the most important things in life. So, time is the most important thing in life. Not money, not career. Time talaga," Albert said.

Her daughter said, "My parents definitely tried to keep us away from the hospital... all those negative experiences that we could have been exposed to. But this time, we've been with her through everything." The singer said she was diagnosed with colorectal cancer early this year and underwent surgery

last month. This is her third bout with the illness after battling cervical and colon cancer in 2003.

She is currently going through chemo therapy.

"I really thought that the last time was the last na. But I do try to keep positive because I feel that it's really the best medicine. I think that if I lend myself to all these fears, I'll slip," she said. Friends and fans got a glimpse of her ongoing battle as she shares part of it on Facebook. While some go through their fight privately, Albert insists to do otherwise.

"I share this journey with people, first of all because I need prayers. I'm not gonna pretend that I don't need help because I do. I feel that if I share my journey with people, there might be other people who are going through the same thing and I'm going to inspire them. Para naman may purpose yung pagkaka-sakit ko di ba?" she said.

The singer will be slowing down but she is thankful for the gift of extended time.

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Invitation to all devotees of The Virgin of Penafrancia Fluvial Parade

By : Paeng Nebres (BCCA President)

On September 19, 2015 (Saturday) is the Feast Day of our Lady of Penafrancia, the Patroness of the Bicol Region in the Philippines. The Devotees of the Virgin of Penafrancia of the Bicol Canada Community Association (BCCA) together with the Organizers of the 9 Day House to House Novena are hosting the celebration beginning with the traditional Fluvial Parade at the Bluffers Park Lake at Brimley Rd. in Scarborough, Ontario (by the Lake) and an evening Mass Celebration at the Our Lady of Assumption Church at 2565 Bathurst St. , Toronto.

**DETAILS OF THE FEAST DAY CELEBRATION :
SEPTEMBER 19, 2015 SATURDAY**

MORNING CELEBRATION AT THE BLUFFERS PARK & MARINA at Brimley Rd. South (by the Lake)
8:30 AM – Assembly for the procession of the Virgin to the Dock at the Bluffers Park Marina where the Fluvial Parade will start. (Eastside of the Bluffers Park Marina)
9:30 AM - PROCESSION TO THE DOCK STARTS
10:00 TO 11:30 AM FLUVIAL PARADE ON THE LAKE

Devotions will be celebrated at the park after the Fluvial Parade. Pot Luck lunch (picnic) at the Park will follow after the Devotions.

EVENING CELEBRATION AT THE LADY OF ASSUMPTION CHURCH at 2565 Bathurst St. Toronto.
6:45 PM Starts with a procession of the Virgin of Penafrancia around the church yard.
7:10 PM Con-Celebrated Holy Mass with the Our Lady of Penafrancia Choir
After the Holy Mass a Fiesta/Celebration will follow at the Church Hall. Kumustahan, Karakanan, Baraylihan asin Kaogmahan sa Kapistahan para “ Viva La Virgen “.

For more information :
Bobby and Lorna Achacon Tel # 416 265- 2085
Felix and Mayette Reyes Tel # 905 896-4958
Toti and Naty Gutierrez Tel # 416 751-9437
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CARMI REMAINS SINGLE AT 52



CARMI Martin turned 52 last August 9 but the way she has maintained her curvaceous figure and unblemished skin, you'd think she's at least 20 years younger. At her age, she remains unattached and she says she has stopped looking for Mr. Right. "Sinubukan ko rin namang umibig pero lagi akong natatapat kay Mr. Wrong, so I've reached a point na accepted ko nang I will just be by myself," she says. "You can be happy naman kahit nag-iisa ka lang at walang katuwang sa buhay. I'm taking care doon sa isang kapatid kong may sakit na galing abroad.

Akong nag-aalaga sa kanya. Ayoko namang magkaanak out of wedlock.

Personal decision ko to be single at pangangatawanan ko ito. May alaga rin akong mga aso so happy naman ako, lalo't tuloy-tuloy rin ang careers ko bilang artista and interior designer."

She's glad to be part of the cast of the new version of "Marimar" that now airs after "24 Oras". "After playing contravida roles in a lot of soaps, I'm glad na hindi naman ako villain dito. Mabait ako at ako yung wealthy socialite na magiging kaibigan ni Megan Young as Marimar.

Ako ang tutulong sa kanya para bigyan siya ng make-over at mabalikan niya yung mga nang-aapi sa kanya. Aside from this, tuloy-tuloy rin ang role ko sa sitcom ni Ryan Agoncillo na 'Ismol Family', kunsaan nagko-comedy naman ako. Nakakatuwa kasi iisa ang director namin in both 'Marimar' and 'Ismol Family', si Direk Dominic Zapata, na versatile talaga kaya kahit comedy man o drama ang ginagawa niya, always very effective siya."

On the big screen, Carmi has just finished the movie "Ex With Benefits" for Star Cinema-Viva, playing the role of Coleen Garcia's lady boss.

Filipinos for Parliament

Four Fantastic FilCans are Member of Parliament Candidates in Canada's Political Derby By : Tony A. San Juan, OCT



"Pinoy kami..... I am a Filipino !". With this proud mantra, for the first time in Canada's political history , 4 Filipino Canadians from Canada's East and West coasts are currently running for elected positions in Canada's Parliament this coming October 2015 Federal election.

Engagingly hoping to follow the "footsteps" of Dr. Rey D. Pagtakhan, the first Filipino Canadian elected Liberal MP for Winnipeg, Manitoba from 1989-2001, the 4 fellow kababayans who are official candidates for Member of Parliament : Julius Tiangson of Mississauga Centre, Ontario, Francisco "Jojo" Quimpo of Vancouver-Kingsway, British Columbia, Mario Jacinto Rimbao of Mount Royal, Montreal, Quebec, and Levy Abad , Jr. of Winnipeg North, Manitoba . The first two are running under the Progressive Conservative (PC) while the other 2 are candidates of the New Democratic Party (NDP). "At para sa kaalaman ng lahat", it's paramount to know well this "fantastic four" and here's a profile of each of the courageous political candidates:

Julius Tiangson, a Conservative MP Candidate in Mississauga Centre, Ontario, came to Canada from Davao in 1985 via a job-exchange program, settling first in Saskatoon and then moving with his family to Toronto in 2000. Married to Nona Lee Molina , they have 3 children. An avid golfer and financial advisor, he is a practicing Christian and a former church pastor.

Thrilled to have a cross section of multi-cultural supporters and volunteers especially his kababayang mga Filipino, Julius is "looking forward to serve you and be your voice in Ottawa".

Running for Conservative MP in Vancouver-Kingsway, B.C., Francisco Quimpo, during his acclamation in October, 2014, declared : "Kaya natin ito". A senior PC government, in a press release, said of Quimpo : "We are passing the torch to another generation of leadership. With bright dreams , he

came to Canada with no guarantees and left the Philippines when he was in his fourth year of law school, but he worked hard, went back to school, became a qualified paralegal and had become an amazing community leader."

Affectionately called "Jojo", he is "the Filipino-Canadian immigrant feel-good story – where hard work, determination, living within one's means, and dedication to community results in resolve and leadership."

Quimpo got noticed, receiving federal and community recognition, and joining Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Canada's Trade mission to Asia in 2012. He also uses his talent as a singer and performer, to help raise money for worthy causes and for calamity relief. With a genuine understanding of the Canadian immigrant, and a strong commitment to community and family, Jojo is ready to be Vancouverites' representative in Parliament.



Mario Jacinto Rimbao was acclaimed by his riding association as the NDP MP Candidate in Mount Royal. Born in Montreal to Filipino practicing medical technologist -and- nurse parents, lives in Brossard with his wife Roanne, a registered nurse, and their year-old daughter Alyanne. He was raised in Cote des Neiges, on Dupuis and later in NDG, on Fielding in Quebec.

Levy Abad, Jr., a former Toronto resident, immigrated to Canada in 2006. As the NDP candidate in Winnipeg North, Manitoba Abad said "that experience and the desire to help new Canadians is his main reason for seeking election, as he knows the challenges of coming to a new country". At 47 years old, Abad has a wife and 2 kids and is currently on leave from his job as a Multicultural Outreach Officer in the provincial government.

In addition to helping new Canadians, Abad is concerned with old age security, particularly the federal government's increase of the retirement age from 65 to 67. He said he would like to see the processing fees for Canadian citizenship application lowered.

MANILA - About 70 million Filipinos or nearly 70 percent of the population are still not digitally connected.

This was bared during the DigitalBayanihan milestone update program of Intel

Philippines at the Asian Institute of Management.

"While we see an increased adoption of digital devices in Southeast Asia and in the Philippines, there is still a growing gap in digital skills that needs to be addressed in order to fully take advantage of the benefits of the digital age," said Prakash Mallya, Intel Southeast Asia managing director.

"If the 70 million unreached Filipinos can be digitally connected, they can change the landscape of the Philippines," Mallya said.

In Southeast Asia, there are 374 million people who are not yet digitally connected, said Mallya, citing data from Intel.

He said Intel is promoting digital connectivity to provide access and form a more productive Philippine society.

"We introduced DigiBayanihan to promote digital inclusiveness in the country and empower Filipinos with access to digital skills training and devices," he said.

Launched in September 2015, DigiBayanihan is Intel Philippines' initiative that seeks to promote digital literacy through training, volunteerism and providing access to affordable technology.

For Intel Philippine country manager Calum Christolm, the DigiBayanihan is a journey for everyone.

"Every journey has a destination. Our destination is to close the digital divide, i.e., for everyone to be included in the Philippines. That is our shared goal," Christolm said.

"DigiBayanihan is all about digital inclusiveness for everybody. All Filipinos should be included in digital literacy. It is also improving their connectivity. Their basic accessibility is an empowerment and development," he added.

Partnering with organizations like Asia Society for Social Improvement and Sustainable Transformation (ASSIST), National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO), Philippine Society of IT Educators (PSITE), and Technical Vocational Schools and Associations of the Philippines (TEVSAPHIL), Intel Philippines seeks to level up the program beyond the basic digital literacy skills.



Yolanda funds as Election money?

Delays in releasing the funds causes suspicion



MANILA - Aan official from the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines expressed alarm over the possible use of the government’s Typhoon Yolanda funds in next year’s elections.

NASSA/Caritas Philippines Executive Secretary Edwin Gariguez expressed this view following recent studies supposedly showing the Aquino administration’s prolonged delays in releasing the funds under its Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan for Super Typhoon Yolanda. “The problem here is that 2016 is fast approaching,” Gariguez said.

“When are they going to release the

funds? Are they waiting to release it until 2016? What is sad is they may be waiting for 2016 before they release the funds. That’s not good. They may be waiting for 2016 so they could give away this big money. That should not happen.”

Gariguez made his statement even as the Department of Budget and Management said the releases of money for the rehabilitation of the areas devastated by Yolanda were made as urgently as possible, and that former Senator Panfilo Lacson’s basis on the slow releases was wrong. The agency said Lacson’s allegations on the slow Yolanda releases were untrue and based on incorrect data. Lacson was the head of the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Rehabilitation and Recovery until he resigned in December 2014.

“Lacson’s points do not give an accurate picture of the government’s efforts to help the Yolanda survivors. Not only that—his claims are based on erroneous information,” Budget Secretary Florencio Abad said.

Lacson claimed that the P80-billion requirement for the Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program was not included in the 2014

budget. Gariguez also cited the lack of transparency on how the funds for Yolanda were used.

A report from the Department of Budget and Management apparently showed that the budget for the Yolanda reconstruction was shared with other rehabilitation efforts for other calamities such as the Bohol earthquake.

“This is another cause for concern. Why do they have to mix up the funds for the rehabilitation efforts of different calamities? This is a clear disregard of basic accounting principles. Again, this clearly shows the government’s super inefficiency,” Gariguez said.

The priest also raised alarm over the indebtedness incurred by the government as the “financial requirements of the rehabilitation have become the government’s pretext in accessing loan obligations with multilateral financial institutions.”

So far, the government has incurred a total of P126.2 billion i9n debts.

“These are the issues that we wanted President Aquino to clarify during his last State of the Nation Address. Unfortunately, this did not happen,” Gariguez said.



Coleen Garcia says BF got jealous over sexy scenes

As part of Star Cinema’s sexy romance Ex With Benefits, Coleen Garcia admitted she was surprised by the backlash the movie’s initial trailer received from the med rep community. In the film, Coleen plays a med rep named Arkisha who must gain approval from a doctor named Adam (played by Derek Ramsay) whom she had a romance with a decade ago. “I’m the one who plays the med rep so ako yung mga mine-memorize ko pa ang na lines sobrang hirap na, paano pa kaya sila yung mga inaaral nila? So it’s really a hard profession and I have respect for med reps. I understand why they got offended but yung sa akin lang I just hope that they give the movie a chance and I hope that they help us prove to them that it’s not about that. The focus of the movie is really not about the relationship between a doctor and a med rep. It’s about two exes who have found each other again after ten years, kung anong mangyayari sa story nila. It’s about the history that they had which they had long before they became a doctor and a med rep. Nagkataon na yun yung profession nila,” she explained during the Ex With Benefits grand presscon held last August 22 inside ABS-CBN.

The 23-year-old actress also shared how she felt about the many daring scenes she and Derek had in the film. “It’s scary in a way. I’m very, very nervous but at the same time I’m excited. I think the strongest emotion is still the excitement. I’m really looking forward to it pero kabado pa rin, hindi talaga mawawala yun. I think na mawawala lang yun after the premiere night. I didn’t go topless pero kita yung buong likod ko pero wala namang kita sa mga private parts ko,” she shared.

Even though she admitted that her boyfriend Billy Crawford initially got jealous when he first heard about the project, Coleen said he understands it is just work. “Before I even accepted the role sinabi ko na, hindi sa pagpapaalam pero sinabi ko that I’m going to be doing this and everything. He’s been very understanding. Yung pa-cute na seloso lang, hindi yung nakakatakot (laughs). As far as preparation goes for those scenes, actually parang pinag-usapan naming tatlo ni direk Gino (Santos) and ni Derek, we we’re very collaborative with everything. I really appreciated that na tinatanong kami kung anong gagawin. It helped us in a way kasi we got to work around what we were comfortable with. We talked about it so much na kailangan one take talaga. Kailangan todo bigay na talaga para hindi na kami aabot sa take two and true enough hindi kami umaabot sa take two sa mga scenes na yun. I guess the key is to prepare less but to discuss about it more,” she explained.

Philippines

NEWS

US vows to keep China Sea open

WASHINGTON will not tolerate any navigation restrictions in the South China Sea, US Secretary of State John Kerry said Thursday at a regional security meeting dominated by tensions over Beijing’s island building.

“Let me be clear: The United States will not accept restrictions on freedom of navigation and overflight, or other lawful uses of the sea. These are intrinsic rights that we all share,” he said according to a transcript of his remarks.

Bilateral meeting. US Secretary of State John Kerry and Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario stand

together before a bilateral meeting in Kuala Lumpur on Aug. 6. AFP

Kerry made his comments at a security meeting hosted by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Kuala Lumpur.

China has sparked alarm by expanding tiny reefs and constructing military posts, steps viewed by some of its neighbors as violating a regional pledge against provocative actions in the area.

The long simmering dispute has flared at the Malaysia meet, attended by members of the 10-nation regional grouping as well as more than a dozen others including China, Japan, South Korea and the US.

The US and Southeast Asian nations have called for Beijing to halt both reclamation in the South China Sea and construction on reefs, something Beijing has staunchly resisted.

“I have urged all claimants to make a joint commitment to halt further land reclamation and construction of new

facilities or militarization on disputed features,” Kerry told delegates, arguing such a step would “lower tensions”.

ASEAN members were at loggerheads Thursday over how hard to press China on its contentious efforts to assert control over the South China Sea, with the issue threatening to fray regional unity.

Diplomatic sources said the Philippines and Vietnam in particular were pushing for stronger language on Chinese land reclamation, which could help shore up Beijing’s disputed territorial claims.

But there was pushback from traditional China allies among the ASEAN.

“China’s friends are taking a hard stance,” said one diplomat familiar with the drafting.

The diplomat did not specify which countries were taking a hard line, but Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar traditionally ally with China within ASEAN.



PIDC Fashion Show

Philippine Independence Day Council presents a fashion show by Renee Salud. PHOTO BY FLORO VIRTUCIO



Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation or PCCF has once again fulfilled its promise of advocating for Charity by walking for the poor at the ANCOP Walk and donated \$13,000!



The Virgin of Penafrancia Fluvial Parade in Toronto is on September 19. See details on page 11.



Kapamilya star Jericho Rosales poses with singer Maria Panaligan.



FV Foods' Mel Galeon poses with his inaanak.



Joy Sarmiento (2ND FROM LEFT) of Pinoy News tries her hand in the food business at Taste of Manila.



Marissa Andrada (FAR LEFT) and daughter Edessa (FAR RIGHT) poses with friends at Taste of Manila.



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HONDA



Love is Lovelier

The Second Time Around

Camille & William Berry

**Got married last June 6, 2015 4:00 P.M.
@ A Garden Wedding @ Annandale Golf Club
attended by 170 guest from all over the places**



Meeting in the House of God is a sign that this is a match made in heaven. You knew that this union is blessed and can only end in marriage. Camille Duque, widowed for 6 years and William Berry, divorced for many years had a lovely garden wedding at Annandale Golf Club surrounded by 170 guests compose of families and friends.

They got engaged two and half years ago. Since then, they have never been apart. Camille was given away by his 2 sons Paolo Roman and Patrick Ryan Duque. Theirs will be a union of families. William has 2 grown-up children of his own, Kevin and Chennelle Matheson as well as 2 lovely grandchildren Kade William and Beckett Xavier who was their ringbearer and coin bearer at their wedding respectively.

May God Bless them with happiness and good health.







Mom Shirley, daughter Trisha, celebrant Kevin, brother Justin and father Noel enjoy the night's celebration at Qssis.

Jed Kevin Perada's Birthday

Jed Kevin Perada celebrated his 21st birthday with family, classmates, and friends at Qssis on Aug. 23, 2015. Kevin is the first child of Noel and Shirley Perada; other siblings are Trisha, and Justin. PHOTOS BY ARIEL RAMOS



Scenes in the City



Maureen Harquail opened her campaign office for the riding of Don Valley East on Aug. 16, 2015. Minister of Finance Joe Oliver was the guest speaker; members of the PPCO (Philippine PRESS CLUB Ontario) were invited at this grand opening; Senator Tobias Enverga Jr. was also a participant during the ribbon cutting.



Dr. Solon Guzman beams with pride at the Philippine Colleges and Universities Alumni Association Summerfest.



Jerry Rodulfa and his fellow cyclists takes part in the parade at Taste of Manila.



Harold Guarin (FAR LEFT) and colleagues pose at the Scarborough Ribfest in front of their cars for sale and / or lease



Action Honda's Rafael Nebres takes a rest with the young staff of Pinoy Radio and Miss Manila runner-up.



Photo shows Anna Carina Eusebio (ex Sarmientotreme right), manager of UMAC during the Philippine Community and Cultural Centre (Philcomcen) "Taste of Manila" Street Festival which was held on August 22-23, 2015 at Bathurst Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada together with Maria Sarmiento, her son Zari Sarmiento and husband Reden Sarmiento. Ms. Eusebio revealed that UMAC delivers with love. (St. Jamestown News Service, Dindo Orbeso)



Lucy Lagman (LEFT) enjoys the festival with a friend.

Senator Enverga joins Taste of Manila Festival

Toronto, Ontario, August 22, 2015 – The Honourable Tobias C. Enverga Jr., Senator from Ontario, joined colleagues from the Government of Canada, including Finance Minister Joe Oliver and Member of Parliament John Carmichael, representatives from the Government of Ontario led by Premiere Kathleen Wynne, and representatives from the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, led by



Ambassador Petronila Garcia and Consul General Rosalita Prospero, for the opening ceremonies of the Taste of Manila Festival, held at the Bathurst and Wilson area. Rolando Mangante, CEO and Chairman of the Philippine Cultural Community Centre (PCCC), who had extended the invitation to Senator Enverga and his colleagues, thanked the Senator for gracing the opening ceremonies, saying that his presence was “a sign of solidarity with and support of the Filipino-Canadian community in Ontario.”

Bringing warmest wishes from the Senate of Canada, Senator Enverga encouraged everyone to work in the spirit of collaboration to further the interests of the Filipino-Canadian community not only in Ontario, but the whole of Canada. He said that regardless of one’s political affiliation, community activities like the Taste of Manila Festival deserve everyone’s support.

For his part, Minister Oliver spoke about how the Filipino-Canadian community has grown over the past ten years, making positive contributions to each and every field of human endeavour. He noted that the Philippines was again the number one source of landed immigrants to Canada, surpassing China and India for a second time. This, he said, was recognition of how much Canada values hard-working Filipinos who chose Canada to be their new home. Under the strong leadership of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, it is projected that the number of Filipino-Canadians will reach more than a million by 2020.

Senator Enverga was likewise delighted to have met Rick Dumlao, a Filipino-Canadian veteran of the Afghanistan War. Mr. Dumlao was responsible for greeting guests and dignitaries, and had graciously led and escorted Senator Enverga, Minister Oliver and their colleagues to and through the parade route.

Senator Enverga also congratulated and thanked Mr. Mangante and his organization for the kind invitation and hospitality, and said that he looks forward to supporting them again for a bigger and better Taste of Manila next year.

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PIDC 2015 Mabuhay Cup Basketball Hoops Tourney Slam- Dunks



Mayor John Tory makes the ceremonial toss with NBA LA lakers player Jordan Clarkson.

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

Yeaah! It was a summer slum dunk for basketbol aficionados The 2015 Mabuhay Cup Basketball Tournament opened and closed to a smashing sporting show on July 31 and August 1 & 2, 2015. The event was engagingly conducted by the 20- year Philippine Independence Day Council- PIDC, and led by president Norma Carpio and as well, assisted by the umbrella organization’s executive officers, directors and council leaders.

With over 500 players, parents, coaches, and participants, the 12th annual summer competition was held at Downsview Park’s HoopDome, North York, Ontario with en-

viable success. The summer event was graced by Toronto Mayor John Tory, WFG president Agnes Miranda, Liberal MP York Centre Candidate Michael Levitt, Mabuhay Cup founder Ramon Fermin, community leader Michele Serrano and TV young actress Nicole Samantha Huff.

The tourney, participated in by 18 basketball clubs, namely: Angels, Bayan, Bayanihan,

Ckatt, Crossover, Durham, Filact, Gladiators, Jayhawks, Lapsley, Liland Ins., Maharlika, NYPAA, Ottawa, PBA Hamilton, PhilCan, Red Warriors and SMC. In four courts, the teams played competitively in 8 categories comprised of Mosquito, Tykes, Peewee, Junior Girls, Bantam, Midget, Juvenile and Open divisions.

Together with PIDC senior officers & directors, the Tournament Organizing Committee is composed of chair Vilma Tahsin and vice-chairs Manny Villamor, Vilma Villamor, Roger Tarca and Bob San Juan with the AdHoc support of Minda Neri, Susan Llanera and Aurora Ticzon-Elefano.

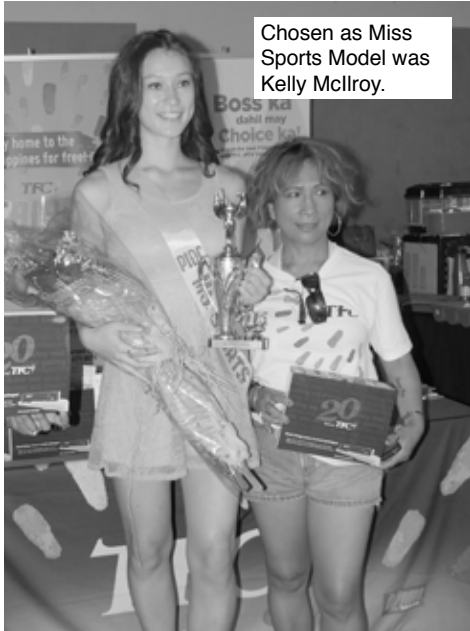
Highlighting the formal opening program was the presentation and selection of 6 beauty candidates for Miss PIDC Sports Model 2015, namely: Rema Balouch, Lara Capistrano, Kelly McIlroy, Alyana Ruiz, Marina Saleeb and Chiara Silo. Chosen as Miss Sports Model was Kelly McIlroy of the Gladiators team and runner-up was Marina Saleeb of Team Angels. K. McIlroy was crowned by Jurice Encarnacion, Miss Sports Model 2014 and Conida Marie Halley, reigning Miss Philippines PIDC. The Panel of Judges was composed of actor-singer Scott Dion Brown, singer-real estate broker Jenifer Camacho, restaurant manager Billy Diso, business executive Agnes Miranda, singer-beauty queen Raina Resplandor and registered nurse Arcilen Tejano.

The 3-day competition started with the ceremonial toss conducted by Mayor John Tory and NBA LA Lakers player Jordan Clarkson, assisted by Norma Carpio, Michael Levitt and Ramon Fermin. Games director Manny Villamor, after leading the Oath of Sportsmanship, declared the tournament open. J. Clarkson, a FilAmerican who posed for kodakan and signed autographs, came as a special guest by Clyde Pacis of Toronto Max’s Restaurant.

Gamely hosted by EVP Karen Pascual-Binaday as MC and Susan SJ Llanera as pageant presenter, the 1-hour program included singing of the Canadian and Philippine national anthems by Scott Dion Brown and Alexandra Manalo, respectively, and a welcome speech by Norma Carpio. Pageant coordinators were A. Ticzon-Ele-

fano and S. Llanera, assisted by DJ Jason Williams and photographer Dennis Javinal. P.C. Kevin Maranan and 9 Auxiliary officers from the Police Services community task force provided venue security.

Expressing her profound gratitude on behalf of PIDC, prexy N. Carpio acknowledged the generous contributions of the tournament major sponsors : Agnes Miranda of World Financial Group, Bank of Montreal, Filipino Renal Nurses Association of Ontario (FRNAO) and Dr. Victoria Santiago; prize donors Golden Care-Scarborough & Jenifer Camacho and thanked all the volunteers, parents, players, coaches, games officials, organizing committee and the entire PIDC pamilya for a job well done. (T. San Juan).



Chosen as Miss Sports Model was Kelly McIlroy.

Marimar aims for global audience

+ other stories



The pressure that comes with working on “Marimar,” Megan Young admitted, is comparable to what she felt when she joined the Miss World pageant, which she won in 2013.

“Acting is my job, passion and life. This show is huge and important to me; it holds the same weight [as being a beauty titlist]. But I’m more excited than nervous,” she told reporters at a recent press conference for GMA 7’s second remake of the popular Mexican soap, which was originally top-billed by Thalia.

The Kapuso network’s first adaptation of the TV series aired in 2007 and starred a then-fledgling Marian Rivera and her eventual husband, Dingdong Dantes. This year’s iteration, on the other hand, has Megan in the title role with Tom Rodriguez as the leading man, Sergio.

The 25-year-old actress said she’s not one to do things half-baked, so she made sure to prepare well and her rigorous regimen included swimming and diving lessons, acting workshops and regular trips to the gym.

“I just don’t want to disappoint. The entire ‘Marimar’ team gives its all and I want to match that,” said Megan, who had to overcome her fear of open waters in playing her character, who lives in a small barrio by the sea and works as a pearl diver.

Sexy portrayal

And so, naturally, she will bare some skin in the show. Just how sexy will her portrayal be? “The best thing about her is that she’s attractive to others, but she doesn’t realize it...There’s an innocence in her,” related

Megan, adding that she isn’t on any kind diet. “I just train and eat healthy.”

On working with Tom, Megan—a “Starstruck” Season 2 alumna—said there was a little awkwardness between the two of them at first. But they eventually got over it, with the help of a “sensuality workshop.” “We tried to know each other better. Our roles require so much emotional commitment, so it helps that we’re friends,” she said.

Good-looking partner

The GMA 7 talent described Tom as an “attractive, good-looking guy,” but dismissed talks of a possible romance with her partner. “I try to keep my professional and personal lives separate. I’ve been like that ever since,” she said.

HER CHARACTER has “an innocence in her,” says the beauty queen.

HER CHARACTER has “an innocence in her,” says the beauty queen.

Meanwhile, asked if she thinks it’s too early to do yet another remake of “Marimar,” Megan said that the 2015 version will have considerable plot differences. “We have the same characters and the big moments will be there...But how we get there will be different. My character will be fiercer and more ambitious this time around,” she explained.

Directed by Dominic Zapata, the show also stars Jaclyn Jose, Zoren Legaspi, Lauren Young, Alice Dixson, Nova Villa, Tommy Abuel, Carmi Martin and Jaya. The series airs weeknights.

Ina crosses networks with ease

Ina Raymundo is glad to be a Kapuso once again playing the role of Brenda Aldama in the new version of “Marimar”. “I actually asked my husband (Brian Portunak) and our kids first kung okay lang sa kanila for me to do a soap and they said yes,” she says. “Dapat nga, sasamahan ko sa China ‘yung isang anak ko kasi lalaban doon sa isang baseball competition, pero dahil dito, hindi na ako sumama. Naintindihan naman niya.”



How is it working with Megan Young in the title role? “Ang ganda niya! Actually, na-meet ko na siya before pa siya naging Miss World sa isang birthday party. Nakapagkuwentuhan kami at okay siya. Masarap kausap.

Kapapanganak ko lang noon sa fourth child ko and that was four years ago. Now, nagkita kami uli rito sa ‘Marimar’ at ganoon pa rin siya.

Kahit naging Miss World na siya, wala pa ring ere. Down to earth. So I really like her. Bagay na bagay sa kanya ang role ng ‘Marimar’ and I have a great feeling na magiging successful ito.”

“Marimar” is now being seen Monday to Friday on GMA7 after “24 Oras”.

But Ina will also soon be seen in ABS-CBN’s new afternoon soap, “All of Me”, as the wife of Albert Martinez, so she can claim to be one of those rare actors who can seen make lagari and be seen in the shows of both top channels.

Lovi ‘reconciles’ with Marian, hopes Heart follows suit

Lovi Poe opted to celebrate her late dad FPJ’s birthday on August 20 by spending it with the street-children aided by the ChildHope Foundation located in Paco. She’s been helping the wards in ChildHope for the past six years. “Sana nga, gusto ko silang ilabas sa isang park, kaya lang kulang ako sa oras, lalo ngayong very busy ako sa

taping ng ‘Beautiful Strangers’,” she says.

“Gusto ko ‘yung goal ng ChildHope to help educate street children for their own future. Parang itinutuloy ko lang ang charity works na sinimulan ng father ko kasi ugali niya talaga to help the poor and the needy, so heto, birthday niya at itinutuloy ko lang what he has started when he was still with us.”

It’s common knowledge that she and Marian Rivera had a falling out after they did the movie “Temptation Island”. But in a recent showbiz event, she took the initiative and approached Marian and kissed her.

How was it? Didn’t Heart Evangelista, her best friend who’s still at odds with Marian, feel bad about it? “Not at all. She’s just fine with it. Ako talaga, I’m praying na maging happy na lang ang lahat. I mean, we’re all working in the same network, kaya it’s important na maging maayos ang relationship ng lahat. We’re all praying for the best.”

Does she believe things can still be patched up between Marian and Heart after all the negative things that have been said and done? “Of course, it’s very possible. After all, they’re both good people, so I’m positive na maaayos din ‘yan in God’s own time.”



As of now, she’s just very happy that her show with Heart, “Beautiful Strangers”, is very well received by the viewing public and her acting as Joyce, the ill-fated girl who became a taong grasa after she lost her baby due to a rape attempt on her, is eliciting good reviews.

“Nakakatuwa talaga dahil nagugustuhan ng mga tao. So, huwag kayong makakali-mot every night kasi marami pang pasabog na mangyayari in the story. Tutulungan ako ni Heart dahil maaawa siyang taong grasa ako and I will save her life naman when someone tries to harm her. She will try her best para ipagamot ako at bumalik ang katinuan ko but later on, kami ang magiging magkaaway. Abangan nyo lahat ng intriguing twists na ito.”



Scenes in the City

IPEN beauties join the Taste of Manila.

Ateneo Alumni Association Canada to hold its 20th Anniversary Scholarship Dinner-Dance on October 24, 2015.

TORONTO - The Chairman of the Ateneo Alumni Association Canada (AAAC), Ed Doroja, recently announced the holding of the AAAC's 20th Anniversary Scholarship Dinner-Dance at the Madison Convention Centre at 17 Vinyl Court, Woodbridge, on Saturday, October 24, 2015. This year marks the milestone 20th year anniversary of the founding of the Ateneo Alumni Association Canada which began after the visit of the late Fr. Raul Bonoan, S.J., the President of the Ateneo de Naga at that time, who informed the group of the plight of deserving students in dire need of financial support in order to pursue a college or university education in fulfillment of their dreams and realization of their potential.

From that first meeting, the AAAC was born, composed of alumni from various Ateneo Universities in the Philippines, banding together to raise funds for deserving scholars. Since 1995, Ateneo Alumni have utilized various fundraising activities, starting with the core Annual Scholarship Fundraising Dinner-Dance, augmented by the Winterlude Dance, the Spring Dance, and for a time, Golf Tournaments and Casino Trips. Special voluntary contributions by members and supporters have also provided a welcome boost to the AAAC's scholarship funding initiatives.

These scholarships have been provided at all Ateneo Universities, providing deserving youth throughout the Philip-

pinas a chance to undergo an educational experience which instills in them self-development, spiritual formation, and social awareness, in addition to preparing them to join the country's very competitive work force. The AAAC is now completing 20 years of organizing fundraisers, funding twenty-two (22) scholars, to date, most of whom have since graduated and have successfully joined the work force.

It is worthwhile to note that this charitable activity has benefited not only the scholars but also its benefactors, its members and supporters, as these activities also serve as a corollary vehicle for Filipino-Canadians to enjoy good fellowship among the local Filipino community, while enabling them to participate in the AAAC's noble undertakings of helping the less fortunate.

As its all-important 20th anniversary celebration approaches, the AAAC and its Chairman reiterate a call to all alumni and long-standing and new supporters to support this milestone through participation in the Dinner-Dance to be held at the Madison Convention Centre in Vaughan, Ontario, and/or through the placement of Ads in the 20th anniversary souvenir program. In this connection, the following may be contacted for tickets and souvenir program advertising: Ed Doroja (416-876-3263), Bernie Sychangco (416-857-7551), and Toti Gutierrez (416-751-9437)



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Enrique Gil Endorses Cloudfone



Teen heartthrob Enrique Gil is the latest big star tapped by homegrown brand CloudFone to join its growing family. The actor, who recently starred in hit small screen and big screen projects, will be joining Xian Lim in the company's roster of celebrity endorsers.

The mobile technology giant is celebrating its 3rd year in the business with a slew of activities and promos.

As part of its strategic positioning this 2015, the brand plans to extend its reach to the youth—one of the strongest markets in terms of technology use.

In addition to giving away premium items and products, CloudFone is also currently offering a special price-off on its product line. Consumers can now enjoy as much as 25 percent discount on selected smartphones and tablets from the brand.

FOR RENT

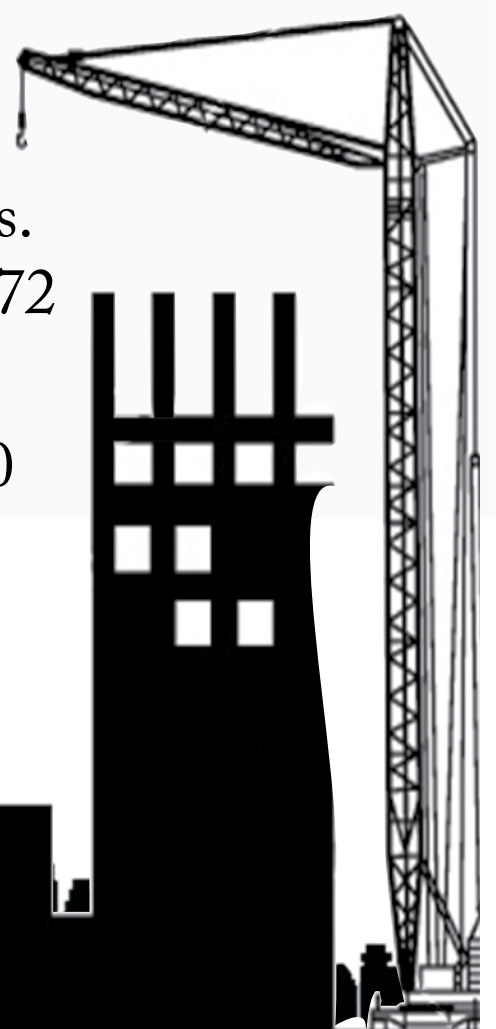
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Angelica hit back at bashers

”PEOPLE are divided over what Angelica Panganiban did to her bashers and haters who insinuated that she’s making fun of Bea Alonzo in her recent I.G. post, where she posted her picture imitating someone walking in the street abroad. “Parang pinatatamaan niya si Bea Alonzo kasi panay ang travel ni Bea ngayon kasama si Zanjoe,” says one basher. Then others seconded the motion.



To this, Angelica retorted: “Nakakaloka mga tao! Sarap nyong murahin! Tinatamaan kayo sa caption ko? Eh mga bobo pala kayo eh. Ni hindi ko nga nakikita mga posts ng ibang artista na ganyan! Pakelam ko kung may ganyan si Bea? Sa huling pagkakaalam ko, kaibigan ko siya.

“Mga gago kayong madudumi ang utak na gustong gusto nyong may kaaway ang mga tao. Kaya ang baduy ng ugali nyo eh. Napaka cheap. Leche.

Whew! Oo! Papatol talaga ako. Grabe eh! Ang kikitid ng utak!

Nakikitawa na nga lang kayo, maninira pa kayo. Tangna talaga! Gago!

Bobo! Nainip lang ako, kung anu-ano na comments nyo. Mga peste kayo!

“If you guys can’t get my sense of humor, then stop following me.

Malayong malayo ho si Bea sa akin. Siya ang reyna ng abschn.

Chuwariwap lang ako. Okay na po ba? Malinaw na? Para lang to sa mga makikitid ang utak, uulitin ko, wala akong pakelam sa image ko o sa tingin nyo sakin. Pag may di ako gustong tao, sasabihin ko. Ikukwento ko pa kung bakit. Pero pag may kaibigan akong pinaglalaruan niyo kami at parang sinisira nyo kami. Magsa-salita ako. Salamat.”

Some folks applauded Angelica for her fighting stance. “I’m glad palaban siya at nagpakatotoo lang siya kaya the bashers just got what they surely deserved,” says one actress, who certainly doesn’t have the nerve of Angelica in being Patola Queen as she has her own share of haters but she never replies to them. Other stars also rooted for Angelica and cheered her. We’re sure they were able to identify with her as these bashers and haters usually just wait for a celebrity to make a misstep and they’re quick to make an attack to annoy their prey. But other quarters felt it was too much of Angelica to stoop to the level of her haters.

“Sana hindi na lang siya pumatol nang ganon,” says one observer. “Kasi nagmura pa siya. How crass.

Parang wala siyang breeding. The best thing she could have done is dapat, bina-block na lang niya yung mga nagpo-post nang hindi niya gusto. That way, forever na silang mae-erase sa consciousness at sa buhay niya. These bashers have very sad sorry lives at mas nage-enjoy talaga sila kapag pinapatulan sila ng mga bina-bash nila. But when they are blocked, malaking dagok yun sa kanila. That means, non-entity silang di dapat patulan.”

So, how about you: how do you feel? Was Angelica right or wrong in making patol to her bashers?

Tom Prepared for Marimar

TOM Rodriguez says he was pleasantly surprised when he was informed that he’d play the lead role of Sergio in the newest version of “Marimar”. “I never expected it,” he adds. “But I’m so happy and it’s really an honor na sa akin nila ipinagkatiwala ang role na ito.”

Can he identify with the role? “I think we both love sports and adventure. But more than that, I can feel he’s a very loving person and he truly loves Marimar. Si Sergio, maituturing nang isang iconic character, just like Marimar. So physically, pinaghandaan ko talaga siya when I was told I’ll have to do scenes where I’m shown shirtless. I did circuit training and boxing to make sure I’m in good shape.”

How is it working with our country’s first Miss World? “We’ve done shows before so magkakilala na talaga kami and we’re quite comfortable na with each other. But what’s really nice to know about Megan is that even if she’s a world beauty titlist, she has remained as humble and down-to-earth as when we first worked together years ago. Hindi lumaki ang ulo niya na to make you feel na Miss World siya.”

How will he handle their love scenes? “We’re both professionals so I believe there will be no problem. We’ll just try to give justice to our roles and the scenes that Director Dominic Zapata will require us to do. I know he has some great ideas on how to update the familiar material and make it more relatable to today’s generation and we’re ready to collaborate with him.”

Is his role here more challenging than in the hit soap with Dennis Trillo “My Husband’s Lover”? “Bawat role naman, may kanya-kanyang sets of challenges. ‘My Hus-



band’s Lover’ is very different.

Although it’s also a drama, there’s the gay element that made it more challenging. But the demands of ‘Marimar’ are different kasi kilala na ito ng viewers, nagawa na before ng iba, so dapat, mapantayan ko ‘yung interpretation ng iba before and if possible, malampasan ko pa, kaming dalawa ni Megan as

we’ll be breathing new life and giving new dimensions to characters that have been loved by viewers before.

“And we’re both ready and excited to take that challenge and give our very best. Magkahalong excitement at kaba talaga ang nararamdaman namin sa ngayon kasi we know mataas ang expectations ng mga tao rito. And we promise them something different kasi hindi siya basta remake. Despite the familiar story and characters, we guarantee that they’ll be watching something new. Like ‘yung asong si Fulgoso, this time, he’s voiced by Boobay kaya asong bading ang dating niya para naiiba. So abangan n’yo dahil talagang maraming magagandang sorpresa when it starts airing on Monday.”

Won’t this pairing with Megan ruin his love team with Carla Abellana? “Carla is very happy for Megan and me so I see no problem. We’ll still be together naman on the big screen. We’re about to finish shooting a new movie for Regal, ‘No Boyfriend Since Birth’, a rom-com directed by Joey Reyes.”

TIDBITS

How Vice Ganda started

MANILA -- A student who is having second thoughts about going abroad as an exchange student for a year turned to comedian Vice Ganda for advice on “It’s Showtime.”

While the scholarship includes air tickets and other expenses in South Korea, the student admitted that she would still need extra money, especially for her first two weeks.

“May nabasa ako kanina, sabi nila ‘don’t ever miss an opportunity that might change your life forever,’” Vice Ganda told the girl, as he recalled his beginnings as a stand-up comedian in a bar.

“Nung nagsisimula ako sa comedy bar, in-approach ako ng may-ari ng comedy bar na mag-trial set ka. Sabi ko ang ganda ng opportunity, kikitita na ako, kaya lang wala akong pamasah, wala akong pang-show na damit, dahil ang damit ko lang ay uniform at pang-casual. Sabi ko sayang ‘yung opportunity kung hindi ko maga-grab dahil sa wala akong pamasah at wala akong damit baka hindi na bumalik,” he narrated.

“Alam mo anong nangyari? May mga tumulong sa akin. ;Yung mga ang mga barkada ko na kasama ko mula noon hanggang ngayon kasama ko ay nagambag-ambag sila para ibili nila ako ng damit sa SM North, isang set ng sapatos, stockings, palda, bra at blusa, kasi dati pa-girl ako. Nung binili nila ako, ni-ready nila ako, tinulungan nila akong magsimula. Pagkatapos nung gabing ‘yon, dumi-diretso na hanggang sa araw na ito na pinapanood niyo akong lahat,” he said.

“Kung dati may tumulong sa akin, gusto ko tulungan din kita. Kasi kung hindi kita tutulungan ngayon baka may ma-miss tayong lahat. Baka malay mo ito ang susunod na pinuno ng Bureau of Customs na siya ang magtutuwid ng ‘di masyadong magandang panuntunan. ... kung may oportunidad kunin mo na at baka di na bumalik pa,” he added.

“It’s Showtime” co-host Teddy Corpuz gave the student P10,000 in cash, while the show’s other staff members vowed to buy her winter clothes.

Vice Ganda also said he would also help the student.



Frugal defense is all PHL can afford

MANILA - The Philippines can only afford a “frugal” military upgrade, defense officials said, even though maritime tensions with China are growing.

Despite a proposed 25 percent rise in next year’s defense budget, the government must still divide resources between external defense and internal threats like insurgencies and natural disasters, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and other security officials added.

Since President Benigno Aquino took office in mid-2010, the Philippines has acquired two former US coast guard cutters, three landing craft from Australia and South Korea and seven surplus UH-1H helicopters.

“The goal of updating and modernizing our armed forces is a long and painstaking process,” Gazmin told a ceremony for the commissioning of 10 more newly-acquired air force helicopters.

“That means we have to be frugal and acquire reliable platforms at very reasonable costs... as allowed by our meager financial resources.”

The modest upgrade has been prompted partly by China’s moves to stake its claim to most of the South China Sea.

These include building new islands in the Spratly archipelago and taking effective control of Scarborough Shoal after a standoff with the Philippine Navy.

Philippine Air Force chief Lieutenant-General Jeffrey Delgado said the 10 new helicopters will be used to address internal security problems.

The military expects more aircraft deliveries this year including possibly the first two of 12 FA-50 fighter jets earlier ordered from a South Korean supplier, Delgado told reporters.

Delgado said the FA-50S were mere “transition aircraft” toward more advanced more advanced fighters jets which the Philippines cannot now

ADVOCATES
continued from page 27



Performers take a bow at the Taste of Manila.



People
...are talking about

Julie Anne San Jose

The birthday girl has just left the country to do a series of shows in the US. She will also meet a few record producers including Sidney Brown (who has produced songs for Drake, Lil Wayne, and Ludacris to name a few) for their collaboration for a new single. This is just one of things the singer can be thankful for as she turns 21 years old. And just before she left, her sophomore album turned double platinum. Now, who says she can't replicate the success of her debut album?

JaDine

The tandem celebrating the box office success of its third movie has just been named the "Most Popular Love Team." Thanks to the Guillermo Mendoza Memorial Scholarship Foundation. The award covers James Reid and Nandine Lustre's influence on TV and in movies. We know rabid fans of other love teams will frantically react on this recognition but it's hard to deny how popular JaDine is. Their tandem makes a lot of people giggle and fall in love even if it's just for reel.

Bella Padilla

People were surprised to see the young actress at the press launch of FPJ film adaptation series top-billed by Coco Martin. Apparently, Bella is joining ABS-CBN's most prized television actor in a television series that honors the work of Fernando Poe, Jr. That also means she is now a certified Kapamilya after being with the Kapuso for several years. It was not really a bad career move for someone who's talented enough but just overlooked by her former mother studio.

...are NOT talking about

Jackie Forster

The erstwhile television talent is getting a lot of unwanted attention including criticism from people who follow the career of her sons by Benjie Paras. On Mother's Day, Kobe and André greeted their stepmother and thanked her for her selfless care

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DOOR TO DOOR
continued from page 1

"Our spot checks from several warehouses show how misconstrued the rules may have become. People are sending in used clothing, home appliances and items of the same kind that can well be used for commercial purposes," he said. Lina recounted that some items inside these balikbayan boxes could be considered as smuggled goods due to non-compliance with the Philippine Tariff and Customs Code. However, it should always be noted that these packages have limitations, such as contents not exceeding \$500 in value, Lina said. "Canned goods, grocery items and other household effects must not exceed a dozen a kind, while apparel whether used or new must not exceed three yards per cut," Lina said. He added that one consignment per sender during a one-month period is allowed. These packages should also not contain any banned or regulated firearms and ammunition, prohibited drugs, pornographic material and gambling material. "Home appliances are not allowed unless these are consigned to returning Filipino residents and overseas contract workers. We will seize these prohibited shipments and revoke registrations of forwarders or consolidators if we find any violations," Lina said. He further said examination of the shipments is allowed and if a receiver finds any items missing from the packages, he may report this to the proper authorities. The President ordered the customs bureau to stop the random physical

inspection of balikbayan boxes and instead implement a 100 percent x-ray and K-9 inspection of the cargos. The bureau will only conduct physical inspection of boxes in cases of derogatory findings. However, this will be done in the presence of a representative of Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) or a designated officer of an OFW organization. Aquino's decision was reached after a meeting with Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima and Customs chief Alberto Lina in Malacañang in the wake of public outcry against the rigid inspection of the OFW boxes. Several lawmakers, OFWs and their families, and other concerned sectors have criticized the administration for bullying the modern-day heroes instead of focusing on the crackdown on big-time smugglers. A day after stopping the Bureau of Customs (BOC) plan, Malacañang assured that there was "no politics" behind President Aquino's decision, dispelling allegations that the Chief Executive changed his mind on the issue supposedly for fear of a backlash on the administration candidates in the 2016 elections. In August 2014, Senator Bam Aquino filed a bill seeking to update the current minimal volume of declaration of goods in the customs for consignments, balikbakan boxes and other low-value and low-risk packages. In his bill, Sen. Bam wants the de minimis level to increase to P10,000 by amending Sec. 709 of the Tariff and Customs Code.

and support. People sympathizes with Jackie who's been trying to get in touch with her children only to be taken for granted. But for children to act that way, Jackie must have done something wrong. We can only speculate on whatever it was but the treatment she gets from her children gives us a fair idea.

Mich Liggayu

The other half of the now defunct YouTube sensation Jamich is rumored to be included in the lineup of housemates that will be part of the latest season of Pinoy Big Brother. Since her partner's death, Mich has become controversial and some media outfits try to join the bandwagon. We all have predicted it, that at the end of the day, Mich would enter showbiz – the goal she had aimed many times over but failed desperately.

TJ Trinidad

He flirted once with running for office in 2013. Now the actor might be running again in the next year's election. He didn't win when he was relatively popular and was still visible on TV so what are his chances in his political bid in 2016? Let's leave his fate to the voters of Pasay City. We guess they are intelligent enough to elect or not to elect another actor to office.

4 detained rapists of vice governor's kin shot dead

MARAWI CITY – Four detained suspects who had confessed to raping and murdering a 13-year-old Maranaw girl on Aug. 14 were found dead behind an abandoned hospital in the city outskirts, officials said. No one from the city police could explain how the suspects, who were held at the Marawi City jail, disappeared from their cell and ended up dead with gunshots to the head. The slain rape suspects, Jabbar Macacua, Elias Pimping, Salman Udag and Jalil Sani, had all admitted their involvement in the brutal gang rape and murder of the Maranaw girl on Aug. 14. They were arrested a day after the incident and were immediately detained at the city jail. The suspects were reportedly spirited out of the city jail by a group, to be taken to Bayang town in the first district of Lanao del Sur, hometown of Vice Gov. Haroun Al-Rashid Lucman of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. The rape victim was related by blood to Lucman, according to local officials. The four suspects also confessed to burning the victim's cadaver after the rape.

People

... are talking about

Eat Bulaga

The long-running noontime show has become a relevant show, thanks to the phenomenal AIDub sensation that has captivated the hearts of many Filipinos (including the people from the other station). The variety show registered a record-breaking TV ratings based on the data gathered by AGB Nielsen. At 40.8 percent audience share versus It’s Showtime’s 5.3 percent, the show has just reclaimed its position as the no.1 noontime program. And what’s this we heard that the other network is going mad as hell trying to think of something they can put up against AIDub?



Television ratings can bravely tell that Dennis Trillo and Jennylyn Mercado don’t excite fans anymore. Amid a series of publicity to promote the show, with the network playing on the possible romance re-brewing between the two, viewers are lukewarm to it. It’s clear that the public likes to see fresh and young tandem, the likes of JaDine, on the boob tube.



Alden Richards

Right, his career has just reached another height for receiving a boost more than it really needed. And in his surprise love team with Yaya Dub, it’s obvious that he’s the one benefiting from it more. So here comes the network and begins to strike the iron while it’s hot. Alden is now working on a solo album to showcase his singing talent (or actually the lack of it). Okay we get, we are going to have another set of tracks we can put straight to the trash bin.



KC Concepcion

GQ India named the Kapamilya star as one of “The Hottest Actresses in the World” and was described as a “Filipino pop royalty.” KC was featured alongside top celebrities from other countries including Miss World 2001 Agbani Dar-ego and latest Bond girl Stephanie Sigman. Now that she’s enchanted an international audience, it’s about time for her to convince her kababayan that she really deserves such recognition.



One More Chance

There’s one thing that AIDud is yet to accomplish – to be in a series or a movie that would attract paying viewers. People will agree that John Lloyd Cruz and Bea Alonzo tandem is still a force to reckon with on the romcom scene because without any gimmicks, “One More Chance” and “Popoy” went trending for two days following the reports that their massively successful 2007 movie will have a sequel.



Someday, on their own

While some local celebs have opted to live independently, Matteo Guidicelli and Shaina Magdayao still live with their respective families. For Matteo, it is because he had tried living on his own before and he had a hard time. Although he looks forward to striking out on his own again, he said he is still preparing for it. Shaina agreed, revealing how she has been saving to be able to eventually move out of her sister Vina Morales’ house. Already, she has invested some of her earnings into several businesses including a salon and a 20-door apartment complex. Shaina acknowledged the support she gets from her family concerning her finances. “They know naman kasi na hindi forever ang showbiz so they guide me in investing and handling money properly,” she shared. Matteo also credited Star Magic management for helping him save money. “In Star Magic, we have mandatory savings for our future,” Matteo explained. He added that he gets sound advice from his dad, an Italian who is into the manufacturing business, and a very succesful one at that. “My dad is a very good businessman, so when it comes to money, he is very straightforward,” Matteo shared.

Fresh ideas Matteo and Shaina admire the devotion of young director Pepe Diokno when it comes to work. They found this out when they were doing Cinema One’s TV series “Single/Single.” Shaina describes Pepe as the “main man,” particularly in “bringing life to the characters we portray.” Working with someone as young as Pepe is refreshing for Shaina, who is used to working with older directors. “Iba ’yung approach niya. It’s a lot different from what we usually do,” she said. For his part, Matteo believes Pepe has much to offer the industry. “There’s a lot of passion in him, you could feel it when he directs you,” he said. The actor also likes it that Pepe is open to experimentation. “He allows you to explore your character. He is very open to ideas and suggestions,” Matteo said.

... are not talking about

Maria Ozawa

Oh no, we are not going to blame her for Mariel Rodriguez’s second miscarriage. It’s not her fault in the first place. But what is obvious here is that Maria is really dying to be in a mainstream film. She ranted about Robin Padilla being unprofessional for backing off from the movie they were supposed to star together. Of course, people understand, she needs this movie more than anybody else. Has Cesar Montano signed to take Robin’s place in the movie?



My Faithful Husband

PROVIDE DECENT JOBS continued from page 1

against poverty with faster growth, more jobs, and greater investments in social services.

CCT FOR VOTE BUYING?

But Colmenares warned that as May, 2016, national elections near, the CCT will likely be used by the Aquino administration for vote buying. “The CCT had always been questionable because it is essentially legalized vote buying because it is a means to influence voters and not a means to alleviate poverty,” he said. “The budget should instead be used for creating jobs and implementing genuine land reform. This would benefit the poor more than the hundreds of billions spent for CCT,” he pointed out.

Colmenares said the dole-out program, which has been implemented since the time of former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, failed to address the vicious cycle of poverty.

DSWD Secretary Corazon Soliman had assured that they have put in place measures that will ensure that rightful beneficiaries receive assistance under the 4Ps.

Colmenares’ fellow Makabayan bloc lawmakers – Gabriela partylist Rep. Luz Ilagan and Kabataan partylist Rep. Terry Ridon renewed calls to scrap the CCT program.

“It has not addressed poverty at all. It should be scrapped. The additional danger is that it will be an election instrument,” Ilagan said.

“The CCT should be scrapped altogether. By losing a third to unintended persons, it should already be a clear sign that the CCT is ineffective in poverty alleviation,” Ridon said.

Youth group Anakbayan opposes CCT program and assailed massive cuts in the budget of state universities and colleges.

The group said that the budget cut was evident in the case of the University of the Philippines (UP).

The funds for CCT and PPP, Crisostomo said, come from hard-earned money from taxpayers who subsidize the still-idle beneficiaries of the CCT.

ADVERSE STUDIES

Worse, studies conducted by the Oxford University in England pointed to instances when local officials, particularly in Eastern Visayas, took control of the ATM cards of beneficiaries and made a cut on the P1,400 monthly subsidies.

For its part, the World Bank (WB) noted fund leakages that account for 19 percent of the total budget.

Their findings are close to the estimate of a former chief of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) who said 40 percent of the beneficiaries “were not dirt-poor” and should be deleted by Soliman.

Last March, the House Committee on Poverty Alleviation approved a bill seeking to institutionalize the CCT program to reduce poverty and promote human capital development in the country.

Faces at the Festival

FROM LEFT, Amber delos Reyes; Nesel Batle is caught by the camera; Photographer Noli Gumapac in a relaxed moment; Maria Panaligan poses with former Star Magic star Don Laurel.



Mikael Daez is faithful

Balik-primetime ang Ismol Family star na si Mikael Daez. Huling napanood sa primetime ang binata noong 2014 sa GMA Telefantasya na Adarna.

Ngayon, napapanood si Mikael sa teleserye na My Faithful Husband kasama sina Dennis Trillo at Jennylyn Mercado. Si Mikael ay gumaganap bilang si Dean na ex-boyfriend ng karakter ni Jennylyn.

Sa panayam ng entertainment press sa press conference ng My Faithful Husband, inusisa ang estado ng kanyang love life.

Ani ni Mikael, “I am a faithful husband [laughs] I am a faithful man... My love life is okay. I’m happy, smooth sailing, faithful. [laughs]”

Pinilit mang paaminin ng showbiz media si Mikael, naging matipid ang binata patungkol sa kanyang special someone. Ang sinabi niyang source of inspiration ay ang projects na kanyang pinagtutuunan ng pansin.

“I think right now, inspiration for me is just the fact na I want to do well kasi ang gandang opportunity, siyempre alam n’yo naman, may Blood In Dispute ako na ginawa, tapos may teleserye agad.

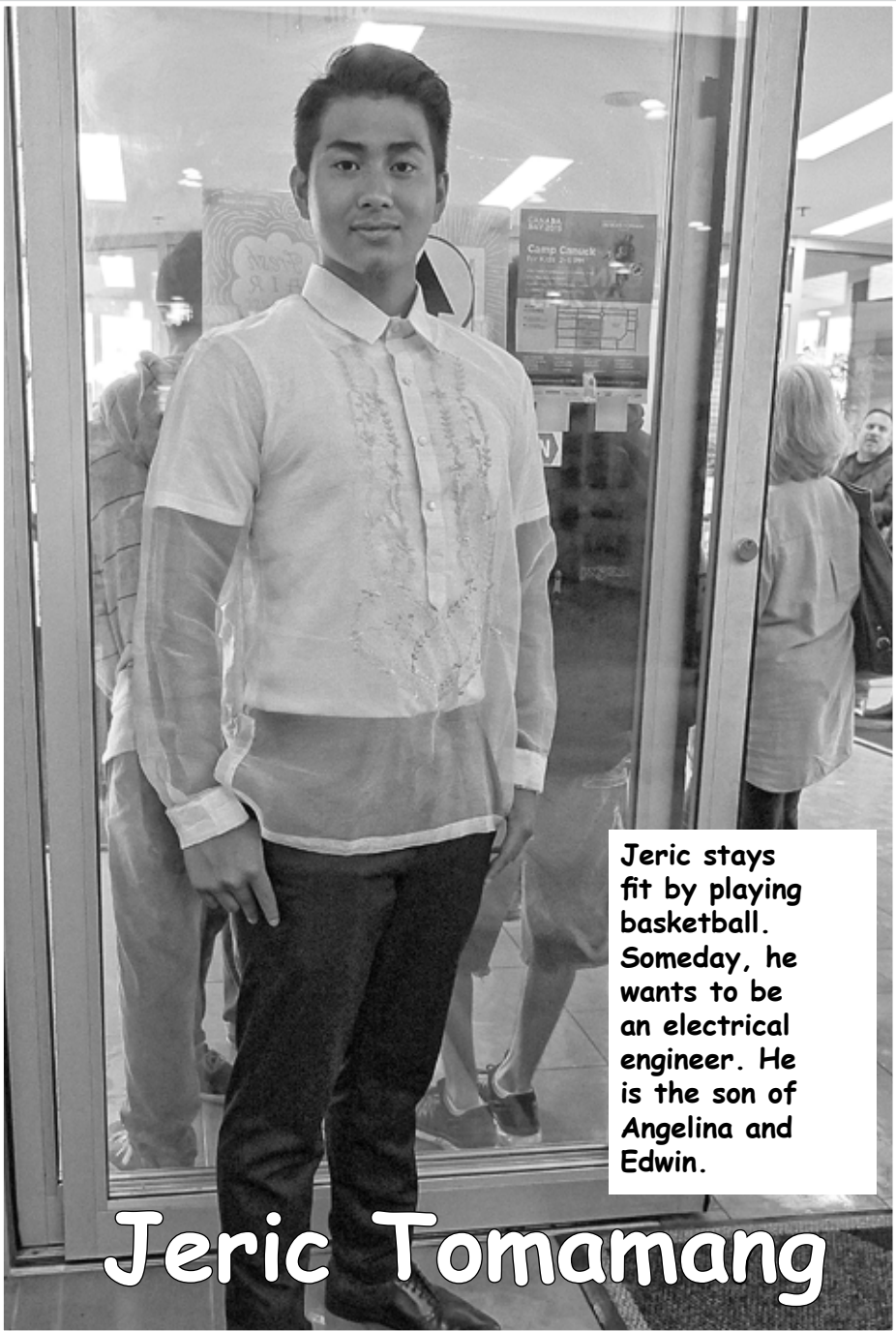
“So para sa akin ‘yung inspiration ko ‘yung nagagawa ko ‘yung work ko ng mabuti na parang ‘Wow ang laking bagay pala,’” saad ng Kapuso actor.

Sa tanong naman kung seloso siya bilang boyfriend, diretsahan niya itong sinagot. “Hindi ako seloso dati pa. Dati pa talaga hindi ako seloso, para whatever happens, will happen. Lord ikaw [ang] bahala,” sagot ni Mikael.

Catch Mikael in the GMA Telebabad series My Faithful Husband on week-nights, and weekly in Bubble Gang and Ismol Family.



Hunk Shot



Jeric stays fit by playing basketball. Someday, he wants to be an electrical engineer. He is the son of Angelina and Edwin.

Jeric Tomamang

Regine Velasquez, nag-bigay ng tips sa ‘StarStruck’ contestants

Asia’s Songbird Regine Velasquez-Alcasid ang isa sa magiging hurado ng nalalapit na season ng StarStruck



at ibinahagi niya sa Unang Hirit kung ano ang hinahanap niya sa mga artista hopefuls, “Sa opinyon ko, isa sa mga bagay na dapat mayroon ka ‘pag artista ka o para sumikat ka is ‘yung personality.”

Dagdag pa ng StarStruck judge “Yung ‘pag nagsalita ka, ‘yung kini-kilig ‘yung mga tao [at] natutuwa sila sa ‘yo kahit hindi ka naman masyado magaling magsalita pero endearing ka sa kanila, so I think I have to look for that also.” Bukod sa kanyang bagong show, naghahanda na rin ang beteranang mang-aawit para sa kanyang concert sa November. “Yung mga songs na kakantahin ko ay galing lahat sa mga musicals. Hindi naman ako limited lang sa Broadway kasi madami namang mga local musicals na being produced right now at sobrang nagiging successful,” saad ng singer-actress.

Ipinakita niya rin ang kanyang pagiging AlDub fan nang mag-post siya sa Instagram ng screen-captured na larawan ng Kalye-serye noong Sabado. Aniya, “I’m sure everyone’s watching!”

LM Confidential

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LMConfidential.com

‘AIDub’ is a hit in old and new media



OVERNIGHT SENSATION The popularity of Nicomaine Dei “Maine” Mendoza, better known as Yaya Dub to fans of the continuing “kalyeserye” on the noontime show “Eat Bulaga,” is unstoppable. It has pushed the career of her accidental “love interest,” Alden Richards, to the hilt and has caused the show to triple its ratings. With Yaya Dub are the noontime show’s Paolo Ballesteros, Wally Bayola (in character as Lola Nidora) and Jose Manalo. **EAT BULAGA FACEBOOK PAGE**

critic, pointed out that the kalyeserye mines tried-and-tested tropes used in fairy tales and soap operas. “AIDub the ‘uncouple’ never meets and communicates only through television—through cute antics like the pabebe wave. It’s a ‘Cinderella’ story that’s fake and true-life at the same time.”

On- and off-camera, Richards and Yaya Dub have yet to meet and only get to interact onscreen—specifically, split-screen, during their segment on the noontime show. Sarabia added: “This kind of hide-and-seek courtship is not new.”

“Eat Bulaga” director Poochie Rivera shared a theory with the Inquirer: “AIDub clicked because lots of Filipinos can relate with their predicament. People who have partners who work abroad often communicate and pursue their relationship online, through Skype or Facetime.”

The struggles of overseas Filipino workers have somehow seeped into popular culture in the guise of supposedly harmless entertainment.

Did Alden Richards meet Maine Mendoza at Candy Fair before?

Sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon ay nagsalita na si Alden Richards tungkol sa kumalat na larawan nila ni Maine Mendoza na kuha sa isang event ng Candy Magazine noong 2010.

Ayon kay Alden, maging siya ay nagulat sa kumalat na larawan nila ni Maine, lalo pa’t hindi pa talaga sila nagkakaroon ng pagkakataong personal na magkita.

“Just to clarify things talaga with everyone, hindi scripted yung hindi namin pagkikita.

“Talagang we’ve never met each other.

“We’re not texting, we’re not calling each other.

“And yung sagutan lang namin sa social media is pakiramdaman lang,” pahayag ni Alden.

Hiningan ng reaksiyon ang 23-year-old actor-TV host tungkol sa diumano’y larawan nila ni Maine, kung saan makikitang minsan nang nagkrus ang kanilang landas limang taon na ang nakararaan.

As the Disney song goes, it’s “a tale as old as time.”

Instead of Beauty taming the Beast, however, a not-so-ordinary nanny called Yaya Dub enchants a handsome heartthrob named Alden Richards in this modern retelling of a classic fairy tale.

For good measure, a cruel stepmother/fairy godmother joins the melee: Lola Nidora, or comedian Wally Bayola in drag.

The unlikely duo dubbed “AIDub’s” budding romance has posted through-the-roof ratings for the 36-year-old noontime variety show “Eat Bulaga,” aired by GMA 7.

Called “kalyeserye” or street series, the “AIDub” romance is a certified hit.

It is not uncommon for Makati employees (some working in this newspaper) to delay their lunch break to 1:30 p.m. in order to catch AIDub in the program’s “Juan for All, All for Juan” segment.

Some would wait until the wee hours when the segment is uploaded to the show’s official Facebook account.

Anna Leah Sarabia, anthropologist and media

“Yes, dun ako nagulat!” pahayag ng Kapuso heartthrob ukol dito. Sumikat ang loveteam nina Alden at Yaya Dub, o mas kilala bilang AIDub, sa KalyeSerye ng Eat Bulaga sa GMA Network.

At dahil tanging sa split screen lang sila nagkikita at nakakapagpalitan ng mensahe, ang unang pagtatagpo ng AIDub ang isa sa pinakahihintay ng sumusubaybay ng naturang KalyeSerye.

Kinumpirma ni Alden na dumalo siya ng Candy Fair bilang bahagi ng napiling Candy Cuties ng Candy Magazine noong 2010.

Ngunit noong panahong iyon ay gamit pa niya ang kanyang tunay na pangalang Richard Faulkerson Jr. at hindi pa pormal na sumasabak sa showbiz.

Posibleng nagkita na nga sina Alden at Maine noon, pero hindi marahil ito alam o matandaan ng aktor.

Bilang isa sa mga Candy Cuties sa event, maaaring magpa-picture sa kanila ang Candy readers na um-attend; kabilang na nga rito si Maine na isang oridnaryong estudyante lamang noon.

Sinasabi ring 14 years old lamang noon si si Maine, habang si Alden ay 17 naman.

No romance yet for Yen Santos

Yen Santos got emotional when asked by the press how she feels that the Kapamilya management has been constantly entrusting her with big projects. Yen starred in Pure Love and Oh My G! and is now part of All of Me. In an interview with the actress, she could not help but express her gratitude towards management for the big breaks she has been given in ABS-CBN.

“Sobra sa puso ko talagang sobrang nagpapasalamat ako dahil talaga nong mula nong Pure Love, hindi ako naba-bakante, sobrang sarap sa pakiramdam na nagtitiwala po talaga sila sa akin,” she said. In return, she remarked that she makes sure that she gives it her best in every project that she’s involved in. “Yun talaga, lahat talaga ginagawa ko para masuklian ang tiwala na ibinibigay nila,” she stated.

With her hectic showbiz career, Yen shared that her family motivates her to keep on pushing forward. She added that her co-stars in All Of Me are also very supportive of her. “Siyempre family pa rin at talagang ‘yung mga katrabaho ko talaga sobrang babait po nila sa akin, so-

ALDUB
continued on page 27

Chiz : *Party not always a big factor in poll victory*

MANILA – Independent senator Francis “Chiz” Escudero said the machinery that a political party can give does not necessarily guarantee a candidate’s victory in the polls.

Escudero admitted that he and Sen. Grace Poe are aware that launching a bid for a national position can be hard without the backing of a political party.

“Kaya siguro mas mahabang panahon ang kailangan namin para mag-isip dahil wala kaming pera, makinarya, at partido,” he said. Escudero, however, said history also shows that money and political machinery do not always translate to a victory.

“Si Pangulong Cory [Aquino] walang partido nang nanalo siya at ang kakampi niya sa laban nung mga panahon na iyon ay 12 kongresista lang yata,” he said. “Si Pangulong [Fidel] Ramos, ang kapatid lang niya sa Senado, pamangin niya sa Kongreso, at si Speaker Jose de Venecia ang kakampi niya. Si [Joseph] Estrada, mga 14 kongresista. Si Pangulong [Benigno] Aquino, 21 ang miyembro ng LP (Liberal Party) noon. Of course, not counted si Pangulong [Gloria] Arroyo dahil incumbent siya nung tumkabo.”

Escudero added: “Ang eleksyon sa pangulo, pangalawang pangulo at senador, [diyan] natin tunay nakikita ang demokrasya...sapagkat ayon sa maraming pagsasaliksik, iyung negosyante at pulitiko ang sumusunod sa tao, hindi yung tao ang sumusunod sa negosyante at pulitiko.”

Escudero also clarified that Poe will decide on her own whether to run or not. He said he will support whatever the neophyte senator’s decision is.

Poe is currently the most favored possible presidential candidate in 2016, based on surveys. Her huge potential to win has attracted the Liberal Party (LP) and Nationalist People’s Coalition (NPC).

LP’s standard bearer, Mar Roxas, is still wooing Poe to become his running-mate. The NPC, on the other hand, has said it is prepared to provide its machinery to Poe and Escudero, should they decide to run together.

Poe has not yet decided whether she will run in 2016. It also remains uncertain whether she will accept Roxas’ offer or run with Escudero, her closest political ally.

70% Filipinos not connected digitally

MANILA - About 70 million Filipinos or nearly 70 percent of the population are still not digitally connected.

This was bared during the DigitalBayanihan milestone update program of Intel Philippines at the Asian Institute of Management.

“While we see an increased adoption of digital devices in Southeast Asia and in the Philippines, there is still a growing gap in digital skills that needs to be addressed in order to fully take advantage of the benefits of the digital age,” said Prakash Mallya, Intel Southeast Asia managing director.

“If the 70 million unreachable Filipinos can be digitally connected, they can change the landscape of the Philippines,” Mallya said.

In Southeast Asia, there are 374 million people who are not yet digitally connected, said Mallya, citing data from Intel.

He said Intel is promoting digital connectivity to provide access and form a more productive Philippine society.

“We introduced DigitalBayanihan to promote digital inclusiveness in the country and empower Filipinos with access to digital skills training and devices,” he said.

Launched in September 2015,

DigiBayanihan is Intel Philippines’ initiative that seeks to promote digital literacy through training, volunteerism and providing access to affordable technology.

“We at Intel acknowledge the role of education and connectivity in empowering developing countries throughout the world. With Southeast Asia being a relatively young but strong region in terms of digital adoption, introducing programs that help promote and sustain digital literacy will help increase productivity and lay the foundation for a stronger digital economy,” said Mallya

Ambassador Leslie Gatan and FV Foods’ Mel Galeon pose in front of the store at Taste of Manila.



Priscilla and Rusty Muere (THIRD AND FOURTH FROM LEFT) and friends enjoy the Taste of Manila festival.



ADVOCATES
continued from page 20

afford.

Defence department spokesman Peter Paul Galvez said communist and Muslim insurgencies remained a priority despite the new watchfulness on Philippine borders.

“We are first focusing on internal security and in the succeeding horizons, we will go towards external defense,” he said, criticizing China’s reclamation work.

“They should stop their island-building. That steps up the pace of militarization,” Galvez said.

The Philippines has been among the most vocal in challenging China’s sea claims, which also overlap those of Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam.

US ambassador Philip Goldberg said the United States, the Philippines’ closest defense ally, was ready to provide surplus military equipment and budgeted \$50 million in foreign military aid to the Philippines last year.

MARRYING FILIPINA
from page 1

House Bill 4828, which a Senate committee is now deliberating on, seeks to add more requirements: certificates of good moral character, and proof of gainful trade, business, employment and other lawful sources of income.

This means jobless foreigners, and those convicted of crimes, would not be able to marry Filipinos if the bill becomes law.

However, because the bill focuses on male foreigners, certain government offices are not in favor of it.

“We believe the additional requirements... would propagate old gender stereotypes and is thus highly discriminatory and contrary to the equal protection clause of the Constitution,” said Nolibelyn Macabagdal, a project officer at the Department of Social Welfare and Development, during a committee hearing on the bill on Monday.

The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) also does not agree with the bill.

“We feel that it runs contrary to the provision of the Magna Carta which grants equal rights for women and men to enter into marriage,” said the PCW’s Rebecca Baylosis.

The House of Representatives approved its version of the bill in 2014, with proponents saying it would protect Filipino women against exploitation by foreigners and being trafficked and prostituted, among others.

Senator Pia Cayetano, chairperson of the committee on youth, women, and family relations, is also not keen on approving the Senate bill in its current form.

Aside from having gender equality issues, she said the bill discriminates against foreigners.

“There’s a human right question that we have to resolve,” Cayetano told reporters after Monday’s hearing.

“The intention is very good. It’s just that, how do you do it in such a way that it’s fair?”

Cayetano has called for the convening of a technical working group to refine the bill.

LADY: I am not feeling healthy.
DOCTOR: Are you sure you are having 3 meals a day as I had advised?
LADY: Oh my God! I thought you said 3 males a day!

Spotlight



EDSA-Cubao circa 70’s era.

Kilig



These fans are so happy to see their idol. PHOTO BY NOLI GUMAPAC



Noime Dizon walks the ramp at the Renee Salud fashion show by PIDC. PHOTO BY FLORO VIRTUCIO

© Jamie Cirello • Published on May 2013

First Christmas Without You

The nights are long and cold, the sun is hardly around,
Christmas time is approaching, and snow will soon cover the ground.
Trees and lights are twinkling, stockings are being hung.
The Christmas spirit is all around, as carols are being sung.
This year Christmas is not the same, just a yearly memory,
This house is not a home anymore, because you are not here with me.
There will be sadness; there will be tears, when we wake up on Christmas day.
For this will be the first without you, oh how I wish heaven was just a mile away.
As we sit around the Christmas tree, emotions will be sad,
Gifts for them, gifts for me, but none of them will say DAD.
All I want for Christmas is to see your smiling face,
I know it cannot happen because you are in a better place.
Please.....DAD ring a bell for me on Christmas day,
So I will know you got your wings and that you are ok.
I am not looking forward to Christmas, but I know it’s something I have to live through.
I hope there is Christmas in heaven, because it is not the same here without you.

Sincerity get’s Kathryn’s vote

Teen star Kathryn Bernardo, who turned 19 this year, is excited to finally be able to cast her vote in the coming 2016 presidential election. The actress, however, said her contract as an ABS-CBN artist prohibits her from endorsing any candidate.

“Star Magic does not allow its talents to campaign for anyone,” she said.
She added that she would never try to influence her fans to vote for her candidate of choice. “I don’t have the right to dictate to them who they should support. They have their own opinion. It will really depend on them.”

The teen star pointed out: “It will be my first time to vote so I’m really preparing for it. I will only vote for someone who I know deserves it.” She has other considerations: “My vote will go to the candidate who is not corrupt. This person also has to be sincere in his or her wish to help the country.”



What makes a star?



The last Starstruck Artista Search was in 2009, where Steven Silva and Sarah Lahbati emerged as the winners of Starstruck 5. Both didn't really make it to superstardom and both are now out of GMA-7. The one who hit it big in their batch is Rocco Nacino, who was second runner up. Now, after 6 years, Starstruck is back and the celebrities who'll be running it were presented to the press.

The main hosts are Dingdong Dantes and Megan Young. The judges are Joey de Leon, Regine Velasquez and Jennylyn Mercado (female winner in Starstruck 1). The segments hosts are Mark Herras (male winner in Starstruck 1), Kris Bernal (female winner in Starstruck 4), Rocco Nacino and Miguel Tanfelix (1st runner up in Starstruck Kids 12 years ago.)

During the presscon, someone asked: What makes a star?

"It's a combination of talent plus luck plus sustainability," says Dingdong.

"You should be very focused and well-motivated," says Kris.

Regine makes a more practical answer. "I really don't know what makes a star. Very important is the star factor that no one knows how to explain. But I think it's in your personality na unique and only you can have. Kasi sa talent, marami ang magkakapareho. Marami can sing or dance or act, but 'yung unique personality

mo, 'yun ang unang makikita sa'yo."

Star quality is really something that is difficult to pinpoint or quantify. The best example is Alden Richards. He was rejected by Starstruck and yet, everyone knows he's now the most popular GMA male talent. Then there's Megan Young. She was easily eliminated from Starstruck 2 and the winners in her batch were Ryza Cenon and LJ Reyes. But look who's now playing the plum role of "Marimar" and co-hosting the latest season of Starstruck with Dingdong Dantes. Other Starstruck rejects who eventually hit it bigger than the winners include Cristine Reyes and Paulo Avelino.

And even if you win in Starstruck, it doesn't necessarily mean you're already made, as what we saw in the case of Steven, Sarah, Mart Escudero, Jewel Mische and, most especially, Aljur Abrenica, who was almost there but suddenly made a misstep that we are sure he now regrets.

We just hope that in choosing the 14 wannabes, the judges will be banking more on good looks than any other factor. Who cares if they cannot really sing or dance or act? The primary consideration should be: Do they really look good on screen? Alden reportedly didn't qualify because he can't sing or dance well then. But no one can deny he's great eye candy. And look at him now as the Pambansang Dimples.

Liza Soberano's first dream

Everyone has dreams and many want theirs big.

Yet for every kid who dreams of becoming the president, the pope or a pop star, there are those who dream of becoming teacher or soldier – just like popular actress Liza Soberano.

"Gusto ko talaga maging sundalo, 'yun ang unang dream ko," Liza revealed in a recent interview. "Mahilig kasi talaga ako sa mga boyish stuff."

Liza was influenced by her grandfather Jeff who was with the marines.

The dream changed along the way, with Liza eventually setting her sights on becoming a doctor.

"Kasi 'yun 'yung kinuha ng mommy ko," she related.

Then she changed her mind again.

"Gusto ko na maging lawyer," she said before adding, "Pero ito ngayon, artista na."

Well, fate always finds a way.

On Liza's part, it was her aunt who persuaded her to try acting.

Though she admitted being hesitant at first, Liza enjoys where she is now.

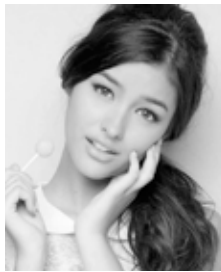
Already, she wants to sink her teeth into a variety of roles, eager to expand her knowledge of the craft.

True to her nature, however, she revealed wanting to try her hand in action films.

"Hindi naman ito like, biglaan. Dream ko since before pa talaga to do action," she maintained.

As if to defend her choice, she added, "Very sporty ako. Du'n lumalabas 'yung confidence ko."

Liza is into volleyball, soccer, football and basketball. She used to play everyday in school, prior to being swamped with showbiz chores.



Are JM de Guzman and Jessy Mendiola splitting?

When it comes to his relationship with Jessy, JM shared that they have grown to be a mature couple this time around. They had split up in 2013 and rekindled their romance April of this year. "Dati mas naka-focus kami don sa [baka] mawalan kami ng trabaho. Ngayon meron na kaming pinapahalagan at inaalagaan na intimate na sa amin dalawa lang na binibigyan namin ng importansya 'yun. Nag-mature na, parang ganon," he relayed.

JM also clarified the rumors going around that their relationship is on the rocks because Jessy has been noticeably posting emotional quotes on her Instagram account. The actor explained, "Mahilig lang mag-quote ng mga songs talaga si Jessy ever since kahit noon sa BBM (BlackBerry Messenger) 'yung mga status niya about sa kanta."

Though he admitted that they have their misunderstandings sometimes, but the bottom line is he loves Jessy no matter what. "Meron din naman po [tampuhan] ayun. Siyempre she expects a lot from me so minsan ayon nagbibigay pero ganon eh. Mahal ko siya."

US LOCATIONS continued from page 4

Road and Andrews Avenue going to Circulo. The buses, however, cannot load or unload along Andrews.

The extended bus routes were meant to address the lack of public transportation options for arrivals and employees at Naia 3 and 4. On the average, the two terminals have about 26,000 arriving passengers, who mostly have no other choice but to take taxi cabs.

For MIAA senior assistant general manager Vicente Guerzon Jr., the test run for the bus scheme "should by no means be considered a flop" at this point.

The low number of passengers taking the buses may be due to the absence of a walkway from the Naia 3 to the bus stop, he said.

ALDUB continued from page 24

brang walang naging problema kaya sila rin po ang inspirasyon ko. Laging sa set masaya kami lahat, kami magkakaibigan kaya lagi namin nilo-look forward bawat taping," she said.

Yen admitted that she is still single at the moment and to be in a relationship is still not on her mind. "Sa ngayon wala pa po akong time. Wala pa po ang isip ko sa relationship, darating din po 'yun in God's time," she stated. On the qualities that she is looking for in a guy, she relayed, "Sa ngayon po ang gusto ko lang naman sa isang guy siyempre unang-una mabait sa family ko at 'yung makakasundo ko lang, 'yung masaya lang kasama, 'yung lagi lang akong tumatawa."

Recently, Yen was linked to Arron Villaflor (her All Of Me co-star) after the latter admitted on Aquino and Abunda Tonight that he has been sending flowers to the actress. Yen clarified on the same show that they are not an item yet. When asked if Aaron is courting her, Yen briefly stated, "Parang opo ata."



Kris Bernal ready for FHM but...

Kris Bernal is happy to be part of Starstruck 6. She'll be the social media correspondent who'd be seen every night to report on the latest audience reactions about the show and the finalists in Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. How does she feel that her male counterpart in Starstruck 4, Aljur Abrenica, is currently out of circulation after he tried to defy GMA-7?

"Siguro, lahat naman, may time in our life that we make some bad decisions at 'yun ang napagdaanan ni Aljur," she says. "But he is now working hard para siya makabalik at gusto na niya talaga uling mabigyan ng show. Gusto na niya talaga magtrabaho uli. But I'm not here to talk in his behalf. Basta he knows I'm just here, ready to support him at sana nga, makabawi na siya."

How come she has not yet been given a new soap after "Hiram na Alaala" with Dennis Trillo almost a year ago? "Naku, miss na miss ko nang mag-soap. 'Yung magpuyat sa trabaho. I'm just hoping they'll assign me one soon."

Is it true she's now ready to pose sexy for FHM? "They have an offer, pero ayaw pa talaga ng parents ko. Kung ako lang, I can feel ready na ako. But I have to obey my parents."

Candid SPOOF

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



Joy Sarmiento gets into the food business.

Ex-minister vows to fight Iglesia's Sanggunian 'all the way'

MANILA - Despite fearing for his life, expelled Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) minister Isaias Samson Jr. said that he will pursue the harassment, illegal detention, threats and coercion complaint he filed against members of the Sanggunian, the INC's highest administrative council.

He said that INC members should understand that he is not fighting the religious sect but the alleged corruption done by Sanggunian members.



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