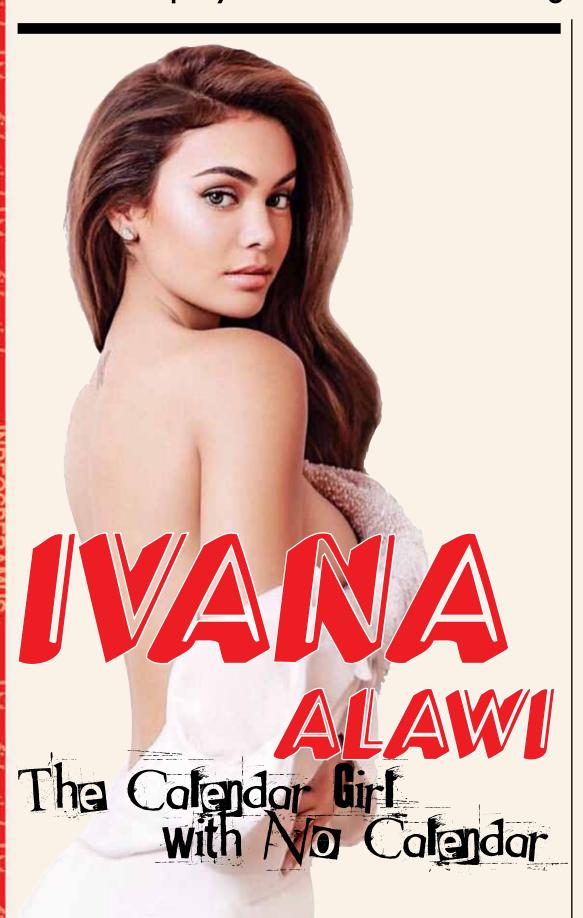
# confidentia DU30 SAYS NO TO CHINA

Duterte played China over online gambling. The house won



MANILA - Duterte turned a blind eye to Beijing's objections when Chinese offshore gambling firms - or Pogos - rolled into town and flashed the cash

Now he's struggling to see how the taxman can take a cut Chinese offshore gambling is supposed to be the goose that lays the golden eggs. But Filipinos are discovering that

**DUTERTE** continued on page 11



#### **VP ROBREDO MADE NO MISTAKE-PNP**

"We're worse than the Kardashians" - DANI Who can predict a flop or hit movie? Darna will make Jane de Leon a Star

Kris Aquino ok being Irrelevant PHL teens have bad Physical Activity record Alex Gonzaga, pina-Tulfo nanay

## PHL to import Galunggong

MANILA— The "poor man's fish" — "galunggong" or round scad — has now become more the Bureau of Fisheries and expensive in the market, no thanks to low supply.

This has prompted the Department of Agriculture (DA) to consider importing the fish anew, drawing criticism from

a fisherfolk group.

Ed Gongona, director of Aquatic Resources (BFAR), told the Inquirer that the said agency was mulling the

**GALUNGGONG** continued on page 25

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- Celine Grey's album cover
   FV Foods owner Mel Galeon
  poses with Kay Brosas and
  Angeline Quinto.
   Arielle Kayleen Perez sings at
- the Angeline Quinto Kay Brosas







#### Five reasons why 'Hello, Love, Goodbye' is not your typical love story

Hello Love, Goodbye, Kathryn Bernardo and Alden Richards' box office record-breaking and first movie

team-up is set to make hearts swoon once more as it makes its TV debut this December with its airing on ABS-CBN TVplus' KBO.

Directed by the award-winning director Cathy Garcia Molina, it depicts the stories of the OFWs in Hong Kong and the love story of Joy (Kath), an OFW aspiring to migrate to Canada, and Ethan (Alden), a bartender awaiting his residency status.

As their lives intertwine, viewers will see how this film is more than just a love story. Here are some of the lessons people can pick-up from the film:

#### **Putting family first**

In the movie, Joy decides to take risks by taking on multiple jobs as she tries to balance sending helping her family and saving up for what she considers a better future in Canada. For her, selflessness must take over when her family's future

is at stake. **HELLO LOVE GOODBYE** continued from page 2





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## Filipino Good Life

#### Poetry Rap fails Nadine Lustre's Indak

Celine Grey's debut single reaches 15,000 views on Youtube

There's upbeat, catchy & there's both. Celine Grey's single Another Day is catchy and upbeat.

When 'Indak' was being promoted this summer, every reviewer was saying that it will be a hit and they never fail to mention that the song by Pio Balbuena and Shehyee was "upbeat." Of course, you get curious and you look it up. After watching the first 5 seconds of the music video, I already knew Indak would flop. The song had a beat of poetry rap. 'Indak' was also being promoted at the same time with Kathryn Bernardo's 'Hello' Love Goodbye.' The trailer for both movies would give you an idea which will flop



Celine Grey confers with Paul Biaoco and Alvin Tameta of The Absolutely band at the launch of her single at Republika. and which will become a hit. Indak's trailer was like a music video with quick cuts, and almost devoid of dialogue. On

FILIPINO GOOD LIFE continued on page 13

## Romnick Sarmienta goes for Method Acting



ROMNICK with Miles Ocampo and Director Crisanto Aquino

Why Romnick Sarmenta didn't read the script for one of his scenes with Miles Ocampo in the movie 'Write About Love'

Romnick Sarmenta goes for authenticity in playing roles.

So, when it came to doing a dramatic scene with Miles Ocampo in the Metro Manila Film Festival 2019 entry, "Write About Love," he politely declined to read the script aiming to unleash his emotions naturally.

"I decided to do so kasi the scene is quite personal to me. I played the role of a father here and as we all know, I have four daughters in real life. So nilagay ko 'yung sarili ko du'n sa character ko na... ano bang mararamdam ko if ever 'yung anak ko ganito ang sabihin sa'kin? Paano ba'ko mag-re-react? In that way, masasabi ko na fresh 'yung reaction ko sa eksena," he explained.

The 47-year-old actor revealed he uses the method only when his co-actor agrees.

According to him, what makes a scene a "good scene" is when actors collaborate on how they could execute it well.

"It's all about dynamics," he noted. "Ako kasi I talk to my ka-eksena and we plan kung paano ang gagawin namin. Hindi naman pwede na hindi ko babasahin 'yung script tapos siya pala, hindi komportable sa ganu'n. Depende rin talaga sa kaharap mo eh. Para sa akin, mas masarap lang 'yung batuhan ng linya kapag hindi by-the-script."

As for Miles, she opted not to give all during rehearsals.

"Ini-imagine ko kasi na kapag binigay ko na agad ng todo tapos nadurog na (ako sa emotions), baka hindi ko na magawa sa actual," she said. "So hindi ako masyadong nag-rehearse, although siyempre inaral ko 'yung eksena, para mas raw, mas genuine 'yung lumabas kasi first time kong nilabas 'yung emotions."

It helped that their director, Crisanto

Aquino, gave them leeway in portraying their respective roles.

"I want my actors to be comfortable para natural. Ayoko mukhang artificial. So basta nagbigay lang ako ng instruction tapos bahala na sila. In fairness naman kay Miles at Romnick...wala, ang galing lang talaga nila," he said.

"Write About Love" is the only romcom to be selected in this year's MMFF 2019. It is about a young writing protégé (Miles), who must work and learn from an older, more experienced and edgy screenwriter, played by Rocco Nacino.

A film within a film, the script that Miles and Rocco are trying to finish have Joem Bascon and Yeng Constantino playing the "reel" roles.

"Miles is the real deal. Not many know that she is an aspiring scriptwriter (taking up Creative Writing at UP Diliman) and has yet to experience first love. Totoong NBSB (No Boyfriend Since Birth) so for sure madaming makaka-relate," the director said.

Miles believes the movie was really made for her.

"Scriptwriting has always interested me. Learning the craft has given me newfound respect for scriptwriters. As Sir Ed Rocha (TBA Executive Producer) puts it, they really are the unsung heroes of filmmaking," she said.

"Write About Love" opens on Dec. 25.

#### ••••••

GUESS WHO? The camp supporting the zooming career of the hottest star of the hour has realized they are being exploited by the think-tank of the other lesser camp whose recent film release featuring the rival hotter young star (HYS) was both dismal at the box-office and a critical flop as well.

Clue: Popularity of HYS is allegedly being pulled down by her uncooperative boyfriend.



## Honey Shot

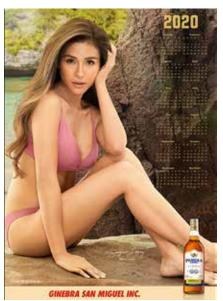
## Arielle Kayleen Perez

Arielle's favourite dish is poutine. She plays basketball, volleyball and softball. She goes to school at St. Joachim. She wants to be a doctor or a singer in the future. She is the daughter of Melanie and Allan Perez We wish her all the luck in her endeavour.





## Sanya 'di priority ang lovelife



HINDI pa rin halos makapaniwala ang Kapuso actress na si Sanya Lopez sa sunud-sunod na blessings na dumarating sa kanya sa tulong ng GMA Artists Center.

"Natitiyak ko pong masayang-masaya si Tatay (German 'Kuya Germs' Moreno) in heaven," exclaimed Sanya nang ito'y aming makatsikahan sa Via Mare along Timog Avenue in Quezon City last Saturday afternoon.

Tulad ng nakatatandang kapatid ni Sanya na si Jak Roberto, kasama siya noon sa late night program ng Master Showman na 'Walang Tulugan with the Master Showman" na kinabilangan din nina Jake Vargas, Ken Chan, Rhen Escano, Marlo Mortel, Michael Pangilinan at iba pa.

Si Sanya ay sumama lamang noon sa kanyang kuya (Jak Roberto) sa taping ng "Walang Tulungan with the Master Showman" nang siya'y mamataan ni Kuya Germs. The following week ay isinama na siya sa programa.

Bukod sa pagiging 2020

Calendar Girl ng Ginebra San Miguel, kinuha rin siya ng Beautederm Corporation along with four other Kapuso stars na maging bahagi ng kanilang brand ambassadors now numbering to 42. Kasama si Sanya sa mga Kapuso talents na ni-launch last Saturday afternoon along with actress-TV host Camille Prats, Ken Chan, Rita Daniela at Pauline Mendoza.

Samantala, ikinuwento ni Sanya na wala umano siyang memories sa kanyang namayapang ama dahil

barely one year-old pa lamang umano siya nang sumakabilang-buhay ito. Mag-isa umano sila ng kanyang nakatatandang kapatid na si Jak (Roberto) na iginapang ng kanilang ina pero sa kalaunan ay tumulong na rin umano ang kanyang kuya at ito na ang umako ng responsibilidad bilang padre de familia. Since kumikita na rin siya (Sanya) ay silang dalawa ng kanyang Kuya Jak ang nagtutulong sa kanilang gastusin sa bahay. Nag-iipon na rin umano siya para makapagpatayo ng kanilang bahay.

At 23, loveless pa rin si Sanya pero hindi umano ito ang kanyang priority sa ngayon kundi ang kanyang career.

> Don't blame the holiday, you were fat in August.

## What The Fact? BY JOSE BAKING

### Faster than a Speeding Bullet

It's December already. In the Philippines, at least in Metro Manila, commuters should be able to travel from Cubao to Makati in 5 minutes already, if Duterte had his way.

So he said this summer.

Was he thinking of installing an hyperloop in a matter of months?

What happened under Duterte that also happened fast?

Well, the stint of VP Leni Robredo as co-chair of his drug war also ended fast. Two weeks after he appointed her as co-chair, he fired her. As to what the reason was, you'll drive yourself nuts trying to figure it out what the real reason was. Duterte woould give his reason. Panelo would give his.

Ironically, the Philippine National Police gave a statement that VP Robredo did not make any mistake in the two weeks she was cochair.

Oh well, let's jsut watch one of the non-stop



entertainment here in Toronto.



ABOVE, Ryza Quijano sings at the Angeline KTO concert. PHOTO BY BING MARIANO LEFT, Photographer Bing Mariano and family poses with singer Celine Grey.

# What's in a title? Or, who can tell why a movie will

TWO negative incidents that happened in showbiz recently didn't help the box office performance of the local films that they're involved in: the horror flick "Santigwar" and the romantic movie, "Cara X Jagger". In the cast of "Santigwar", Alexa Ilacad, who plays her first starring role in the movie, spewed venom against Nash Aguas and it didn't sit well with audiences who avoided her movie. It was first day, last day in most moviehouses.

"Cara X Jagger" got a lot of publicity mileage when Bianca Umali attended the premiere night of the movie which stars her yet-to-be admitted boyfriend, Ruru Madrid. She got so jealous because Ruru's leading lady, Jasmine Curtis Smith, is his original crush. There's also a story that Jasmine gave Ruru an expensive pair of sunglasses while they were shooting the film and Bianca later smashed it out of jealousy. Ruru tried to explain things to Bianca but she sped away and nearly hit him with her car at the parking lot. As a result, "Cara X Jagger" also laid a big fat egg at the box office.

Well, to begin with, judging from the titles of these movies alone, you already know they have very little chance of making it at the tills. Why come up with titles that you still need to explain to moviegoers? Who the hell knows what "Santigwar" means except the Bicolanos since it's a Bicolano word? (Some Bicolanos we've talked with don't even know what that is.—Ed.)

And some folks didn't even know how to pronounce the title "Cara X Jagger". Not a few people asked us: "Ano ba po 'yun, Cara Times Jagger? And what does it exactly mean?" Another movie title that is quickly

a losing proposition is "Nuuk". Who the hell would bother to google what or where Nuuk is? As a result, the Aga Muhlach-Alice Dixson also did poorly at the tills.

So time and again, we remind our producers and filmmakers to make their titles simple, catchy and easy to remember for them to have better chances at the box office.

Another movie that didn't do as well as expected at the tills was Sarah Geronimo's "Unforgettable". After it was pulled out from theaters, Sarah and beau Matteo Guidicelli announced that they're now officially engaged. It generated a lot of goodwill and congratulatory greetings from their friends and fans alike, prompting someone to quip that they should have made the announcement before Sarah's movie was shown as it would have no doubt somehow helped "Unforgettable" at the box office.

## Bea Alonzo among Asian celebrities poised for international stardom

flop

Bea Alonzo is the lone Filipino included in Variety's 2019 list of Asian bets for international stardom.

Hollywood trade publication Variety included Bea in a list titled "Asian Stars: Up Next," which was released on November 28, 2019.

The International Film Festival and Awards Macao (IFFAM) and Variety picked eight actors from all over the region as "Asian Rising Stars."

Bea will be one of the eight Asian Stars: Up Next awardees at the IFFAM that runs from December 5-10, 2019.

The ABS-CBN actress will receive this honor along with Yoona of South Korea, who gained popularity as a member of the K-pop group Girls' Generation.

The other recipients are Ryota Katayose of Japan, Lien Binh Phat of Vietnam, Asmara Abigail of Indonesia, Bhumi Pednekar of India, and Praewa Suthamphong and Jennis-Oprasert of Thailand.

According to Variety, they came up with this list "to help Asia's talent cross borders onto an international or global stage."

In past editions, two more Filipinos were

cited for being "big screen talents poised for global breakthrough."

Piolo Pascual was included in the list in 2017 while Anne Curtis

made the cut in 2018.

Here is the description of

Bea Alonzo in the Variety article:

"Born in 1987 in the Philippines to a British father and Filipina mother, Alonzo is a TV and film actress with a number of popular primetime soap operas and box office hits under her belt.

"She began her career in 2002 with ABS-CBN, the biggest entertainment group

in the Philippines, as an actor and host of long-running musical variety show ASAP.

"Alonzo made her screen debut in 2003 with My First Romance and has won multiple acting awards in her home country, including best actress for her role in The Love Affair at the 34th Luna Awards and movie actress of the year for her performance in the box office hit A Second Chance at the 32nd PMPC Star Awards for Movies in 2016."

Bea gained international attention via the Star Cinema film Eerie. It had its world premiere at the opening of the Singapore International Film Festival on December 3, 2018.

In the movie, Bea played a clairvoyant guidance counselor at an all-girls Catholic school.

The supernatural horror film was available for streaming on Netflix starting July 2019.

Bea expressed her gratitude for being part of the prestigious list by writing in her Instagram account:

"So, today, I was featured on Variety for being one of the awardees for the Asian Stars: Up Next showcased by IFFAM (International Film Festival and Awards Macau)

"What a great feeling to be recognized along with the other stars from different Asian countries for their body of work.

"Thank you @variety for the feature

"I am beyond excited to be able to represent the Philippines in Macau this coming December"

## Richard Gutierrez admits he almost left showbiz to live abroad!

"Nagplano na ako to live in a different country and start a new life..."

Richard Gutierrez admitted that he almost left show business three years ago.

On "Tonight With Boy Abunda," the "Unbreakable" actor opened up about his initial plan of leaving his stories career to live abroad and start anew.

"I was about to live in a different country [three or four years ago]. Nagplano na ako to live in a different country [and] start a new life. My dad did that. My dad walked away and started a different life, and maybe I could do the same," he revealed.

"[Pero] 'yung destiny ko talaga [is] to be here right now. Opportunities came, I grabbed it, and sunod-sunod na."

Since his decision to stay and continue pursuing his passion, Richard has been blessed with numerous projects. Now, he is busy promoting his new movie

where he stars alongside two of the country's greatest actresses, Angelica Panganiban and Bea Alonzo.

"Very grateful. I can't ask for more. All the blessings are given to me that's why I'm so thankful," he said of "Unbreakable."













Award of Excellence 2019 recipient Arielle Fina Abrazaldo poses with Josie De Leon. 2. Mika Sy reacts after being awarded JDL student of the Year. 3. Antoinette Targa received the Award of Excellence 2019. 4. Masters of Ceremony: Celine Grey and Tom Tan at the 2019 CMC Asian Food & Cultural Festival.5. JDL Cupid Arch at JDL 8th Anniversary Gala.

#### A difficult but blessed year for Roxanne

ROXANNE Barcelo says this year has been a difficult one for her but it's also full of blessings. "Last June, while my parents were vacationing in the U.S., nadulas ang dad ko sa banyo, nabagok ang ulo, na-stroke, he never recovered and passed away in July," she recounts. "Mahirap 'yung pinagdaanan ng family namin noon. Malaki ang gastos but buti na lang, maraming tumulong. We miss my dad so much up to now. Soon after that, dumating naman itong offer na movie, 'Love is Love', where I play the lead role. Bale naka-three movies ako this year, along with 'The Panti Sisters' and 'The Art of Ligaw'. Being busy helped me in coping with my grief over the tragic loss of my dad."

She played KZ Tandingan's lipstick lesbian boss in "Art of Ligaw". Now, in "Love is Love", she plays an even more controversial role. "I play Winona, who has long been based in Japan. Fignce ko roon si Neil Coleta as Wacko. Nana umuwi ako na Pilipinas, pinasalubona niya ako sa airport at ibinilin sa best friend niya, si JC de Vera as Anton. Habang magkasama kami, little by little. Anton falls in love with me. But then, he discovers something in me and so he questions himself about it."

Aside from the love story of Roxanne and JC, the film features the love affairs of other couples. Rufa Mae Quinto plays Roxanne's best friend who has

been deceived by so many men she now decides to experiment and have an affair with a "paminta" or straight-acting gay, played by Marco Alcaraz.

Another important character is Greta, the gay owner of a resort who acts as an adviser for many of the characters. Greta is played by Raymond Bagatsing with so much flair and he has a longtime lover in the movie, played by Jay Manalo, who admitted in the presscon that he has really had affairs with gays before.

The movie is directed by GB (for Giuseppe Bede) Sampedro, whose previous works include the Cine Malaya Filmfest award-winning drama "Astig", 'Separados" about separated men, and the hit comedy "Mang Kepweng Returns."

The movie is the first venture of RKB Productions, a leading bazaar and trade exhibition group in the country owned by Bernard Chong who also owns the shoe brand, World Balance. He is now optimistic that their first movie project will be successful at the box office since it offers first rate entertainment.

The trailer of "Love is Love" shows JC de Vera asking his dad, Johnny Revilla: "Dad, kapag ang lalaki ba, pumatol sa bakla, bakla na rin siya?" This is because he found out something about the real gender of Roxanne Barcelo in the movie. The ultimate message of "Love is Love" is that Love Knows No Gender. Get it?

As Roxanne says: "Love is a feeling. You get attracted to someone because of your feelings, your emotions, regardless of gender. I'm very open-minded about this. Kung ano 'yung nararamdaman ng puso

mo, dapat, bigyan mo ng laya.

"I'm glad I was given the chance to work with JC de Vera as my leading man. First time namin but comfortable ako agad sa kanya and I respect him because he's a perfectionist. Talagang hinihimay niya ang bawat eksena namin para lubusan naming maintindihan before we shoot it. And about that, we're on the same page. I'm also glad to work with Direk GB Sampedro kasi he's the first one to give me an acting workshop. So I trust him completely, even in that scene where pinahawakan niya kay JC ang boobs ko."

#### Is Nadine Lustre doing an 'ST' revival?

If you have it, flaunt it.

Such is the rational, if narcissistic take on a person whose physical endowments are meant to be displayed rather than left unnoticed for no one to appreciate.

This may well apply in the case of Nadine Lustre who opted to go a bit too daring in a photo shoot marking her birthday on October 31.

One of the three photos, the most eye-catching of all, had the topless yet jeans-clad Gawad Urian Best Actress awardee, covering her breasts with her right arm. Surely, it wasn't a sight to behold as far as the moral crusaders are concerned. But who gives a hoot?

Even if Nadine's birthday photos may relatively ap-

pear in bad taste, can these be far worse than getting publicized for living in with rumored boyfriend James Reid while projecting a supposedly saccharine image?

Truth is, we find Nadine's coming-out photos reminiscent of many a Seiko Films pictorial back in the '90s featuring the likes of Gretchen Barretto, Cristina "Kring Kring" Gonzales, Rina Reyes all the way to Rosanna Roces.

With their eye-popping photos competing with tabloid front page headlines in spatial prominence, the '90s' major sexy stars either collectively or individually known as ST (Sex Trip) Queens appeared in titillating films one after another as LPAs would subsequently hit the country.

The era, now consigned to history, is Nadine reliving it in photographs minus the films of similar texture.

Add to that is the obviously glaring chasm that (save for Rosanna) Gretchen, Cristina and Rina had dismally failed where Nadine has triumphed. The latters' predecessors in the "cheesecake category" traversed a career path co-terminus with the existence of the now-defunct Seiko Films.

We deem it as Nadine's way of reinventing herself. Gone are the days when slipping into wholesome roles got the giddier of her. She needs to mature as an actress, after all.

What sets her apart is that she's no so-so actress who bares flesh either for the oft-abused "art's sake" mien or probably for the heck of it. Certainly not in the mold of the '90s' so-called "hubaderas."



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### Only 10 out of 60 POGOs in PHL pay taxes

MANILA - The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) collects taxes from only 10 out of 60 registered Philippine Offshore Gaming Operations (POGO) operating in the country, according to a Tuesday report by Victoria Tulad on Quick Response Team.

During the hearing of the House Committee on Ways and Means, it was revealed that 50 of the POGOs are based in other countries though they have employees in the Philippines.

Committee chairperson Joey Salceda cited the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel's (OGCC) report that showed BIR's inability to tax POGOs.

"Sabi po ng OGCC na sila ay nonresident corporation and therefore 'yung operasyon nila ay non-taxable. So hindi natin nagagamit 'yung buwis," Salceda said.

Lawmakers said the government should instead consider halting POGO operations if they could not be properly taxed.

"If we cannot tax it properly, Mr. Chair, we might as well scrap the whole thing.



Why? Because it is not helping the government raise necessary revenues for that," Minority Leader Representative Bienvenido Abante, Jr. said.

"Sayang naman yung opportunity. It's really a lapse between the two agencies," AAMBIS-OWA Partylist Representative Sharon Garin said.

However, according to Salceda, both overseas-based and Philippine-based POGOs can be taxed. This was the goal of his House Bill 5267, which charges a 5 percent tax on their profit.

If approved, the government may acquire P45 billion in one year as the POGOs will also be charged with corporate income tax.

However, regulator Philippine

Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) rejected the proposal for higher taxes.

"Due to the volatility of market there might be a risk that these operators might find jurisdiction which offers better taxes," PAGCOR's Jessa Fernandez said.

According to data from the PAGCOR and the Bureau of Immigration, there are 80,000 to 140,000 POGO employees in the country, which are mostly Chinese nationals.

A lawmaker stressed that the income tax being paid by foreign workers should be the same as the tax being paid by Filipinos.

"Here, the proposal is to tax POGO employees 15% of their salaries. I'd like to ask the DOF why are we proposing a different tax rate compared to the Filipino employees?" Marikina Representative Stella Quimbo said.

"This would mean that those earning above P700,000 would end up paying lower taxes compared to Filipinos earning the same in different industries," she added.

## Miss Universe PH 2017 Rachel Peters is now engaged

2017 Rachel Peters is now engaged to Camarines Sur Governor Miguel Luis Villafuerte.

The beauty queen made the announcement on Instagram on Sunday.

"Your girl's getting hitched!" Peters said on the post as she showed off her engagement ring.

Peters, 28, and Villafuerte, 30, have been together for five years.

Fellow beauty queens, including reigning Miss Universe Catriona Gray, congratulated Peters on her engagement.

#### What Dimples has proven

DIMPLES Romana joined showbiz when she was only 12 after she was discovered by Vera Isberto in a mall. ABS-CBN then launched her as part of Star Circle Batch 4 in 1997 that included Jericho Rosales, Kristine Hermosa and Dominic Ochoa. She was so pretty a lot of writers predicted she'll quickly gain full stardom, but she got married early and so she never really achieved leading lady status.

the

that

Now, she's turning 35 on November 13 and proves that you cannot really good talent down. Through years, she is able to prove she's a good actress and she has achieved popuin her role as Daniella Mondragon aka Dani Girl in the afternoon soap, "Kadenang Gin-

to" where she has launched a thousand memes showing her traveling to various places.

It is for this reason that the local beauty brand Skin Magical got her as their endorser. Their partnership actually started at "Kadenang Ginto" where the product's Gandang Palaban collection was initially introduced

After Dimples used their products in "Kadenang Ginto", their orders more than doubled and they can now hardly cope with the backlog of orders.

What does their campaign Gandang Palaban mean? "Ito yung kahit ano nang ibato sa 'yo na hindi maganda, mga trials and tribulations sa buhay, bumabangon ka pa rin. Pero kapag bumangon 'yung gandang palaban, hindi lang basta bumangon ka kundi bumangon kang maganda ka. Ang maganda pa, very affordable bawat set namin, only P250."

Dimples is busy not only with "Kadenang Ginto" but also with movies. She has completed two new films: "Block Z", a zombie movie, and the Metro Manila Filmfest entry "The Mall the Merrier". "Security guard akong lumalaban sa zombies in 'Block Z' and in 'The Mall', contravida ako kina Vice Ganda and Anne Curtis. And in January, I will start a new movie with Maricel Soriano. So, tuluy-tuloy ang dating ng blessings so career ko at sa family life ko, wala akong marereklamo as I'm so happy with my husband and our two kids who are now, 16 and 4 years old."

Dimples is also busy helping out her good friend Angel Locsin for her coming wedding with producer Neil Arce. She's a personal witness to their love story. "I'm preparing to give her a bachelorette party. Pero hindi lang ito for women only kasi marami ring male friends si Angel kaya kasama rito ang mga kaibigan naming lalaki para mas masaya."

## Let's judge the Philippines as SEA Games host afterwards

Much of the criticism of the Philippines' organising of the SEA Games is premature and unfair.

SINGAPORE: Even before the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games torch is lit in Manila on Saturday (Nov 30), the host country has come under fire.

Complaints have included incomplete infrastructure for the Games, with work still being done to the façade of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, and international journalists being stationed in a makeshift media centre

The management of athletes has also fallen short as reports showed some resting on the floor because hotels were not ready to check them in yet, while others have complained of insufficient or poor provision of food

The Thai football team reportedly trained in the streets because the training facilities allocated to them were just too far away from their hotel.

Such reports and more coming out of the Philippines have dealt something of a blow to the country's reputation and credibility.

However, while athletes and officials have valid reasons for griping, some of the criticism levied at the Philippines is just unfair and premature.

#### A DEVELOPING PROBLEM?

Some have said that the Philippines' lack of preparation for these games is due to its ineptitude.



Temporary press room SEA Games
Journalists wait for a press conference at a temporary media
center at the Rizal memorial sports complex in Manila.

But hosting large international and regional sporting events can be a logistical challenge for any country, even the most savvy and well-practised in organising global events.

When American city Atlanta hosted the 1996 Olympics, poor transportation planning saw athletes and fans delayed for events in extra-long bus rides with drivers from out of town trying to navigate the city's complex highways.

Spain infuriated international footballers through airport and flight delays, ticketing and hotel mess-ups when it hosted the 1982 World Cup.

Logistics lapses over meals for volunteers and food poisoning were also a part of Singapore's hosting of the Youth Olympic Games in 2010.

The Philippines may have had some hiccups in the lead up to the opening ceremony of the SEA Games.

But having hosted three successful editions of the regional competition before in 1981, 1991 and 2005, it has a pretty decent track-record of delivering the goods

when it matters.

#### LET THE GAMES BEGIN

Second, it is a little premature to pass a verdict when the SEA Games have not even officially begun. From my experience, host countries eventually find a way to iron out teething issues.

In 2014, just months before Brazil hosted the World Cup, international media reports suggested that the South American football-crazy country was ill-prepared.

What I saw first-hand surprised me. Well-organised processes and efficient public transportation ensured that fans getting to the swanky, new stadiums had a seamless, safe and enjoyable experience.

But for all the initial misgivings, the Brazilians eventually delivered a pretty stellar tournament.

Four years later, the Russians also succumbed to similar criticism in the lead up to its hosting of the 2018 World Cup. Again, concerns of safety, security and preparation were raised.

In my two weeks there, I went to different cities in comfortable and high-speed overnight sleeper trains, which were free-of-charge to all match-ticket holders.

Along with the transport, the match infrastructure was impeccable with orderly queues to enter the stadiums and fan-zones.

These experiences tell me that we should perhaps rate the Philippines after the competition is over. And that, like Brazil and Russia, it may be ready by the time the SEA Games officially opens this weekend.

#### POLITICAL WILL TO SEE IT THROUGH

The Philippines, on the other hand, is not waiting until after the Games are over to address the problem of any organising flaws and oversights.

President Rodrigo Duterte has already issued an ultimatum to organisers to work on contingency measures and fix any problems and called for a probe.

A presidential spokesperson on Tuesday (Nov 26) said that Duterte was "angry over what happened" and has ordered an investigation on "allegations of incompetence and corruption".

It may well be that this timely intervention by the no-nonsense Duterte could help the Philippines deliver on a successful SEA Games.

Until then, let's reserve judgement and not use derogatory terms like "third-world country" to tar a nation doing its best to welcome regional athletes.







Sarah Geronimo turns emotional as she performs 'Tagpuan' with Moira dela Torre in December 2018. ABS-CBN

#### 'Nakakaiyak naman': Was Sarah G just engaged in this emotional 'Tagpuan' number?

MANILA — In December 2018, Sarah Geronimo tried to hold back tears as she performed a song about finding one's life partner, which now appears to be a hint of a personal milestone in light of the belated announcement of her engagement.

At the time, the pop superstar had just been recently engaged to her long-time boyfriend Matteo Guidicelli, at least according to a time frame established by a family member.

Guidicelli's younger brother, Paolo, said the actor and Geronimo had been "engaged for about a year now" when the development was made public on November 7.

Less than a year ago, on December 11, 2018, Geronimo shared the stage with Moira dela Torre during the ABS-CBN Christmas concert.

They performed dela Torre's hit "Tagpuan," which was the latter's personal anthem for her engagement. Its music video, in fact, included footage of the wedding proposal of dela Torre's now-husband Jason Hernandez.

Visibly emotional in parts of the number, Geronimo said at one point, "Nakakaiyak naman!"

While they're among the most visible stars in showbiz, Geronimo, 31, and Guidicelli, 29, have largely kept their relationship low profile.

They first confirmed their relationship in 2014, after nearly a year of being officially together. They reportedly celebrated their sixth anniversary as a couple in September 2019.

Last Sunday marked the first time Gernimo wore her engagement ring on television, as she received congratulatory messages from her co-hosts on "ASAP Natin 'To."



### Jane, sisikat dahil sa Darna

Iwas in July this year nang i-announce ng Star Cinema na si Jane de Leon (21) ang gaganap sa most -coveted role na "Darna" na parehong inatrasan nina Angel Locsin at Liza Soberano. Ang dating Girltrends member na si Jane na

huling napanood sa primetime TV series na "Halik" ay inaasahang sisikat nang husto in 2020 kapag nasimulan na niyang gawin ang "Darna" na nakatakdang idirek ni Jerrold Tarog, ang director ng "Heneral Luna" at "Goyo: Ang Batang Heneral".

Ang "Darna" ay isinulat ng yumaong nobelistang si Mars Ravelo at iginuhit ng artist na si Nestor Redondo at unang lumabas sa Pilipino Komiks nung May 13, 1950.

Si Jane ay pang-14 na aktres na gaganap sa fictional Filipino super hero na unang ginampanan ni Rosa del Rosario at sinundan nina Liza Moreno, Eva Montes, Gina Pareño, Vilma Santos (tatlong beses), Lorna Tolentino, Rio Locsin, Sha-Cuneta, Nanette Medved, Anjanette Aba-Regine Velasquez, Angel Locsin at Marian Rivera.

Si Angel ang original choice ng Star Cinema to portray the role of "Darna" sa pelikula pero ito'y umatras dahil sa kanyang back ailment. Pumalit naman sa kanya si Liza Soberano pero sa kalaunan ay nag-back

out din ito dahil sa kanyang finger injury na kailangan niyang ipa-opera sa Āmerica. And the third and final choice ay si Jane de Leon na dating miyembro ng allgirl dance group na Girltrends ng "It's Showtime' noontime show pero buwag na rin ang nasabing grupo gayundin ang all-male dance group na Hashtags. Ngayong 2020 simulan ang sifilming ng <sup>«</sup>Darna" na nagpalit din director from Erik Matti to errold Tarog. Tuluy-tuloy naman ang ron pagti-training yari, ni Jane sa iba't ibang fight scenes maging ang regular ni-

yang pagdyi-gym to keep her physically fit for the role.

### **Prima Donnas Rising**

GMA Network's newest female teen stars seem to be fast on the rise since headlining the series "Prima Donnas." Former child stars Jillian Ward, Sophia Pablo and Althea Ablan have happily seen their number of followers on social media bal- loon along with their show's ratings.

"Just the thought that we are making more people happy makes us feel so good as well. That's what we're here for

and I'm so glad that they like our show. Kami naman, we really take our acting to heart because ito lang ang naman ang pwede naming maiganti sa kabutihan ng fans sa amin. We will always strive to be good role-models as well," Sophia promised.

"That's why we always see to it that we make time for the fans. May mga fan groups po kami and each of go and see them. We want them to feel that they are important to us so pag may event sila, kung pwede din lang naman akong pumunta, talagang pumupunta ako and I see how much they appreciate my being there. Yung mga gano'n, maliit na bagay lang naman na hindi na dapat ipagdamot sa kanila," Althea adds.

By the way, it's not only in the Philippines where the three young actresses have gotten popular. They're also well know in the US and other countries where GMA Pinoy TV airs. In fact, when Showbuzz was in LA the other, we got so many questions about and our Kapusos abroad are hoping they soon get to visit the huge Filipino community in California.

In the meantime, the trio promise their fans that Prima Donnas will get more exciting from episode to

#### Lovi wants to explore the world before settling down

LOVI Poe says the rumor that she is moving to ABS-CBN is not true. "I just appeared there to promote my new movie, 'The Annulment'," she says. "But I just did GMA-7's 'Magpakailanman' episode 'Pati Ba Pintig ng Puso' and may bago raw akong soap na gagawin so, Kapuso pa rin po ako."

Lovi is very open in admitting that she's now in a long-distance relationship with Monty Blencowe, a movie producer and medical researcher from England who is currently based in the U.S.

"I met him in Los Angeles and our friendship just grew," she adds. "He is a nice and good person, an old soul, so nagkasundo agad kami and we're just sharing this moment together even while we're far away from each other. Thanks to modern technology and the internet, we can still easily communicate with each other constantly."

Monty got to visit her recently and Lovi toured him around. "It's his first visit to the Philippines and I took him to Boracay and to Samal Island in Davao na gandang-ganda siya. He also got to meet my mother, who has nothing but good words for him."

Before Monty, she was on with a Filipino-French guy, Chris Johnson. What happened to them? "We dated for almost two

years but it just didn't work out for us. But we are still on good terms. He's okay, wala akong masasabing masama sa kanya, talaga lang we're not meant for each other. Now, with Monty, we're hoping for the best."

What is she looking for in a guy? "First and foremost, he has to understand that my career is one of my top priorities. I don't want someone dictating on me and asking me to stop what I'm doing. Ayoko nung sasabi-

han ako kung ano ang puede kong gawin on screen. I can't see myself sacrificing my career for love. Kamukha rito sa 'The Annulment', I have very daring love scenes with Joem Bascon as we play husband and wife in the movie, so hindi mo ko puedeng sabihan na huwag mong gawin yan."

She also doesn't see herself getting married in the near future. "Although I'm happy to see my friends being happily married, the idea of me also becoming



a wife has not crossed my mind yet. I believe in people who love each other, and make things work after making that commitment in marriage, but in my case, there's still a lot of things I want to do at talagang hindi pa ako ready to settle down and start my own family. I want to take my time and explore the world, travel to new places, meet new people, so there's really no need to rush."

In "The Annulment", she plays Gari, a teacher who falls in love with Joem Bascon as Sherwin

after a whirlwind romance.

"You know, making this movie is an eye-opener for me as it made me realize just how hard it is to keep a relationship going. So before taking the plunge, you have to make sure that you're really right for each other. What happens to our characters is something I wouldn't wish to happen even to my worst enemies. Masyadong masakit ang pinagdaanan ng characters namin ni Joem dito."



### Filipino teens among worst in the world for physical activity

MANILA, Philippines — A study from journal The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health found that 93.4% of school-going Filipinos aged 11 to 17 lack physical activity as of 2016, ranking it almost at the bottom 146 countries.

Out of 146 included in the study, only the Cambodia (91.6%), the Philippines, South Korea (94.2%) and Sudan (90.3%) recorded over 90% of prevalent insufficient activity among adolescents.

"Philippines was the country with the highest prevalence of insufficient activity among boys (92.8%), whereas South Korea showed the highest levels among girls

(97.2%) and both sexes combined (94.2%)," the journal said.

The rate of insufficient activity among adolescent girls in the Philippines was also relatively high at 92%.

Globally, 81% of students aged 11 to 17 years old were insufficiently physically active, failing to meet current physical activity guidelines of the World Health Organization.

The high-income Asia Pacific region recorded the highest prevalence of insufficient activity for both boys and girls with 89% and 95.6%, respectively.

The current levels of physical inactivity



among adolescents around the world show that there is an urgent need for scaling up of implementation of policies and programs to increase

their activity, according to the study.

"Investment and leadership at all levels to intervene on multiple causes and inequalities that might perpetuate the low participation in physical activity and sex differences, as well as engagement of youth themselves, will be vital to strengthen the opportunities for physical activity in all communities," the report read.

This would also help improve the health of the current and future generations and support achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

"Current evidence also highlights the need for more harmonised, device-based physical activity data; more detailed physical activity data for different domains such as walking and cycling, sport, physical education, or unstructured activity during leisure time; and more disaggregated data for population subgroups," it said.

## Ivana Alawi mas may 'K' na calendar girl kina Sanya, Barbie



ara sa mga fan, lalo na sa mga kalalakihan, mas may karapatan si Ivana Alawi, kesa kay Barbie Imperial, na maging calendar girl ng Tanduay, o kaya ay kay Sanya Lopez daw.

Taglay-taglay nga raw kasi ni Ivana ang lahat ng katangian na hinahanap ng mga lalaki sa isang babae.

Magandang mukha, nakababaliw na hugis ng katawan, at lakas ng loob na ilantad ang kanyang asset.

Sa Instagram nga ni Ivana, makikita mo na karamihan sa mga photo niya ay lantad ang wetpaks, cleavage niya, with matching emote, na akala mo nang-aakit talaga.

Kaya ang Instagram niya, punong-puno ng mga komento ng mga kalalakihan, na sa totoo lang, nakakamangha talaga. Imagine, sa bawat photo na pinu-post niya, umaabot sa mahigit 4,000 o 7,000 ang komento, ha! Na hindi mo basta-basta nakikita sa ibang celebrity.

Si Barbie nga, sa latest IG post niya na may kinalaman sa pagiging calendar girl niya, wala pang isang libo ang nagkomento, ha! Samantalang kay Ivana nga raw, simpleng pictorial lang 'yon suot ang 2 piece bikini na kulay puti, libo-libo na talaga agad ang nagpapahayag ng kanilang nararamdaman.

Na karamihan nga, ang komento nila, kanin na lang ang kulang, dahil photo pa lang ni Ivana, ulam na.

Well, malay naman natin, may iba pang kalendaryo na lumabas, at si Ivana na ang bida, ha!

## Sanya bagong Ginebra calendar girl

ANG 23-year-old Kapuso rising star na si Sanya Lopez ang pinakabagong The Island Girl ng Ginebra San Miguel Calendar 2020. She was formally launched to the media last Thursday (October 25) afternoon sa Novotel in Araneta City in Cubao, Quezon City.

Ayon sa nakababatang kapatid ng Kapuso actor na si Jak Roberto na hindi siya makapaniwala na siya ang susunod sa 2015 Miss Universe na si Pia Wurtzbach na siyang kasalukuyang Calendar Girl 2019 ng Ginebra San Miguel. Mapapabilang na rin si Sanya sa napakaraming Cal-

endar Girls na sinimulan ni Monina Tan in 1988 kung saan din kabilang sina Anjanette Abayari, Alma Concepcion, Michelle Aldana, Janna Victoria, Aubrey Miles, Geneva Cruz, Rica Peralejo, Angelica Panganiban, Belinda Bright, Maricar de Mesa, Maureen Larrazabal, Iwa Moto, Krista Ranillo, Solenn Heussaff, Kim Domingo, Marian Rivera, Anne Curtis, Georgina Wilson, Ellen Adarna, Arci Munoz at Myrtle Sarrosa. Siya ang ika-32 Calendar Girl ng Ginebra San Miguel which was inspired from the hit American TV series "Charlie's Angels."

It was in 2012 nang mamataan si Sanya ng namayapang actor-comedian-host-producer and star builder na si Kuya Germs sa studio ng "Walang Tulugan with the Master Showman" nang ito'y sumama sa kanyang kuya (Jak Roberto) na isa na noon sa mga mainstay ng late night program.

When Kuya Germs passed on in January 2016, in-absorb ng GMA Artists Center ang ilan sa mga talents ng WTWTMS at kasama na roon ang magkapatid na Jak at Sanya.

Kahit nung nabubuhay pa si Kuya Germs ay may mga projects na sa Kapuso network si Sanya tulad ng TV series na "Dormitoryo" in 2013 na sinundan ng "The Half-Sister" at the "Millionaire's Wife" na sinundan ng TV remake ng "Encantadia". Sumunod na rito ang "Haplos," "Cain at Abel" at "Dahil sa Pag-ibig".

Sa buong taon ng 2020 ay magiging busy si Sanya sa mga promo activities ng Ginebra San Miguel bilang "Island Girl" ng nasabing brand ng inumin.

#### Barbie Imperial goes daring as Tanduay 2020 calendar girl

- Barbie Imperial stunned everyone as she revealed that she is the new Tanduay calendar girl
- She posted about it on her Instagram account, where she shared an alluring photo of her
- The Kapamilya actress also shared a short video that shows a glimpse of her

fierce photoshoot

- Netizens and some celebrities were all praises for Barbie's look
- They also congratulated her for her big break

Barbie Imperial bravely accepted a daring project as she is the new Tanduay calendar girl.

She shared the good news on her Instagram account with a short clip that shares a glimpse of her photoshoot.

The former 'Araw Gabi' actress also

posted a daring photo which she captioned with, "#TanduayCalendarGirl".

Her post created buzz on IG with more

than 200,000 likes as of this writing.

Even some celebrities also reacted to her new project.

All of them congratulated her and

expressed their amazement towards her stunning portraits.

Some of the celebrities who comments

Some of the celebrities who commented were Vhong Navarro, Ara Mina, Rita Avila and many more.

#### Bonggang project ni male star, hindi na matutuloy dahil sa pangne-nega ng dvowa



May kabonggahan pa naman ang project dahil tila si boy daw ang flavor of the season ng bigwig behind the project.

Looks like there's still trouble in paradise.

Kahit kasi sweet-sweetan in public ang celebrity couple na dumaan sa gusot kamakailan ay tuloy pa rin pala ang nagaganap na sumbatan off-cam.

Si boy kasi ay nasa exploration stage ngayon at tumanggap ng trabahong hindi kasama si girl. Okay lang naman sana yon. Kaso, si girl was the last to know about it. Hindi nagka-balls si boy na sabihan si girl about it kahit magkasama naman sila araw-araw.

What made matters worse, sa social media nalang nalaman ni girl ang lahat. Feeling betrayed si girl. Ang ending, naratatat si boy—hindi lang ni girl kundi maging ng kulto ng fans nilang feeling na-betray din.

May ginawa namang move si boy to pacify everyone. At tila napaliwanagan niya si girl. And for awhile, kumalma ang lahat.

Pero habang papalapit na ang pag-giling ng new project, sinasaniban na naman ng insecurity si girl. May mga panibagong pagmamarakulyo daw na nagaganap. May dinayalog pa raw si girl na alam na niya ngayon na mas mahal ni boy ang career nito kaysa kanya.

At dahil naririndi na si boy, tila ayaw na raw nitong ituloy ang project dahil napangunahan na ng kung anu-anong kanegahan.

Nanghihinayang naman ang mga solid followers ni boy dahil chance na niya ito to prove himself. May kabonggahan pa naman ang project dahil tila si boy daw ang flavor of the season ng bigwig behind the project. Balita pa nga ay package deal ang isang kapatid ni boy na hindi maka-alagwa ang showbiz career.

## This MNL48 member looks a lot like Daniel, Kathryn



Some people are saying that Gabb of MNL48 can pass off as the "daughter" of Daniel Padilla and Kathryn Bernardo, given how she resembles the two. Instagram

MANILA -- When Daniel Padilla and Gabb Skribikin, a member of MNL48, crossed paths last month, the former was quick to stop her and tell her that she looked like someone familiar.

The first person who came to his mind was video game streamer Aeriel Garcia, the girlfriend of his friend Patrick Sugui.

But to fans of MNL48, the reason Gabb might have caught Padilla's attention was more than her having the same haircut as Garcia --some of them have this crazy theory that Gabb is from the future and jumped back in time to meet Padilla, her "father."

Yes, the thought is completely silly but it was just to highlight how much Gabb resembles not only Padilla, but also Kathryn Bernardo, ever since she got her bob cut.

If Kathryn Bernardo and Daniel Padilla would have a daughter, she'd totally look like Gabb of MNL48!

According to Gab, she is overwhelmed by the comparisons and is feeling extremely thankful towards all the compliments.

She also jokingly told Padilla and Bernardo: "Ma at Pa, nandito lang ako kung kailangan niyo ako."

Gabb has been with MNL48 since the group was introduced last year, though she only found herself having more of the spotlight thanks to being picked as the "center" for their new single.

She is known primarily for her striking androgynous aesthetic, and for her determination to pursue her dreams of becoming a singer despite being deaf on one ear.

She leads the 5th single of MNL48, "High Tension," which they performed live on iWant's "ASAP" last month.

### **MOVIEGOER:** Co-existing with traffic

JUST A THOUGHT: 'A man who is a master of patience is master of everything else.' -George Savile

••

TRAFFIC AND CHRISTMAS: These days, it isn't unusual to hear of friends, other people, getting stuck in traffic for three hours, even more.

A friend, Pilar Palabrica, posted on Facebook recently that it took her five and a half exasperating hours to travel from Alabang to Ateneo de Manila in Katipunan.

Harsher are the conditions faced daily by commuters and motorists going through SLEX, which is currently undergoing Skyway extension. NLEX is just as tough.

You may wonder. How will the traffic situation in Metro Manila impact on our Christmas celebration?

•••

LETTER FROM THE NORTH: A post spreading on Facebook makes light of the situation. It also makes a lot of sense.

The unknown author of this post has written a letter to friends from North of Metro Manila, citing BGC, Makati, Manila, Pasig, Mandaluyong, and most especially Quezon City.

The letter is supposedly written by friends from the South (Muntinlupa, Parañaque, Las Piñas, and Calabarzon).

The letter says: "We are sending our RSVP in advance to all your invites for Christmas Party, Dinner, Lunch, Breakfast, Coffee and Drinks, that we will not be able to attend any of these festivities because of fear of getting stuck in 3 hour traffic going to and going home from the said invites. Out of courtesy, we will also not invite you to go to any parties and the like here in the south."

As a postscript, the letter writer suggests that parties gathering friends from both

north and south can exchange gifts in January 2020.

••

HOW TO SURVIVE TRAFFIC: I take regular trips to the south almost every weekend. How do I make it?

I find ways and means to skip traffic and all the inconveniences it brings.

First, I have ceased driving through heavy traffic, so I take the bus. My favorite is JAM Liner, which I board at the ED-SA-Kamuning Terminal.

Their drivers are professional; their conductors, ever so helpful.

Second, timing is important. I sacrifice a bit by waking up early, not much to ask from a senior like myself.

I take the first bus out of the terminal, which leaves around 5 in the morning.

The bus leaves promptly, glides effortlessly through Cubao and EDSA. In no time, at the break of dawn, we are cruising on SLEX.

We pass by the construction site of the skyway extension near Susana Heights while workers have yet to wake up from sleep. Their absence makes traffic going south a breeze.

But, not for long. If you set out a little later, the picture changes completely, dramatically.

That's when you start counting sheep, or try inducing sleep.

•••

WAKE UP EARLY: Going back, I prefer to leave Lipa early morning on a Sunday.

The bus stop at the SM Lipa Grand Terminal is not crowded with passengers. It is actually quite relaxed.

Speaking of this terminal, passenger jeeps coming from Rosario and San Juan have been prohibited from using the station, following a new ruling by the city government.

Passengers are required to take a tricycle from poblacion, costing them 50 pesos more in transport fare. It isn't fair, is it?

You grin and bear with it.

WAYS AND MEANS: In the past, we hear of actors, public figures resorting to various ways to beat Metro Manila traffic.

Few years ago, Anne Curtis braved an MRT ride to reach Araneta Coliseum in Cubao for a show that she had to do.

Sam Milby hitched a ride on a passing motorcycle so he could a catch a plane at the airport. He left his car on the sidewalk.

On the other hand, Kim Chiu did the next best thing when stuck in traffic recently. She used her duathlon experience, running 3 kilometers in 10 minutes to BGC where she was to walk the ramp on a fashion show.

True grit, we call it.

#### Kisses' changes manager

Triple A Artists Management formally introduced Kapamilya artist Kisses Delavin as their new contract star in a media conference for the 20-year-old "Pinoy Big Brother" teen edition discovery.

Triple A president Rams David said they waited for Kisses to finish her contract with ABS-CBN before they talked to her and presented a career plan. He added they believe in the artist's potential and see her as a multi-media performer and therefore packaging her as such — a movie and TV actress and a singer with plans for a major concert by next year.

Film director Mike Tuviera, on the other hand, has also lined up three movies for Kisses, including a rom-com and a family drama. Direk Mike said he cannot discuss the projects in detail yet especially since

they're still going over their choices on who to pair with Kisses.

Given the chance, Kisses would like to guest on the iconic noontime show "Eat Bulaga," which of course airs over ABS-CBN's rival network GMA.

Asked what made her decide to sign up with Triple A, Kisses candidly replied it's how they made a big star of Maine Mendoza from her Yaya Dub days in Eat Bulaga and more so because her idol Marian Rivera-Dantes is with the management group.

"I can see how happy and content Ate Marian is with the way Triple A is handling her career. I hope to experience same kind of love and attention that Triple A is giving her," Kisses enthused.

\* \* \*

Sexy Kapuso actress Sanya Lopez denies that Kapamilya hunk Gab Lagman is her boyfriend. At her launch as one of Beautederm Corporation's newest brand ambassadors, she stated, "We became friends but he was never my boyfriend.

Nakakahiya sa kanya ang chismis!" She agrees that Gab is good-looking and is a potential boyfriend material all the

\* \* \*

TV host-comedian Arnell Ignacio could not believe how he was mobbed by fans when he attended the premiere of the movie "Damaso" at SM Megamall."

Bakit sila nagpapakuha ng picture sa akin," Arnell said with a smile. But he enjoyed the moment, especially dressed as a priest.

The movie sees the comedian doing drama in a musical film directed by Joven Tan.



### Teen pregnancies spawn endless poverty

MANILA, Philippines — Teenage pregnancy creates an "unending" cycle of poverty in the country, the Commission on Population (PopCom) said as it called anew on President Duterte to issue an executive order declaring it a national and social emergency.

Lydio Español Jr., PopCom director for National Capital Region, told The STAR in an interview in Pasig City that early pregnancies might shackle families to poverty.

"Teenage pregnancy has become an intergenerational poverty issue because our adolescents are supposed to be the future of our country but because of the problem,



about 10 percent are getting pregnant," he said, pointing out that this creates a scenario where Filipinos are not able to rise from poverty.

He revealed that about 200,000 adolescents are getting pregnant every year – a

number too big to ignore. "It's a huge part of our population and we could not do away with poverty unless we address this problem."

Citing a study made by the University of the Philippines, Español said P34 billion is lost from the Philippine economy every year due to teen pregnancies.

He again asked Duterte to declare teenage pregnancy a national and social emergency, believing that this would help the government address the issue better.

PopCom, he added, is trying to reduce the number to half by the end of Duterte's term

#### Albert walang balak palitan si Liezl

AT 58, widower Albert Martinez is



ta ng isang tulad niya. Sa totoo lang ayaw nang tumibok ng puso ko. She took my heart with her. Pinangarap niyang makitang ikinakasal ang mga anak namin. Sayang at hindi niya naabutan ang magkaroon ng apo."

Next year ay planong magpakasal ng kanyang only son Alfonso sa longtime girlfriend nitong si Miki Hahn kaya Albert decided to live in a condo.

Tulad ng nakaugalian, Albert will celebrate Christmas with his children abroad. He is kept busy with many things tulad ng pagpapatayo ng isang hotel on his lot na pinaniniwalaang nakabaon ang kayamanan ni Yamasita. Hence the name Treasure Mountain..

#### Yam Concepcion, peg si Heart Evangelista sa pagbabalik-serye

MAYNILA — Nagbigay patikim ang Kapamilya star na si Yam Concepcion sa mga dapat abangan sa kaniyang pagbabalik-telebisyon sa "Love Thy Woman."

Isa si Yam sa mga magiging bahagi ng



teleserye na pangungunahan nina Kim Chiu at Xian Lim.

Kuwento ng aktres na markado sa kaniyang karakter sa "Halik" bilang Jade, ibang Yam ang mapapanood sa panibagong serye.

"Dito naman medyo bida-kontrabida siya. Joke! Ayoko naman pangunahan. Kasi 'di pa naman natin alam kung ano mangyayari doon sa story," sabi pa ni Yam.

Ayon pa kay Yam, kabilang sa kaniyang paghahanda ang panonood sa mga You-Tube videos ni Heart Evangelista.

"Yung preparations ko? [Noong] nalaman ko nang nabigay sa akin 'yung role, nanood ako ng mga vlogs ni Heart (Evangelista) kasi siya 'yung kind of peg ko," aniya.

"Kasi 'di ba 'yung role ko dito mayaman, sosyal, bratty. Well, si Heart hindi naman bratty. Pero tinitingnan ko 'yung mga nuances niya, like how she talks, ganu'n," pahayag pa ng aktres.

Inaasahan na mapapanood ang "Love Thy Woman" sa unang bahagi ng 2020.

#### 'Soulmate' ni James Reid at Nancy ng Momoland, matutuloy pa ba?

MAYNILA - Matipid ang Kapamilya star na si James Reid nang hingan ito nang update sa proyektong pagsasamahan nila ng Korean star na si Nancy ng Momoland.

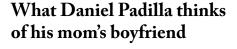
"I can't say too much about that right now. Sorry."

Sa ulat ng Push, mas pinili ng Kapamilya star na hindi na muna magbigay ng detalye nang tanungin kung matutuloy pa ba ang "Soulmate" na kanyang proyekto kasama ang Korean star.

"I can't answer that. I can't talk about that," aniya pa sa panayam.

Nakatakda sanang ipalabas sa Enero ng susunod na taoon ang 13 part mini-series ni James at

Nancy na idi-direct ni Antoinette Jadaone.



MANILA -- Daniel Padilla, eldest child of showbiz mom Karla Estrada, has seen his fair share of his mom's relationship woes through the years.

This is the reason why he is hesitant to



give his approval of Estrada's current boyfriend, Jam Ignacio, the actor explained in an interview on "Tonight with Boy Abunda" this

Friday.

"Lahat ng relationship ng ermat ko, nandoon ako. So lahat nakita ko, narinig ko. So siyempre bilang anak ka at nakita mo lahat, hindi siya kaagad, 'Ayos, okay na.' Ngayon iba na," he said.

Padilla said he appreciates Ignacio's effort to reach out him, how he feels like he is his mom's "number one security," and how happy his mom is at the moment.

"Masaya lang ako ngayon kasi she's very happy and I think she's in love and that's good," Padilla said.

It was only last June when Estrada and Ignacio met. Estrada, in an interview on "Magandang Buhay," explained that she fell for her boyfriend because of how upfront he was about his feelings.



## Angelica Panganiban wants to be ninang to Anne Curtis' baby

Angelica Panganiban reveals on her past interview that she wishes to be a ninang to Anne Curtis' baby!

One of the many wishes of actress Angelica Panganiban is to be a godmother to Anne Curtis and Erwan Heussaff's future little one.

Angelica is a dear friend of Anne so there's a huge possibility that Angelica's wish will be granted once the soon-to-be mom gave birth to her first child a few months from now.

During Angelica's guesting in the morning show Magandang Buhay last November 22, prior to bringing up her plans on being a ninang to Anne's baby, Angelica first began to talk about the wonderful friendship she shares with her celebrity friends Angel Locsin, Bea Alonzo, and Anne

A viral photo of them which surfaced online after the ABS-CBN Ball a couple of months ago became a topic in the said show. Jolina Magdangal, Karla Estrada and Melai Cantiveros, the show's hosts, were curious about the story behind their group photo.

"Kasi kaming apat pag nagsasama kami hindi naman namin talaga pinopost on social media. Mas gusto namin na private lang 'yong ganap na nangyayari sa amin," said Angelica.

She added, "So ito [pertaining to the photo] 'yong pinaka-public event na ginawa namin na nagsama-sama kaming apat so lahat kami excited talaga na sabi namin 'tara tapos magpicture tayo!'...kasi gusto lang namin ng nakaw na sandali talaga."

Angelica truly believed that her friendship with these superstars are extra special.

"Mayroon kasi kaming iba't ibang personalities kaya siguro ang ganda na kapag nagsama-sama kami ay iba-iba 'yong mapupulot mo sa kanila. Nai-impress ka sa kabaitan nitong isa, nai-impress ka sa katalinuhan ng isa, nai-impress ka sa sweetness nung isa. Alam mo 'yong iba-iba talaga siya.

"Dapat ganun 'yong mga taong kinakasama mo lagi, para matulungan ka rin na maayos ang self mo. 'Yong nakikita mo ang mga magaganda sa kanila, at 'yong mga hindi magaganda sa kanila ay hindi nila ipinagmamalaki.

"Gusto nilang ayusin kung ano 'yong hindi maganda sa kanila, at 'yong maganda roon ay nagtutulungan ang mga kaibigan mo para mas maging better 'yong taong yon.

"Di kami naghihilaan pababa, lagi naming pinu-push 'yong isa't isa na, 'go, ikaw ang pinakamaganda, ikaw ang pinakamagaling.' And naniniwala kami roon. Kapag sinasabi namin 'yon, totoo 'yon."

In the same interview, Angelica mentioned that they are happy for Anne's new chapter in life—being a mom. And that all three of them insist that they will be a ninang to Anne's baby.

"Kini-claim na nga namin na magni-ninang kami. Kahit siguro ayaw niya, ipagpipilitan namin talaga," she joked.



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#### Alden Richards admits The Gift struggling to beat ABS-CBN's Starla in ratings game

Aminado ang GMA-7 actor na si Alden Richards na nahihirapan ang prime-time series niya na The Gift na makipaglaban sa ratings ng katapat na programa sa ABS-CBN.

Kasalukuyang katapat ng The Gift sa prime-time block ang Starla na pinagbibidahan ni Judy Ann Santos.

Base sa NUTAM People Ratings mula October 21 to 25, hindi pumapalo sa double digits ang ratings ng The Gift kumpara sa ratings ng Starla.

Pahayag ni Alden tungkol dito, "We have to admit that we really struggle, pero as long as we're being able to deliver a good message naman through the story, yun naman talaga yung objective ng The Gift since we started, e."

Dagdag pa nito, "Medyo malakas talaga yung kabila."

Hindi man maungusan ng The Gift ang kalabang programa sa ratings, makakaasa ang kanilang manonood na gagawin nila ang kanilang makakaya upang mas mapaganda pa ang teleserye.

Sabi ni Alden, "We're really doing our best. Wala kaming humpay sa pagpapaganda ng istorya.

"Every taping, we see to it that lahat ng characters and people involved in the creative side have something to say about it.

"Even us actors, we change the script on

the spot, if we feel our characters are not on the same page as the one on the script.

"Ganun yung ginagawa namin but masaya naman kami. We're very happy with the result of The Gift and the effect on it sa mga tao and everyone who's watching it."

Masaya naman si Alden dahil nare-recognize siya bilang Sep, ang karakter na ginagampanan nito sa The Gift.

Sa katunayan, ang mga bata mula sa Bahay Bulilit na nakasama ni Alden sa story-telling session ay tinawag siya sa kanyang karakter.

"Oo nga e, nanonood siya ng The Gift. Yun din, e, parang we also cater to such audience, na mga bata."

"That's what the show is also keen on doing, parang to encourage young kids to be good people...

"So ayun, happy ako na tinawag akong Sep nung isang bata kanina! May prize yun! French fries."

#### MORE TWISTS

Marami pang twists ang dapat pakaabangan sa Kapuso teleserye. Sa November 8 episode ng The Gift, si Faith, ang karakter na ginampanan ng beauty queen na si Thia Thomalla, ay namaalam na sa teleserye.

Si Faith ang isa sa love interests ni Sep, ang karakter na ginagampanan ni Alden.

Ayon kay Alden, nagulat ang lahat nang malaman nila ang eksenang ito.

Aniya, "Kahit kami, nagulat kami na nashoot namin kahapon [November 6] yung scene na yun medyo heartbreaking siya so abangan nila yun.

"Yun yung isa sa major twist na mangyayari nitong mga susunod na araw." Patuloy naman daw ang karakter ni Alden sa paghahanap sa kanyang tunay na mga magulang, ngunit kailangan muna nitong lampasan ang panibagong pagsubok na dadating dito.

"Andun papunta yung character [ko], the search for the real parents but unfortunately, this event happened unexpectedly.

"And yung cause of death was by someone who is also essential to the story, so medyo mabigat, medyo pang-gulat po yung episode namin..."

#### Sarah Carlos, bagong nagpapaligaya kay Joshua Garcia?

Kinakiligan ng kanyang mga tagahanga ang pinakahuling post ng aktor na si Joshua Garcia sa kanyang Instagram account.

Sa larawang ipinost ng binata, makikitang tila nanunukso si Joshua na bahagyang nakatago sa isang pader at may dalang yellow flowers.

Wika nya sa caption:"Not a film camera. It's just me."

Isa sa mga nag-comment ay ang Ang Probinsyano actress na si Sarah Carlos ng: "Yieheeeee" na may kasamang tatlong heart emoji.

Dahil dito, natanong ng isang fan kung ang Kapamilya actress na si Sarah na nga ba ang bagong nagpapaligaya sa puso ni Joshua. Isang follower din ang nagsabi na sana ay maging magkasintahan ang dalawa.

Agad namang nilinaw ni Sarah sacomment section na magkaibigan lang sila ni Joshua at nakasama lamang niya ang mahusay na The Killer Bride actor sa mga acting workshops.

"Hindi po. Friend ko lang po siya from workshop days," sagot ng aktres sa comment ng fan.



Hindi ito ang unang beses na iniugnay ang pangalan ng dating kasintahan ni Julia Barretto sa mga female young stars ng ABS-CBN. Nauna nang naikabit ang pangalan niya sa The Killer Bride co-star niyang si Alexa Ilacad na tinawag ng netizens na "lowkey girlfriend" diumano ni Joshua.

## Kylie's Twitter account had been hacked

Actress Kylie Padilla took to Instagram to warn her fans that her Twitter account had been hacked.

Padilla announced that as of Nov. 30, she no longer had control over her Twitter account.

The photos and contents of her account were all deleted.

"So my Twitter account has been hacked. Just letting you guys know," Padilla said in a post on IG.

Hackers have been targeting social media accounts of celebrities, most of the time not having a clear reason why.

Her fellow actress Kris Bernal also fell victim to a group of hackers who took control of her Instagram and Twitter accounts.

### GALUNGGONG continued from page 1

importation of 45,000 metric tons of small pelagic fish, including round scad.

The DA's daily "palengke watch" showed that round scad was being sold between P220 and P250 a kilo in major markets in Manila, up from the usual P150 to P170 a kilo.

#### Mackerel, too

The National Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Council recommended the volume of round scad to be imported, and this was up for Agriculture Secretary William Dar's approval.



The importation program would also allow the entry of mackerel and other small pelagic fish.

But the fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) warned against such move. "We are already warning our government not to think about opening our floodgates for imported fish because it does not guarantee normalization of fish supply and market price," Pamalakaya chair Fernando Hicap said in a statement.

Last year's order by then Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol to import round scad drew flak from consumers, citing its abundance in the country's waters.

Pamalakaya blamed the current shortfall on BFAR's three-month fishing ban, and urged the agency to focus on improving local production instead of importing the fish.

The BFAR introduced fishing ban sea-

sons to give fish species time to repopulate and to allow them to freely spawn on optimum conditions. Gongona had said that the program had increased the country's fish production.

But Pamalakaya said the practice had only "triggered panic fishing" among large commercial fishing vessels, which in turn exhausted the fishing grounds.

"Constant declaration of fishing bans without considering its implications causes artificial fish shortage, and ultimately triggers unreasonable price increase in the market," Hicap said.

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## Newbies Cindy & Rhen play lesbians

The erotic thriller of Viva Films, "Adan," puts the spotlight on two "Ebas," Cindy Miranda and Rhen Escaño. It's no Garden of Eden for the characters they portray, Marian and Ellen.

But the friends-turned-lesbian lovers eventually face a threat that will turn their world upside down.

Cindy and Rhen are relatively new in the biz, yet they had no qualms about playing lesbians and gamely did intimate scenes together. What a baptism of fire as the two hotties threw caution to the wind.

#### How did you prepare for your kissing scene, and how did it feel like?

C: I just internalized who Marian (my character) should be. I fell in love with Marian, so kissing Rhen in our movie felt normal. No awkwardness at all. I was just so into my character and forgot I was Cindy.

R: The intimate workshops made Cindy and I comfy with each other. It's weird to say this, but kissing a girl felt the same like

#### Why is "Adan" the title of your movie?

C: To emphasize that love is possible even without an "Adan." It could also mean that there's an Adan in all of us, and we just need to find it.

R: Because our movie shows that even "Eba" can have the "heart of Adan."

What did you learn from the character you portrayed?



Rhen Escano (left) and Cindy Miranda

C: Respect. I know there are still issues regarding gender equality, but after portraying a lesbian role, I realized that great love doesn't just exist between a man and a woman. Just give respect to everyone and let them love freely.

R: I learned that when love, lust and lies collide, it has tremendous impact on two people who are so in love with each other. When you love,

#### Who's your girl crush?

C: Alicia Vikander. Angelic, but don't be fooled-she can be anything she wants to be. It's my dream to play Lara Croft like she did in "Tomb Raider."

R: Natalie Portman, Emilia Clark and

Are you open to the idea of falling for a lesbian?

C: If my heart will fall in love with a lesbian, I will let it, because I don't see anything wrong with it. When you love, everything is possible.

R: Our movie made me understand lesbians more. So I'm not closing my door to the possibility of falling for one, although I'm really straight.

#### How would you handle an indecent proposal?

C: Ignore. And make them realize why. I'll show them I'm far better than their indecent proposal.

R: In this biz, I'm aware that happens. I have prepared myself mentally, so I won't be tempted to entertain such a proposal. But I don't judge girls who accept offers like that.

#### What can't you resist in a guy?

C: Nothing. I can actually live without them, unless they

need me.

R: Being smart and having a killer smile.

#### What's your biggest love lesson?

C: Handa akong

mawasak, mabuo ka lang. (I'm willing to be broken so that you will become whole.)

R: That I must do everything for the one I love, even if it hurts because it will be all worth it in the end.



#### Sam Pinto announces engagement to BF Anthony Semerad

Sam Pinto on Saturday took to social media to officially announce her engagement to boyfriend, basketball player Anthony Semerad.

The former "Pinoy Big Brother" housemate shared photos from their first shoot as an engaged couple on Instagram, one of which is a closeup shot of her gleaming diamond ring.

Among the local celebrities who congratulated the couple were Andi Eigenmann, Ruffa Gutierrez, Rufa Mae Quinto, Rachel Peters, Gwen Zamora, Ella Cruz, and Cora Waddell.

The actress' announcement comes weeks after she confirmed her engagement to Anthony in a previous interview, sharing that the proposal happened during their vacation in Australia last August and that they are eyeing a 2021 wedding.

Sam and Anthony have been dating for one year.

### Morissette humingi na ng apology, Jobert tinanggap

HUMINGI na ng apology ang singer na Morissette Amon sa talent manager-show producer na si Jobert Sucaldito noong Lunes sa pamamagitan ng Facebook.

Ipinost ni Jobert ang paghingi ng paumanhin ng mahusay na singer, at narito ang ilang bahagi:

"Took some time to process things despite the schedules before me, but with much prayer and as I have never done this before, please let me start by saying sorry.

"To Tito Jobert and Kiel Alo who was celebrating his birthday concert at the Music Museum that night, what I've done was out of character but I still do take full responsibility.

"I guess I was also triggered by the surprise interview minutes before performing, regarding the issues between me and my

family. This private matter is something I purposely did not want to openly share for fear that healing might not prosper between us. The moment got the best of me, and it wasn't fair to those who expected me to come out on stage as one of the concert's guests that evening.

As Christmas is fast approaching, I am also reminded by the coming of our Lord and I am grateful for His love, kindness, forgiveness, and guiding hand in my life. Wishing you all and your families a happy blessed Christmas!"

Tinanggap naman ni Jobert ang apology: "With this Morissette, anak pa rin kita. I am praying that after this, everything will be okay for you healthwise, mentally and emtionally. Hindi ako marunong magtanim ng galit sa mga taong umaamin ng pagkukulang nila-- that doesn't make them less as human beings. Kaya thank you for acknowledging and let's move forward for a better tomorrow. I love you anak."

Iba-iba pa rin ang opinyon ng netizens tungkol dito. Marami pa ring tagahanga ni Morissette ang nagsasabing mahal pa rin nila ito sa kabila ng ginawa nito. Nauunawaan nila ang pinagdadaanan nito sa pamilya, lalo na sa ama nito na si Amay Amon na sinasabing tutol sa pakikipagrelasyon ni Morissette sa boyfriend (Dave Lamar, isa ring singer) nito dahil sa hinalang nagiging malaking influence ito sa buhay ng dalaga in a negative way.

In the end, husay pa rin sa pagkanta ang dapat na tingnan at hindi ang attitude. To each his own.

#### Jessy hanggang bonding lang with Luis' family?

EVERY woman wanted to be a June Bride, then came a change just like the climate. Now, marami choose to marry in December.

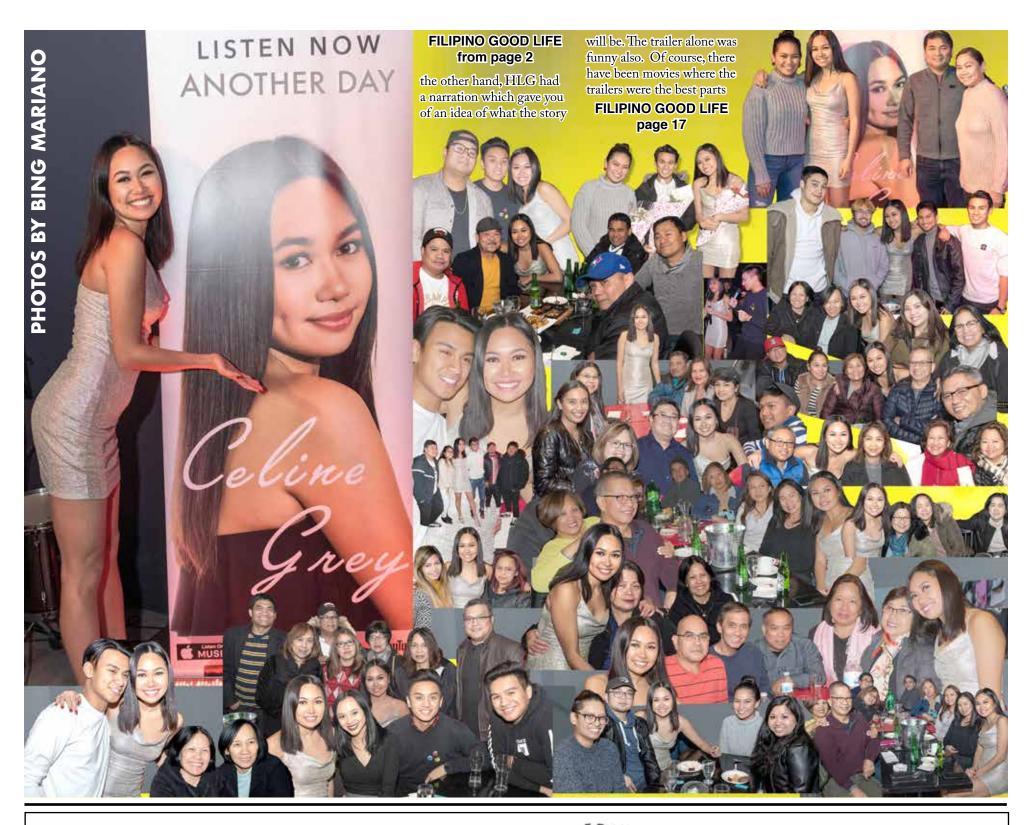
Regardless of the month many celebs are saying goodbye to pagdadalaga. Angel Locsin and Neil Arce, Maja Salvador and Rambo Nunez, Richard Gutierrez and Sarah Lahbati, Sarah Geronimo and Matteo Guidicelli announced their engagements.

Ang napag-iwanan ay si Jessy Mendiola na ang tanging hinihintay ay mag-propose ang matagal na niyang boyfriend na si Luis Manzano. Could it be na hindi naniniwala sa kasal si Luis?

Sapat na ba na parang member of Luis' family na si Jessy? Sa birthday party ng Star for all Seasons (who else, but Luis' mom, Vilma Santos?), super ang bonding nila sa kanyang future mother-in-law. (What's in the future, we don't know.)

Kaya lang parang hanggang bonding-bonding na lang ang nangyayari. At 66, gusto na ni Ate VI na magkaapo. To propose or not to propose, that is Luis Manzano's dilemma. What do you think?





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#### **FILIPINO GOOD LIFE** continued from page 13

and the movie was a disappointment. Not this one. HLG became the highest grossing movie in Philippine movies and Indak flopped and was pulled out after one night by a lot of theatre owners.

Why am I saying this?

I got curious because reviewers were saying good things about the music being

I agree it was upbeat but I will disagree on people saying that it was catchy. It is not a song that people will remember in their head again and again. Like I said, it was like poetry rap. Do you know of any poetry rap that stays after it was performed?

'Another Day' is the debut single of Toronto singer Celine Grey. It is catchy, it is upbeat. It is a song that will stay in your mind again. It is so catchy that it already had 15,000 views on youtube. That is quite an accomplishment for a singer who is based in Toronto.

Celine Grey, is a rising singer and songwriter. Celine is a former beauty Queen and garnered the prestigious title, Miss Philippines PIDC 2016. She recently launched her first single titled "Another Day" at the Republika Restobar in Toronto. The song was composed by Kiko Salazar, who is also the genius behind the hit

song Akin Ka Na Lang sang by Asia's Phoenix, Morisette Amon. Another Day was released under ABS-CBN Starmusic PH. The official music video which stars Celine Grey and Ryan Dizon was filmed in Toronto and directed by Ann Margaret Grey. The

music video is now on ABS-CBN Starmusic channel on Youtube. The lyric video is available at all digital platforms such as Spotify, Youtube, iTunes and Applemusic. Celine is well-known in the Filipino community in Toronto. She performs at many different events and festivals in and around the Greater Toronto area. She had the opportunity to open concerts for popular and well-sought Filipino artists, such as the likes of Piolo Pascual, Sarah Geronimo, Daniel Padilla, and Kathryn Bernardo. She had guested twice at the Wish 107.5 FM Wishbus in the Philippines. She will be a guest performer at the upcoming concert of Joey Albert and The Company on Feb 22, 2020.



ABOVE, Photographer Bing Mariano poses with Darren Espanto and Jona. BELOW, FV Foods owner Mel Galeon an staff pose with Kay Brosas and Angeline Quinto



## Arjo Atayde fulfills dream of working with Carlo Aquino

It's one item less on Arjo Atayde's bucketlist now that he's working with Carlo Aquino in the second season of "Bagman" on iWant.

"I have a list of six actors I dream to work with and Carlo is one of them," Arjo declared.

"It's one down and five to go. This guy is not only a character actor but he is a leading man. For him to be part of 'Bagman' and to help support us on the

show, it is really such an honor. Thank you, Carlo."

In the second season of "Bagman," Carlo is Emman, a hitman out to kill Arjo's barber-turned-bagman-turned-politician Gov. Benjo Malaya.

Knowing how brilliant an actor Carlo is, Arjo says he does not prepare at all when doing a scene with him.

"Mas magaling ang kaeksena ko mas hindi ako nagpe-prepare kasi I know my character. The only thing I need is for them to... you know, they know their thing.

"Carlo is a brilliant actor. I am a fan as well. Bahala na, kasi magaling naman ('yung kaeksena mo). You just really have



to react to what they're throwing at me.

"That's what I do and that really works for me. That's my style with him. Kasi alam ko pagbato niya unpredictable din, magaling ang pagbato niya. Malalim din ang mata niya, tumatagos sa akin so for me it's 'Bahala na, kaya na namin ito."

Acting with Carlo has made Arjo learn a few things like "fluidity."

"It feels so good. It feels that it is not work when you're throwing with someone as fluid as Carlo. So'yung fluidity ba ng isang actor, kung paano ibabato sa'yo, kung paano mo ibabato, more than throwing the lines, 'yung feelings, you should go across after and that's what he has been doing.

"For me, more connections siguro kaya I am trying to build more connections to each and every character, each and every actor," he explained.

As "Bagman" story escalates, it will involve Arjo and Carlo's characters in physical action.

"We're throwing punches and kicks.

We're throwing each other to the sofa. He (Carlo) hit me here (pointing at his jaw)," Arjo said.

But no regrets there.

"Hindi ko naman tantiya 'yung science where (the punch will land), 'di ba? Minsan lang nangyari 'yun and it's no big deal. That's part of the action scenes."

In the new season of "Bagman," Arjo's Gov. Benjo Malaya will level up.

"He is trying to make a difference, difference in what is there, reality, buhay kung ano ngayon. Kung ano ang nakasanayan niya ay sinusubukan niyang baguhin. Pero masama man ang isang tao ay kailangan nating intidihin na mayroon talaga silang rason. At kung anuman ang rason na 'yun - puwedeng pamilya, puwedeng pera or mas malalim pa doon – 'yun ang rason nila. It's hard to understand but life is life, you have to understand. He's just trying to make a difference."

#### Karla Estrada admits romance with non-showbiz quy

Karla Estrada has found a new love.

After a sweet photo of her with a non-showbiz guy made the rounds online, the so-called Queen Mother



between them. On "Magandang Buhay," Karla shared she and her boyfriend were in Japan recently. "Bukod sa last year na

finally admitted

the real score

kasama ko ang mga anak ko na nag-snow kami... ito ang pinakamasaya na nakasama ko ang partner naman," she said.

The TV host believes she has nothing to hide, describing her boyfriend a "good person," without giving out his name.

It was in August when the couple was first sighted together during the anniversary party of a restobar co-owned by her son Daniel Padilla. She and her beau were photographed together with Sunshine Cruz and her boyfriend Mackie Mathay, as well as basketball player James Yap.

Following Karla's revalation, co-hosts and goodfriends Melai Cantiveros and Jolina Magdangal couldn't help but go kilig over them. "Ayun na nga, momshies, it's official: in a relationship ang Queen Mother," Jolina said.

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## LITTLE MANILA confidential <u> entertainment</u>

## Janella admits dating Markus, says

JANELLA Salvador has obviously moved on from her traumatic experience with her last relationship. After all, she has a hit TV soap, "Killer Bride", and her new new movie, "The Heiress", where she plays the title role, is opening in theaters today. It's said someone is making her happy and smile a lot these days, Kapam-

"Yes, I admit na napapasaya naman niya ako," she says. "But at this point, I just don't want to share a lot about him. When you see us going out together, basta alam nyo na 'yun. Before, I was very open and it didn't do me any good, so I'm just more careful this time."

ilya actor Markus Paterson. Is it true?

Well, it's obvious something serious is going on betweem them as Markus has already introduced her to his family and she was even there when his mom celebrated her recent birthday.

"Na-meet na rin naman niya ang mom ko (Jenine Desiderio) and dad ko (Juan Miguel Salvador), so okay lang, no problem at all," she says. "Noong last birthday ng dad ko, he was also there to celebrate with us."

She and ex-BF Elmo Magalona are both Kapamilya stars. What happens when they accidentally bump into each other at the studio?

"Wala, dedma. We really have a small



and

stronger as a person. Mas nag-iingat ka, Maski si Tita Maricel Soriano, she told me while we were shooting 'The Heiress', aware kasi siya sa mga pinagdaanan ko, basta be more careful. Be more wise pagdating sa love. Gamitin mo ang isip and not just your heart. And it's a very smart piece of advice na

and ako naman si Guia. She's very controlling at hinihigpitan ako nang sobra. I didn't know na mambabarang pala kasi siya and she wants me to be her heiress. Ipapamana niya sa akin ang kapangyarihan niya. I enjoyed doing the movie with her at we guarantee na marami kaming tatakutin dito."



## Kathryn stoked for 'Hello, Love, Goodbye' international nod

Screen star Kathryn Bernardo is both happy and proud that her latest movie Hello Love, Goodbye

opposite Alden Richards is nominated in the Australian **Academy of Cinema** and Television Arts as Best Asian Film.

In a recent interview, the 23-year-old actress said she got surprised upon learning about it.



"It's overwhelming considering that we're competing with other countries like Japan, China, India and South Korea. I'm so glad that we made it to the list. As a Filipino, it makes me feel proud that our movie has reached this far. Imagine, figuring prominently in an international film festival?" she says.

Kathryn believes that to be nominated is already a major achievement.

Kathryn Bernardo looks forward to doing another project with Daniel Padilla

"I'm okay with that. Let's hope for the best though," she adds.

The list of winners will get released on Dec. 4 and this early, Kathryn is so thrilled with this development.

Meanwhile, after doing the the successful movie with Alden, Kathryn still hopes that she would be paired with Daniel Padilla again in another movie.

"I miss working with Daniel. I hope we'll have a new film in 2020. Let's see what will happen. I don't want to be selfish with DJ. There are still a lot of actresses who can get paired with him. But for now, I just want to enjoy the moment," she enthuses.

Kathryn wants to assure the fans though that she is set to do a soap opera with Daniel next year. Their last show together was the hit horror-fantasy series La Luna Sangre in 2017.

"They will start to pitch in stories before we leave for the States. Of course, we're super excited with our reunion project. Viewers should watch out for this. For sure, we'll be giving them another quality teleserye which is worth their time," she assures.

Daniel will be doing a movie without her. He will get paired with another actress.

"Oh, yes! I'm excited for him. Now, it's my turn to support him. I'm really praying that everything will turn out well," ends Kathryn.

#### Ai Ai delas Alas remains a Kapuso after her contract was recently renewed by the management.

"I'm really thankful to God and GMA of course for



this blessing. And this time around, my contract with them is longer which is until March 2022!" she states.

The Comedy Queen considers this development as an early birthday present. "I will be celebrating my birthday on November 11

and this is one of the greatest presents I received. As I've said, I'm thankful to GMA for their continued trust in me. Since I returned here in 2015, they really took very good care of me," she says.

"At least now, I'm assured that I'd be able to feed my family and support my charitable works. I'm simply blessed that I'm still a Kapuso. God is really good! He gives me abundant blessings," she adds.

With her new contract, Ai Ai reveals she wants to do a project with Derek Ramsay.

'That's true! I want to do a soap opera with him. I think it will be interesting. The same holds true with other Kapuso talents whom I haven't worked with yet," she says.

### ABS-CBN announces comeback series of KathNiel, LizQuen, KimXi

ABS-CBN officially unveiled its roster of upcoming television series featuring the much-awaited TV comeback of the country's most sought-after love teams, KathNiel and LizQuen, Bea Alonzo and

Richard Gutierrez's first team-up, Kim Chiu, Xian Lim, and Yam Concepcion's romance drama, and Gerald Anderson's inspiring action series. After the record-breaking movie The Hows of Us, the award-winning pair of Kathryn Bernardo and Daniel Padilla will make their return to television with a newteleserye to be shot in Mexico.

The wait is nearly over for LizQuen fans as Liza Soberano and Enrique Gil reunite with blockbuster director Cathy

Garcia-Molina for romantic comedy Make It With You where the real-life couple is set to portray two

sinusunod ko naman."

quirky strangers who meet and fall in love in the

picturesque country of Croatia.

Bea Alonzo gets caught in a love triangle in her first project with Rafael Rosell and Richard Gutierrez

in Kahit Minsan Lang, while Xian Lim becomes conflicted between his wife Yam Concepcion and her half-sister Kim Chiu in Love Thy Woman.

Gerald Anderson leads the pack in the action-drama series A Soldier's Heart, which also stars Elmo Magalona, Nash Aguas, Jerome Ponce, Yves Flores, Vin Abrenica,and Carlo Aquino as his

Meanwhile, breakthrough two-in-one talent search Your Moment featuring

judges Billy Crawford, Nadine Lustre, and Boy Abunda premiered on Nov. 9 and 10, while Filipino teenagers will have another chance at becoming a singing superstar as The Voice Teens returns soon.

iWant also continues to beef up its variety of content with a second season of Arjo Atayde's Bagman, whose second installment will feature Carlo Aquino, two Nathalie Hart starrers entitled Uncoupling and Barbara Reimagined, Iza Calzado's Loving Emily, Sam Milby and Yassi Pressman's Tapes, and The Gold Squad's digital films—Little Red Shoes starring Kyle Echarri and Francine Diaz, and Wild Little Love starring Andrea Brillantes and Seth Fedelin.

Jodi Sta. Maria's first project as a producer entitled My Single Lady, starring Ian Veneracion, Zanjoe Marudo, and Jodi herself, will also stream soon on iWant.

#### Regine's relevance

Countless wannabes won't be able to outshine the talent of a Regine Velasquez-Alcasid, note for note. Perhaps you have encountered people commenting "iba pa rin si Regine" or something to

One time, I came out of the bathroom hearing someone I thought was Regine singing on TV: my view of the small screen blocked. I suddenly noticed there was a bit roughness in her voice and I somehow felt bothered because that sounded uncharacteristic of her. Regine is one belter who still sounds smooth even when hitting impossibly high notes.

Turned out it wasn't her but some contestant



emulating her Last Nov.

11. I witnessed the real Regine sing in front of an awed audience to highlight the ceremonial tree lighting in City of Dreams Manila. She sang four songs

including Sheena Easton's "Christmas All Over The World" and her rendition of the Ogie Alcasid classic "Ako'v Ivona Ivo."

"Would you like me to sing another song?" she humbly asked the relatively small crowd led by Parañaque City Mayor Edwin Olivarez and City of Dreams Manila chief operating officer Kevin

Once she starts singing the word respect comes off the air in bold letters.

There was this tarpaulin-carrying pool of fans appearing like they came from some far-place just to see their idol up close. Simply put, Regine has remained relevant in the music scene in the midst of new-generation singers trying to sing like she does.

#### Told she's becoming 'irrelevant,' Kris Aquino says limelight no longer worth it

MANILA — Kris Aquino said she has come to terms with her current stature as a celebrity, as she responded early this week to a follower who urged her to come up with a "pasabog," or an issue, so she would become relevant again.

The follower made the comment on a



recent Instagram
post of Aquino. It
reads, in part: "I
hope you can still
gain your former status as the
country's premiere
endorser. It seems
like you are slowly

fading into the shadow of irrelevance. Don't get me wrong. Magpasabog ka ulit."

Replying directly to the comment, Aquino said she is "pretty chill about becoming 'irrelevant' because the price to pay fighting to stay relevant wasn't worth my health or my peace of mind."

The past year has been a tumultuous one for Aquino, who revealed to be battling a "form of lupus," on top of her legal feud with her former business manager Nicko Falcis which has since been settled.

In recent months, Aquino confirmed not being renewed for a major endorsement deal amid the controversy, and losing a film project which would have been her screen comeback — via the high-profile Metro Manila Film Festival no less — due to conflicts in schedule and subsequent technicalities.

"So many have told me, 'You have enough' (in the material sense), and my sons are in no danger of going hungry. So I was working hard because I was protecting something that now seems much less important: my ego," she said.

Aquino is a single mother to Joshua, 24, and Bimby, 12.

Aquino, who is known for her frankness and whose life has been an open book, has been named on numerous occasions a top influencial brand endorser, with dozens of multimedia deals.

"I worked too many days when I should've actually been listening to my body all because of the mistaken notion that protecting work commitments meant more than prioritizing my wellness," she said.

"Sorry, walang 'pasabog' coming soon — I have outgrown that," she added.
"It took so much prayer for me to be at peace with who I am and where I am."

Aquino also doubted the follower's intentions in expressing concern over her being less visible in showbiz, writing: "I realized you wanted to upset me but graduate na ako sa ganitong klaseng pailalim na 'bullying.' I hope before you 'worry' about my professional standing, you'll ask yourself why there seems to be little of interest in your life that you're making mine your problem?"

## Bianca Umali, Sam Concepcion to work on HBO show



Bianca Umali starts training for her role as Alex in the third season of HBO Asia's Halfworlds. Bianca attended the announcement with director Mikhail Red in Singapore.

GMA-7 actress Bianca Umali and ABS-CBN actor Sam Concepcion are set to top-bill the third season of the international series titled Halfworlds.

Halfworlds, a dark fantasy thriller series involving demons from Asian folklore, is an original series produced by HBO Asia. Its first two seasons were shot and set in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The first season ran from November 2015 to January 2016, while the second season ran from January to February 2017

For its third season, Halfworlds will be entirely shot in the Philippines. It will be directed by Mikhail Red, who helmed movies such as Eerie and Dead Kids.

According to the Instagram post of @ kapusoprgirl, Bianca will play the role of Alex, a half-human and half-Engkanto seeking to find the original source of a dwindling haven plant that will heal the Engkantos' thirst for human flesh.

The third season of Halfworlds is co-produced by HBO Asia and Cignal Entertainment.

Bianca also underwent training for her role as Alex, as seen in the photos posted by @kapusoprgirl.

HBO Asia has yet to announce when production for Halfworlds will commence.



## PNP says Robredo made no missteps during anti-drug czar stint contrary to Palace claim



Robredo met with the leaders of Ahon Laylayan Koalisyon in Navotas City during her visit there, Nov. 19, 2019. The dialogue aims to discuss the various issues faced by the community, including access to potable water and other basic services and facilities, as well as the problem on illegal drugs.

MANILA - Vice President Leni Robredo committed no mistake on anti-drug operations her 19-day stint as co-chairperson of the Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Illegal Drugs (ICAD), the spokesperson of the Philippine National Police has said.

"On anti-drug operations, no misstep on

her part," Police Brigadier General Bernard Banac told GMA News Online.

Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo claimed that Robredo had supposedly committed some missteps which prompted President Rodrigo Duterte to fire her as co-chairperson of the said committee on illegal drugs.

Panelo said the missteps include Robredo's meeting with officials from

the United States and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to discuss the Philippines' drug war.

According to Banac, the PNP respects the move of the Vice President to meet with foreign officials and discuss with them the country's drug menace.

Banac also mentioned that it was right for Robredo not to join the anti-illegal drugs operations of law enforcers.

"She allowed launching of anti-drug operations without her presence. We actually discouraged her from joining it so as not to compromise her own safety and security and the success of the operations," Banac said

Prior to his decision, the Chief Executive already bared that he does not trust Robredo as he believed that the latter may disclose confidential information that may pose risk to national security.

In response, Robredo said she would not walk away from the government's anti-illegal drugs campaign.

Robredo even said she would make revelations as to what she had discovered about the drug war.

Banac said the police would remain open to Robredo's ideas which may help in improving the government's campaign against illegal drugs.

#### CMC ASIAN FOOD & CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Philippine Independence Day Council officers and members attend the 2019 CMC Asian Food & Cultural Festival





## LITTLE MANILA confidential <u>entertainment</u>

### Janella burned by romantic relationships

JANELLA Salvador is lucky to be back in circulation after her doomed love affair with Elmo Magalona. At least, she's able to make a comeback in the primetime soap "Killer Bride" that is extended until January and now, her new movie, "The Heiress", directed by Frasco Mortiz and where she plays the title role no less. Why is the title of her movie "The



Heiress"?

"It's a horror movie about a mambabarang, an evil sorceress who uses voodoo dolls to put a deadly spell on someone that can cause a lot of harm, even death," she says.

After Elmo, Janella is now being linked to Fil-Brit actor Markus Paterson. They're always

seen together and it's obvious something

sweet is brewing between them but both Janella and Markus won't officially admit that they are on.

It seems Janella has been burned after she became so open with her relationship with Elmo before. She now says: "Based on my experience in my last relationship, it doesn't do me any good na you're in a relationship with someone, pero ang feeling mo, you're in a relationship with the whole world."

#### OFF TO MISS WORLD 2019 IN LONDON - Miss World Philippines 2019 Michelle Dee poses during press send-off at Nanka Restaurant on Roces Avenue in Quezon City Nov. 13. Dee will represent the Philippines at 68th Miss World beauty pageant in Melanie Marquez gives

winning pageant advice to daughter Michelle Dee Miss World Philippines 2019 Michelle Dee is all set to represent the Philippines at the 69th Miss

World beauty pageant which will be held at ExCel

Arena in London, United Kingdom on December 14. Michelle said that her mother, former Miss International Melanie Marquez, is part of her rigorous training for the pageant.

"She's very hands on and I am grateful because sa dami ng inaasikaso ko ngayon, she's always there for me. We talk a lot about preparations and she has many insights on my performances," said Michelle.

She said that her mom wanted her to focus on the pasarela. "She always criticizes my walk. But she never took part in my question-and-answer training."

Beyond that, Melanie advised her daughter to be true to herself all the time.

"My mom always believes that you have to be yourself. She never told me to be fake. I've said this in Miss World Philippines that she always emphasizes on being true to who you are," she said.

Michelle added: "In terms of preparations naman, she has many things to say about my walk, about my talent, anything a mom would normally do. She normally sees what other people do not see. But she's supporting everything she can to make everything in order, and she's talking to countless designers for them to contribute to my set of wardrobes.

But Michelle said that her mom and her family, including her father Derek Dee and some of her Miss World Philippines sisters, would be cheering for her in London. "It's going to be a big Team Philippines in Miss World." Michelle leaves for London on Nov. 19.

Asked about the fast-track event she focused on, Michelle said: "Definitely sports. That's one of the things I focused on Miss World because I think it's my strongest advantage because I do sports all of my life. Winning the sports challenge will solidify me as being an athlete. Baka puwede na akong professional athlete after that."

"Other than that, I also focus on top model because I have experienced that as well," she added. Through Miss World pageant, Michelle said that

she plans to make giant steps in advancing her autism advocacy.

"Currently, my focus is on autism awareness and the work I've been doing with Autism Society of the Philippines. We've been working closely in making the Philippines an 'autism-Ok' nation through various activities," she said.

An early favorite for the Miss World crown, as forecasts by various pageant websites, Michelle has enlisted some of the country's stylemeisters to ensure her winning looks.

"Francis Libiran is making my final gown and national costume. I am also grateful for the other designers who have contributed to my wardrobe for pre-pageant activities like Renee Salud, Nono Palmos, Chris Nick, Jojo Bragais, and a lot more," said Michelle.

Miss World Philippines national director Arnold Vegafria said that Michelle has the winning look to be the next Miss World.

"Her Filipina looks, plus her experience as an actress and model are definitely a big plus, and I think her heart is in the right place when it comes to her personal advocacy," said Vegafria.

So far, the Philippines has already captured the

Actress-model Megan Lynne Young was crowned as the first Filipina Miss World held in Bali, Indonesia in 2013.

#### Mari Chan reveals he's also into real estate

For Jose Mari Chan, music is just a hobby and his businesses are what keeps him going in

Did you know? Apart from the sugar business, Jose Mari Chan reveals he's also into real estate

He is the living proof of the saying 'age is just a number.

At the age of 74, he still keeps on rolling - doing the things he loves most while pursuing other endeavors one would think only young ones can do.

Jose Mari Chan talked about a lot of stuff - including the music of his sons and what he does when he's not singing for his

Chan, whose sons Joe & Mike recently released an album, couldn't be any prouder for what his two boys have become over

the years.

"I've listened to their compositions. And to be honest with you, many of their songs are even superior to my music in terms of structure, chord progression,

chord changes," he proudly shared. Chan added: "Very sophisticated. I'm

very proud of them. As they say, the fruit doesn't fall far from the tree." While Jose Mari Chan's two daughters

- Elizabeth Ann Chan-Parpan and Marie Angelica Chan -have also inherited his musical talent, the two girls are currently key players in one of the Ilonggo-born musician's new ventures.

Jose Mari Chan owns the Binalbagan-Isabela Sugar Company Inc. and A. Chan Sugar Corporation which he both credits as the enterprises that supported his

"Many people don't know that music is just my hobby. I have a business. I'm in the sugar business," he shared.

He went on: "And that's what keeps me going and that's what supports my family. I'm in the sugar business that I inherited from my father. I'm running the business even until now."

Unknown to many, the legendary OPM artist is also into the real estate industry with his two daughters.

"I'm into real estate in a small way. Estate development, but in a small way," he said, referring to his Morning Glow Development Corporation for which he serves as the president.

Earlier this year, Jose Mari Chan led the groundbreaking ceremony of a seven-hectare village called Villa Florencia Subdivision in Bacolod City. Also part of his development project is the Villa Magdalena Commercial Center.

### **Kyle discovers something about Francine**

THE Gold Squad is composed of the teen love teams of ABS-CBN's "Kadenang Ginto": Andrea Brillantes-Seth Fedelin and Francine Diaz-Kyle Echarri. Kathniel, Jadine and Lizquen will eventually grow old and play more mature roles and it's wise of ABS to prepare the teen love teams who will replace them. Now, aside from their afternoon soap, the Gold Squad love teams also have their own respective movies to be shown on iWant streaming.

For KyCine (Kyle-Francine), it's "Silly Red Shoes" directed by James Mayo, and for SethDrea (Seth-Andrea), it's "Wild Little Love" directed by Benedict Mique. They were all presented in back to back presscons, with their movies also to be shown back-to-back streaming on November 23 and 27 as a special first anniversary presentation of iWant. Now, to find out which movie will be shown first, Dreamscape is conducting a Facebook poll. You have up to 10 p.m. of November 22 to vote which one you want to see first: Team Silly or Team Wild.

In "Silly Red Shoes", Francine plays Ash-

ley and Kyle plays Chuck. Shot in Liliw, Laguna, Kyle is a young shoemaker who wants to Francine to be the model for a pair of shoes he will make for her. But the problem is that Francine's feet seem to change sizes everyday, until they discover a mysterious pair of red shoes that seem to be too perfect for her. Done with a touch of fairy tale fantasy, the movie also stars former QC Mayor Herbert Bautista as Francine's dad, along with Anna Luna and Karen Reyes.

So how is it shooting "Silly Red Shoes"? "We have good memories of shooting it on location Liliw," says Kyle, who is the most articulate of the four teen stars and can express himself well even in English. "It's our first movie and we enjoyed doing it, kulitan, inabot pa kami ng ulan. It helped us explore our acting skills kasi iba ito sa ginagawa namin in 'Kadenang Ginto'. Ang role ko roon as Kristof, rich boy. Dito, poor boy ako na pabibo as Chuck at natuwa akong kaya

"Same with me," says Francine. "My role as Cassie in 'Kadena' is so different kasi she can say what she feels. Dito sa movie, as



Ashley, akala mo, masayahin siya pero sa loob pala niya, durog na durog na siya. Father ko rito si Mayor Herbert at sobrang

masaya siyang katrabaho. Bagets na bagets siya at parang katropa lang namin."

What did they discover about each other while shooting "SIlly Red Shoes"? "I discovered that she is a really deep person," says Kyle of Francine. "But she's also cheerful. She will always put on a smile kahit anong mangyari."

"He's easy to get along with and we really got to know each other while shooting our film at mas lumalim ang friendship namin," says Francine. "We both like the message of our movie, which is don't give up and always believe in yourself."

How do they feel that they're predicted to replace the older love teams like Kathniel? "Hindi namin iniisip 'yan," says Francine. "We're just enjoying everything now, especially the support of our fans and we want to thank Dreamscape for giving us a chance to do a movie."

### **Scenes in the City**







LEFT, Mel Galeon poses with This Band. CENTRE, Photographer Bing Mariano poses with Angeline Quinto. RIGHT, Photographer Bing Mariano poses with Kay Brosas and

McCoy happy for Elisse and Jameson: 'Kung totoo'

MCCOY De Leon considers it a big blessing to be part of the horror flick "The Heiress" that opens in theaters this Wednesday. "Sobrang nagpapasalamat ako sa Regal dahil kinuha nila ako for this movie at first time kong makapareha si Janella Salvador," he says. "First time ko ring makatrabaho si Inay Maricel Soriano and it's a great experience I will never

forget. Naging napakabait niya sa amin ni Janella and we learned so much from her."

So how is it working with Janella? "We've known each other for quite sometime kasi pareho kami ng handler kaya wala na kaming ilangan sa shooting. Naging masaya at madali ang pagtatrabaho namin. I play her boyfriend at tutol sa akin si

Inay Maria dahil gusto niyang makontrol totally si Janella para maging tagapagmana niya sa pagiging mambabarang niya, so she will do everything para paglayuin kami sa isa't isa."

McCoy's full name is Mark Carlos de Leon. He's 24 years old and he initially gained fame as a member of the all-male dance group called Hashtags. He then joined PBB Season 7 and he formed a love team

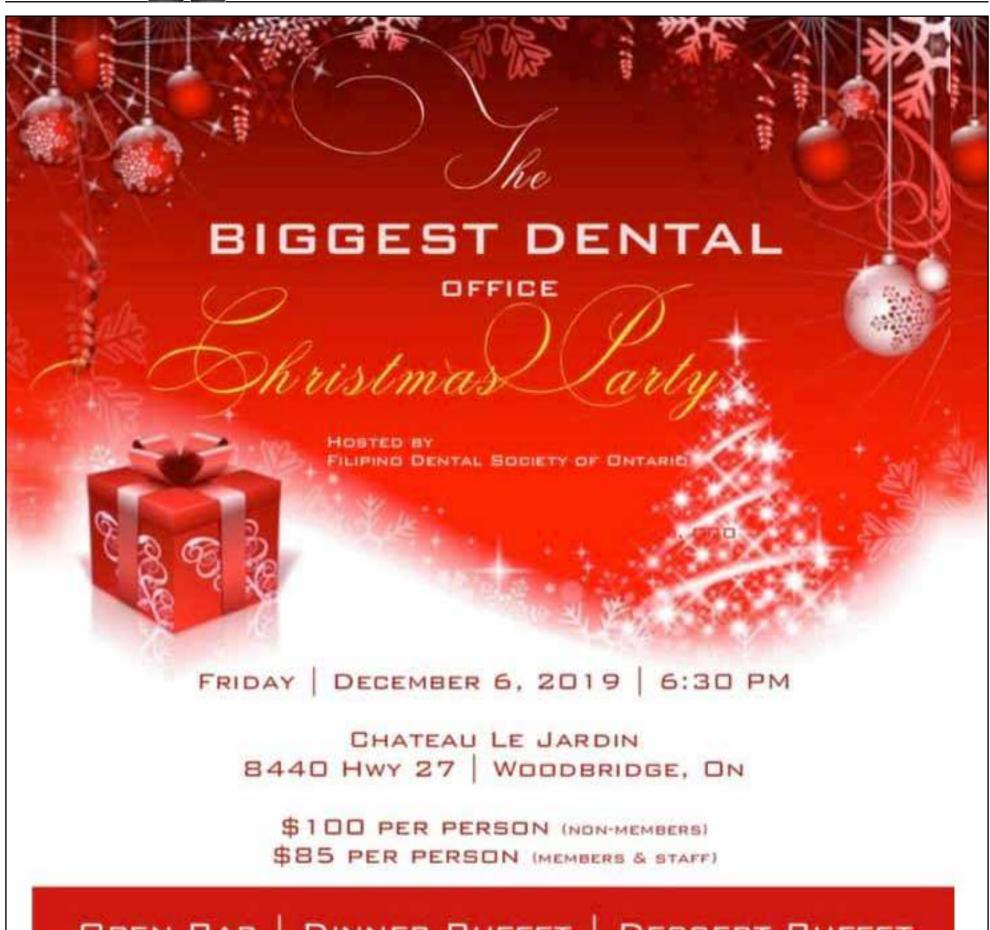
with Elisse Joson. They were launched in the movie "Sakaling Maging Tayo" but, sadly, it didn't do well at the tills as it was shown after their McLisse love team has broken up.

Doesn't he have any regrets about what happened to him and Elisse? "Hindi naman ako nanghinayang kasi hindi ko naman na-feel na nag-suffer 'yung career ko. I'm just happy now na nabigyan ako chance na makapagtrabaho sa Regal. Aside from 'The Heiress', may isa pa raw akong gagawing movie sa kanila and sa Star Cinema naman, tapos ko na 'yung 'Block Z' na about zombies at may sisimulan rin akong bagong movie with them, 'The Mirror', so tuluy-tuloy lang ang trabaho ko."

He just wants to keep on working with different

companies. "I'm eager to learn more about my craft by working with other people. Marami akong natututuhan sa kanila at mas lumalawak 'yung kaalaman ko pagdating sa acting. Okay na yung wala akong ka-love team kasi kapag isa lang ang kapareha mo, nakatutok ka na lang doon. Hindi naman ako nagsisisi sa naging love team namin but I think, it's time na rin to move on and expand our world, our horizons. Masaya rin ako sa nangyaeri and I think may reason naman si God kung bakit nangyari yon."

How does he feel now that Elisse is being linked to Jameson Blake? "Honestly, I'm happy for them, kung totoo. Friend ko rin naman si Jameson dahil kagrupo ko siya sa Hashtags. I'm wishing them all the best at sana maging successful sila pareho."



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## entertainment confidential entertainment

Dani Barretto dealing with family drama:

## 'I think we're worse than the Kardashians'

Dani Barretto admits family is still grieving after her grandfather's first month death anniversary.

After the incident at her grandfather's wake last month, Dani Barretto shared that it was not easy for their family, who is still grieving after the loss of their patriarch. The celebrity mom gave her reaction to their family drama being compared as being just as entertaining as the US reality show Keeping Up With The Kardashians.

"Oh my Lord I think we're worse than the Kardashians to be honest. We're more dramatic than they are. But then I don't really know if that's a compliment (laughs) but at the end of the day, these are real-life issues to be honest," she commented during the LG Home Solutions appliance launch held last November 15 in Makati City.

Dani admitted that she and her family are trying to live a more peaceful life after everything that has happened.

"At the moment, we're all just trying to move forward and get past it because it has been really such a difficult month. It's been a really tough month for us and we're still grieving the loss of our grandfather. It's actually his one month death anniversary today so talagang lahat pa rin kami still grieving. But we're

moving forward because I'm sure that's what he wants us to do," she revealed.

The whole experience this past month which involved a

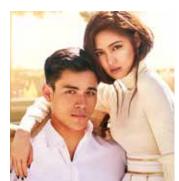


jorie and her sisters Claudine and Gretchen has admittedly made Dani more wary about using social media.

"It actually has. Parang as much as I had a lot to say about the whole issue given that we were all there and we were all part of the family as well but I chose to just not (say anything) anymore because naaapektuhan yung asawa ko at saka yung anak ko eh. Parang every single thing I do, every single thing I say, nadadamay sila," she said.

Looking forward to be celebrating her first Christmas with her husband Xavi and daughter Millie, Dani shared she is staying away from controversy for the sake of her family.

"It's supposed to be the best year but when that happened, I just chose not to say anything or comment on anything anymore. I'd rather just keep my family safe and away from all the bashing because it has been really, really crazy on social media when that happened. I did shy away a bit, more private now," she added.



#### Xian Lim wants to direct girlfriend Kim Chiu in a movie

Given the chance, actor-singer Xian Lim would love to work with his girlfriend Kim Chiu in his capacity as director.

Recall that early this year, the 30-year-old actor had his directorial debut in the Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival entry "Tabon."

"Of course, oo naman, definitely!"
he told reporters in an interview. "Kasi
ang tagal na namin na magkasama
ni Kim, and ang only experience
lang talaga namin ni Kim is being
on-cam. But it would be a completely
different feeling kung siya naman ang
nasasabihan ko (as a director)."

#### 'Ang Babaeng Allergic sa Wifi' to have Chinese remake

Jun Lana's "Ang Babaeng Allergic sa Wifi" will soon have a Chinese language remake.

Lana, the film's director, announced the news on Twitter.

"So happy that finally we closed the deal for a Chinese language remake of #TheGirAllergicToWiFi (#Ang-BabaengAllergicSaWiFi)! I wonder who will be the Chinese versions of @sueanna\_dodd @Hashtag\_Jameson #markuspaterson #angelisaño," Lana tweeted

The film follows the story of a girl who was forced to leave her current life behind and move to a remote province after being diagnosed with Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity Disorder (EHS).

"Ang Babaeng Allergic sa Wifi," which recently made its Netflix debut, stars Sue Ramirez, James Blake, and Markus Paterson.

#### Ogie Diaz speaks up about Liza Soberano's pregnancy rumor

-Speculations about Liza Soberano's pregnancy circulated due to her long stay in the U.S.

-Ogie Diaz, the actress' manager, finally ended the issue and denied the allegations

-He also attested that the rumors are not true because Liza is very open to him

Rumors about Liza Soberano being pregnant have circulated during her stay in the U.S for her finger surgery which she got from her training for the film "Darna".

KAMI learned that her manager Ogie Diaz has finally addressed the matter in his interview on "Tonight with Boy Abunda".

According to the comedian, he was with Liza in the U.S, too. They posted photos on social media as evidence that the issue is just a rumor and far from the truth.

"Nando'n din ako sa U.S., Kuya Boy. Kasi kaya po siya pumunta doon, 'yung kanyang daliri doon talaga inoperahan. So, pinakita rin naman namin 'yung mga pruweba na kahit naman 'di mo kailangan mag-explain 'di ba pero pinakita pa rin namin" He added, "Kaya kong isu-

gal ang credibility ko na hindi nangyari kay Liza 'yon kahit kailan. Hindi

ako 'yung manager niya, kung 'di dahil alam ko 'yung totoo." Ogie also shared how much he adores Liza as his talent be-

dahil

cause of her openness to him.
"Si Liza ang nakakatuwang
alaga dahil lahat halos ikinukuwento niya sa akin. Kahit
'yung super mega personal
kinukuwento niya sa 'kin kaya

nakakatuwa 'yung bata"

Liza Soberano, or Hope Elizabeth Soberano in real life, is a Filipina-American actress who is being handled by Ogie Diaz. She rose to fame after playing the lead role in the romance-comedy television series "Forevermore" with Enrique Gil.



Sunshine Cruz (second from left) with daughters Angelina Samantha and Cheska

## What's with the screen name of Sunshine and Cesar's daughters

Sunshine Cruz has given her go signal for her three daughters, who all plan to pursue careers in show business, to use the surname "Cruz" and not "Montano" for their screen names.

Sunshine made this announcement when she, as well as Angelina, Samantha and Chesca—her daughters with actor Cesar Montano—recently signed an endorsement deal with the cosmetic and toiletry brand Em-Core Dotnet.

When asked to explain why she allowed the use of screen names, Sunshine said it was her talent manager, Arnold Vegafria, who suggested it.

"The Cruzes, the family I belong to, are known for being singers and performers. Since the girls plan to pursue careers in music rather than in acting, it's better that they use Cruz," Shine told reporters during the launch of the food supplement 24-Alkaline C and the organic soap Savoune, which they all endorse.

The girls agreed: "We trust our mom and manager," said Angelina, who is now a recording artist of Universal Records. She also recently inked a deal with Star Cinema, a film production unit of ABS-CBN. "It's just for work. It's common in the business to have a screen name, anyway, and since the Cruzes are all musically inclined, we thought it's perfect for us."

Chesca added: "We still have Montano as our real name. It will not be legally changed. It's just that we all want to take a more musical path."

From Cesar's original surname, Manhillot, theirs had been legally changed to Montano a few years back. Samantha said that to change it to Cruz now, "would just disrespect our father. There's no point to it."

"I will definitely change mine," declared Sunshine, whose marriage to Cesar was annulled only in April. "For the girls, there's no need because their surname will change once they get married, anyway."

Asked whether they had to seek Cesar's approval for the use of screen names, Sunshine said: "If the girls would like to talk with him and ask his opinion, it's up to them. It's just that they're adults now, teenagers, so I make them decide if they want to reach out to him."

Samantha claimed that their "dad is very supportive. We might not see him a lot, but he's still our father so we love him."

As for Sunshine, their annulment entails a lot of paper work. "I have to change my name in my credit cards, passport and other travel documents," she said.

When the Inquirer teased her about whether she'd want to have her surname changed to "Mathay" soon, she laughed and said: "I just got annulled. Can I not first relish the fact that I'm now single?"

Sunshine has been dating businessman Ismael "Macky" Mathay IV for three years now. "We're OK with the setup that we have right now," said Sunshine. "Our focus right now is how to save up for the future of our respective children."

She added: "I want to be able to travel abroad with my girls. They want to travel to Europe, to see Italy and other dream destinations."

### Matteo posts message for Sarah's parents

Matteo Guidicelli has a post thanking his fiancee, Sarah Geronimo.

On Instagram, he shared a series of photos — twofies with Sarah and another that shows with them with his family.

"In this next chapter of my life,

I'm extremely excited to start my own family with the love of my life, my fiancée Sarah G," the actor wrote.

He thanked his parents "deeply" for teaching him the value of having a "solid family."

"Life will never be perfect but what matters is that we learn, grow and improve until it is our time to take over," he explained.

Matteo shared his father—"my mentor and solid rock" – 1 has been a good example to him.

"Papa and mama's values, passion and selfless attitude has taught my siblings and me a lot and has molded us to become what we are today," he noted. "One day, I pray, I will do the same for my own family."

The star feels "very blessed" and "honored" that his family welcomed Sarah to their "humble family" as if she's their own daughter.

"Knowing she is loved and accepted in the family simply fills up my heart with joy," he

revealed.

"People might be thinking that our relationship has been

smooth sailing. But let me tell you, it hasn't been easy. Sarah has been tough. I saw her grow, mature, and develop into an independent beautiful woman

that I am extremely proud of! My love, thank you."

Matteo dreams that one day, both their families will sit around dinner table and simply celebrate life.

"Love, happiness, joy and LIFE must always be celebrated," he said.

He then said this to Sarah's parents, Delfin and Divine.

"Tito Delfin and Tita Divine, if there have been hard feelings or events that were not supposed to happen in the past, I humbly apologize," he wrote. "I assure you that I will give Sarah a happy life with the best of my capabilities. With pure, honest love and respect. We wish to move forward with our life plans and begin this brand new chapter of our life."

"Mahal na mahal ko po si Sarah. Mahal ko din po kayung magulang nya at mga kapatid nya. Hangad ko po na maging isang pamilya tayo. Pangako ko po na aalagan ko si Sarah na kapareho ng pangangalaga nyo sa kanya."

### Alex Gonzaga 'complains' about mom on Raffy Tulfo show

lex Gonzaga sought the help of Raffy Tulfo to resolve her "problem" concerning Mommy Pinty and Daddy Bonoy who won't allow her to go abroad with boyfriend Mikee Morada.

the "sumbungan ng bayan," the broadcast journalist called the parents on the phone in an attempt for them to patch things up with Alex.

But here's the catch: Everything was done just in the spirit of fun.

In an interview, Alex shared

how the collaboration video — that racked up six million views in three days

"It was a fun collab. Actually, matagal na siyang plano like mga October pa sana pero November lang natuloy," she said. "Dapat nga sabay kami maglalabas ng video (sa YouTube) but unfortunately na-corrupt'yung files ko. Nakakatuwa na pumayag siya to re-shoot."

Raffy was in hot waters recently after several social media users cried foul when he urged a teacher to give up her profession for allegedly "traumatizing" a student.

Asked if she's worried her collaboration with Raffy would turn sour because of the issue, Alex shook her head.

"Yung collab po kasi nangyari before the issue. Siguro hindi naman po magiging affected ang mga videos," she said. "Nag-apologize na rin naman po si Sir Raffy, pinakinggan niya'yung mga sinasabi ng mga netizens."

"And I'm not here to judge. At siyempre, nakakahiya naman ako magpipigil na ilabas niya vlog namin."

What's next

Alex is bullish her vlogging days will continue to prosper.

"Naniniwala ako na kaya naman marami sumuporta sa vlog kasi kahit paano nag-a-artist na'ko nu'n kumbaga kilala na'ko. Tapos nu'ng naging vlogger, dumami naman ang opportunities sa showbiz. So hindi talaga ako pupwede mamili ng isa du'n sa dalawa," she said.

The 31-year-old has collaborated with other celebrities, including her sister Toni. Her next target? Closet raid with Jinkee

She is not worried that as more celebrities have their own YouTube channel these might affect her own channel.

"It's natural naman na everyone will also do vlogging. Nandu'n 'yung convenience eh. I believe that as entertainers, we know how to go with the flow and to adapt to change," she said.

As for her other projects, Alex will return as host on "The Voice Teens." She also has a movie with Xian Lim for release by first quarter of 2020.

The actress-TV host continues to explore other opportunities, this time as bag designer. She recently collaborated with Secosana, a popular brand of bags. Alex described her designs "simple but stylish."

#### JC de Vera quashes proposal rumors



JC de Vera clears rumors that he had already proposed to girlfriend Rikkah Cruz. Netizens made the assumption based on JC's recent Instagram post. PHOTO/S: @AKOSIJCDEBER-

Nilinaw ni JC de Vera ang napabalitang nag-propose siya kay Rikkah Cruz, ang kanyang partner at ina ng anak niyang si Lana Athena.

"Hindi. Nagpa-picture lang kami for our page," paliwanag niya.

Hindi raw proposal ang naganap.

"Kasi meron akong kabarkada talaga na photographer and we needed that photo para ilagay dun sa page namin. So iyon yung pinost ko.

Masaya naman daw si JC nang nabasa niya ang mga congratulatory messages ng mga taong akala ay ikakasal na sila ni Rikkah.

#### NO WEDDING DATE YET

Aniya, "Wala pang specific date. But pinag-uusapan na."

"Marami pa kaming malalaking ventures na darating for this coming 2020.

May mga restaurant si JC, ang The Burgery at ang Rustic Box.

Pinasok na rin ni JC ang construction dahil iyon ang negosyo ni Rikkah.

"Right now, on the side, meron kaming mga ginagawang projects for construction," pahabol niya.

Nakausap ng PEP.ph (Philippine Entertainment Portal) si JC sa mediacon ng Love Is Love na bukod kay JC ay pagbibidahan ni Roxanne Barcelo.

#### SENSITIVE SCENE

Sa pelikula (na ipapalabas ngayong December 4) ay may eksenang hawak ni JC ang kaliwang boob ni Roxanne (although nakadamit naman si Roxanne) at hindi raw dinaya iyon.

Pinag-usapan Ano ang narraw nila ni Roxanne bago kinun- aramdaman an ang naturang niya habang eksena.

Paglinaw niya, "Lahat naman pinag-uusapan namin and we

Roxanne? made sure na lahat kami okay dun sa eksena, na hindi lang basta-basta dapat ko siyang gawin.

hawak niya

ang boob ni

Alam raw ni Rikkah na may ganoon silang eksena ni Roxanne.

Sabi pa niya, "Pinapabasa ko naman sa kanya yung mga scripts na ginagawa ko.

"Naiintindihan niya na actor ako and trusted naman ako, e. Alam niya naman na very professional ako pagdating sa mga ganyan.

Lalaki si JC. Ano ang nararamdaman niya habang hawak niya ang boob ni Roxanne habang kinukunan ang eksena?

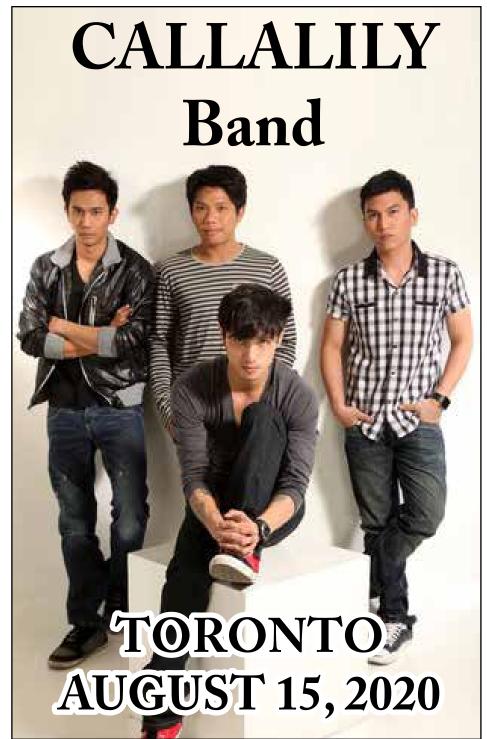
Pahayag niya, "Wala! Wala. I'm just working. Ganun ako ka-professional.

"Aktor ako at hindi ko hinahaluan ng malisya yung mga ginagawa ko.

"Kung ano yung kakailanganin ko sa eksena, whatever I need to feel that moment, ginagawa ko.

"Medyo malalim siyang pakinggan, mahirap siyang intindihin, pero kapag pumapasok kami dun sa eksena tanggal lahat ng mga inhibitions namin."







## **Nadine Lustre Reacts** To Memes Of Her Daring Birthday Photos

Here is the reaction of Nadine Lustre to the memes of her daring birthday photos

Kapamilya actress Nadine Lustre gave her reaction to the memes of her daring birthday photos that circulated on social

Nadine celebrated her 26th birthday on October 31 and she made a "pasabog" when her daring photos surfaced online. These caught the attention of many netizens, especially her fans who always admire her daring side.

Following this, several netizens created memes from her daring photos that became viral. Nadine was asked to react about this in a recent interview during the ABS-CBN Christmas station ID shoot. She said that she is happy to see memes of her daring photos, according to the article from PUSH.

"Ang saya, ako kasi mahilig po ako sa mga ganong mga memes, 'yung mga ini-edit lalo na sa Facebook ang dami kasing ganon. Wala ang saya lang niya. Nakakatuwa siya hindi ako na-offend in any way. Pinakita ko [kay James], natawa din siya," the actress said.

Nadine also shared who is behind the daring photos. She said that it was the idea of her photographer and makeup stylist. That happened after a brand shoot. Her photographer told her to have a fun shoot so that they will have something to post for her birthday, based on the article.

Meanwhile, Nadine Lustre shared her first-time experience to be a judge in Your Moment, the newest talent search of the Kapamilya network. "Kanina pagdating ko nagco-congratulate silang lahat and 'yun nga maganda raw 'yung show and I am really happy because this is something really new for me tapos for them na sabihin na okay akong mag-judge kahit na hindi pa ako ganon kagaling magsalita in public," the actress shared.



#### Why James Reid decided to stay in showbiz

According to singer and actor James Reid, he seriously considered quitting the 'biz a lot of times in the past.

"Most of the time was before Nadine and I got together. That period was probably the height of my depression. If you'll remember, I received lots of bashing from the fans then because of reports that I was allegedly seen partying with different girls. Of course, solid JaDine followers didn't like

James Reid shares that girlfriend Nadine Lustre helped him through his depression.

"I was so depressed that I just wanted to drop everything and say goodbye to the scene. That time, I was really affected by what the fans hurled at me. I was affected by what people were telling me on how to be me and what to do with my life," he

It's good he still opted to stay in the

"I did some soul-searching during that period. I flew solo to Japan for a short vacation. I just wanted to get away from the country, the fans and bashers alike. I made some introspection and it helped me see things in a much clearer, better and positive perspective."

The 26-year-old star reveals that it was when he came back to the country from that trip that his relationship with Jadine got more serious.

He shares that he doesn't need to pretend when he's with her.

"I could just be myself completely. In the end, she became the only one I wanted to please," he reveals.

"What I appreciate most about Nadine is that she helped me through the darkest time of my life. We've been there for each other. I'm more open now, so none of that stuff gets me anymore. I can say that I'm experiencing the best times of my life at this point,"

According to James, Nadine is one major factor why he chose to continue his career in showbiz.

"Nobody understands me the way Nadine does. Being able to share it with someone is a relief because I couldn't just bottle it all up and try to forget it. Life doesn't work that way. As they say, pain shared is half the pain."

Meanwhile, when asked about the possi-

bility of getting paired with other actresses in the future, the actor-singer says that

he's okay if it's with the likes of Janella Salvador, Yassi Pressman, Liza Soberano, and Kathryn Bernardo. He has apprehensions though with Julia Barretto. It can be remembered that he received flak from JaDine fans in the past when a netizen uploaded a picture of them together in a bar. "Let's just put it this way:

I have no problem with her. But there's too much noise when it comes to fans and stuff. Let's just make life easy, okay."

The talented actor-singer is excited with his forthcoming project opposite Nancy McDonie of Momoland fame. It's a drama series titled, "Soulmate" which will be under the helm of acclaimed director Antoinette Iadaone.

"Yes, and I appeal to the fans not to give color to our team-up. I hope they will not link me to her. It's just work. It's already 2019, the viewing public should let artists work together for the sake of working," ends James.

#### Why Jadine have no projects

"In the pipeline, no. Not right now. Since I left VIVA, it's been [difficult]. We're waiting for things to settle down so we can work out how we can work together in the future," he said.

Asked if it's challenging for him and Nadine Lustre, who is still with VIVA at the moment, he answered: "Currently, yes. I admit it's challenging. But we're trying to work things out."

#### Janella's BF ok's Loveteam

Janella Salvador says that her screen pairing with Joshua Garcia in the hit ABS-CBN soap opera The Killer Bride is no big deal with her rumored beau Markus Paterson.

"Yes, he perfectly understands! That's the good thing about him. He knows it is just pure work!" she states.

The lovely young actress is perfectly aware that getting romantically linked to her screen partner is just a normal thing in the 'biz.

"Actually, it's inevitable. Fans dream that your screen romance translates in real life. But in my case, Markus is mature and secured enough not to get affected whatsoever. I need not explain to him. He doesn't demand for it. As I've said, he understands and he's very supportive."

Interestingly, Markus has a good relationship with Janella's family. Proof is his attendance to the recent birthday celebration of her father Juan Miguel Salvador.

"That's right!" she avers." Of course, I'm happy about that. Everybody knows that I consider family a priority. It's a big part of me. It's everything to me at this point. I'm really happy that Markus is close to my

Despite their rumored affair, Janella and Markus still don't want to confirm what they have at present.

"It's our mutual decision not to give any official statement as of now. It's because when you do that, you will be obliged to share events or the latest goings-on between the two of

lass has

The talented already learned her

lesson. "Based on my experience, I want things to be private this point. Especially that it's something new. It's nice that this part of my privacy."

Meanwhile, Janella expresses her happiness working with Joshua in "The Killer Bride."Their JoshNella tandem has already gained a remarkable following among fans.

"I would like to thank TV buffs for their warm support to me and Joshua in our show. I'm glad with how our scenes turn out in each episode. Personally, I'm grateful that I was able to work with him in 'Killer Bride.' It's a big honor."

The singer-actress isn't sure though if their screen tandem is official.

"I'm clueless if we're an official love team or what. It's our maiden project together and I'm just happy with the encouraging support we get from the public. I think Josh and I are rewarded because we work hard to achieve that screen chemistry," Janella ends.

#### Jaclyn Jose's advice to PH nominees in int'l film fests

If Jaclyn Jose were to give an advice to filmmakers and actors competing in film festivals abroad, it would be this: "Write down a speech before you fly out.'

She learned this the hard way when she became the first-ever Filipino actor to win an acting award at the Cannes Film Festival in 2016. "I don't really prepare a speech when I get nominated... Kung ano na lang pumasok sa isip ko,'yun na lang," she said in an interview portion at the recent 10th Inquirer Indie Bravo! Awards, where she was a special guest.

After all, she's no stranger to acting trophies-Urian, Famas, etc. But Cannes, she realized later on, was a completely different

"It felt like my soul left my body. And I stayed on my seat after my name was called. That's why random things were coming out of my mouth," recalled Jaclyn, who was hailed best actress for her performance in Brillante Ma Mendoza's "Ma' Rosa."

"I didn't see anything, I didn't hear anything. In my mind, I was asking Andi (Eigenmann, her daughter) for help," she said.

"Luckily, there's YouTube where I can watch and relive what really happened at that moment," she quipped.

If she could redo her acceptance speech, the 55-year-old actress said she would have thanked family members she failed to men-

"But acknowledging the Filipinos was automatic. When you go out of the country, you feel like you're representing the Philippines—that always runs through your head," she pointed out.

"And I was just so thankful," Jaclyn added.

"I wanted to kneel before the jury!"

While writing a speech prior to the awards night may come off as assuming, the idea isn't exactly unfounded.

#### 'Wag n'yo 'kong idamay!': Pokwang calls out Toronto recruitment sham using her name

Actress and comedienne Pokwang warned fans about an illegal recruiter allegedly using her name. The recruiter is promising potential recruits that they will be part of Pokwang's entourage in Toronto, Canada in April next year, the actress said.

The comedienne minced no words and threatened the alleged recruiter that she will reveal the latter's identity to the public soon, as stated in her Instagram post, Nov. 30.

"WARNING!!! Wag nyo gamitin ang pangalan ko at palalabasin nyo na kasama sa entourage ko ang mga taong ipapasok nyo sa Toronto Canada sa darating na April!!!" she said. "Malinaw na illegal recruitment yan!! Meron akong video ng taong ito at napakalinaw sa video na binanggit nya ang name ko na kunwari palalabasin nyo na kasama sa entourage ko ang na recruit nyo na kawawa naman magbabayad sa inyo???'

"Tigilan nyo yan meron akong video nyo na isang kaibigan ang nag forward sakin at concern!! at muntik nyo na sya mabiktima na hayop ka ang tanda mona manggagancho ka [pa] hayop ka!!" she added.

While Pokwang has not yet revealed the alleged illegal recruiter's identity to the public as of writing, her fans assured her of support and some pledged to report the scammer to the authorities.



#### **POGO** continued from page 1

finding those eggs is easier said than done. Philippine offshore gaming operators, or Pogos, have turned the country

into a multibillion-peso gambling haven targeting Chinese citizens through casinos and online games. Chinese-backed firms that are largely based in Metro Manila and employ tens of thousands of Chinese workers, Pogos rocketed in number after President Rodrigo Duterte took office in



2016.

The problem is, the government does not know how many Pogo companies there are, how many people they employ, nor whether they are paying any taxes. And while economists and finance officials feel the Pogos should be paying more, government leaders cannot seem to agree on how to deal with the gambling firms.

The Philippine Amusement and Gam-

really had no idea just

citizens worked in the

how many Chinese

Philippines.

ing Corporation (Pagcor) expects to collect 10 The BIR admitted it billion pesos (US\$200 million) in licence fees from Pogos.

There are other benefits. Congressman Ruffo Biazon said "There are downstream economic

activities where we earn ... real estate is booming because of the Chinese. The retail industry is getting vibrant with the Chinese workers spending money here. The operational costs they entail are paid to local suppliers, contractors."

But the explosive growth brough problems too. For instance, in an opinion given to Pagcor and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Solicitor General Jose Calida said that the gaming companies couldn't be taxed by the Philippines because their income comes from abroad. Finance secretary Carlos Dominguez said Pogos owed at least 21.62 billion pesos in taxes.

Calida was immediately contradicted by the office of the president. According to presidential spokesperson Salvador

Panelo, the decision to tax is up to the BIR and the Finance Department. "This administration will not be stymied nor stopped by technicalities caused by the exploitation of developing technologies in collecting what is due to the government," Panelo said.

There's another problem: nobody has been keeping track of exactly how many Pogos there are. Pagcor's list of approved Pogos as of this month names 60 companies, but in a television show last weekend, congressman Joey Salceda said there were at least another 100 operating illegally. He said even of the 60 registered companies, only 10 paid taxes.

And there are no exact figures on just how many Chinese citizens are employed by the offshore gambling business. The sudden and unprecedented influx of Chinese citizens has created concerns: there have been stories of Manila residents being turfed out of their residences to give way to higher-paying Chinese tenants, who are packed barracks-like into the apartments.

There are also police reports of Chinese involved in kidnapping, prostitution and bribery. Chinese nationals have been arrested on charges ranging from traffic violations to kidnap for ransom - and the authorities have revealed how some Chinese gambling syndicates employ rogue Filipino policemen as "muscle".

The visibly growing numbers of mainland Chinese, plus conflicts with Beijing over the South China Sea, might account for growing public disenchantment with the new visitors. Public

opinion of China fell from "poor" to "bad", the lowest ever. By comparison, the US had an "excellent" trust rating.

All these issues have prompted a group of congressmen to file a resolution to investigate "unregistered foreign workers" and "non-payment of income taxes" in relation to Pogos.

Congressman Biazon, who signed the resolution, said he "wanted to inquire about the effects of Pogos on illegal immigration, human trafficking ... the possibility of drug syndicates using the influx of Chinese as a network of importation and distribution and even espionage".

Pogos fall in a grey and murky area. Gambling is illegal in China and Beijing

> **POGO** continued page 26

#### **HELLO LOVE GOODBYE** continued from page 2

OFWs' everyday struggle

The film showed how working abroad is not always rainbows and butterflies as many would think. Like a lot of OFWs, Joy tried to make ends meet as she juggled doing household chores, caring for the young and the elderly, illegally selling online products, waiting tables and washing dishes in a bar. Our OFWs need our utmost understanding and concern because leaving their families to help them entails a lot of sacrifice.

#### Self-forgiveness

Ethan is trying to fix his life after giving up his residency in Hong Kong to be with his ex-girlfriend and



neglecting his familial duties. However, as he tries hard to regain his family, especially his brother's trust, he also

still blames himself for his wrong decisions. But with the help of Joy, he then forgives himself.



#### Help from a friend

"Need a friend today," was Ethan's persistent messages to Joy when he was bugging her to be his friend. Sometimes a text message will suffice to comfort a friend who is coping up with a problem.

People who will change your life Not everyone who you meet will be permanent in your lives. Sometimes they are only instruments to make you better. They may not stay in your lives but the memories and lessons you learn from them can help you throughout your life.



## Hunk Shot





## Why Erik Santos sued Jobert Sucaldito for multiple counts of cyber libel



In October 2017, a Quezon City prosecutor handling Erik Santos (left) and Erickson Raymundo's multiple cyber libel complaints versus Jobert Sucaldito (right) says "there was neither good reason nor motive why the series of remarks were posted on the Facebook account of the respondent except to embarrass complainants and injure their reputations."

Nakamit ni Erik Santos, 36, ang minimithing hustisya halos tatlong taon mula nang idemanda niya ng multiple counts of cyber libel ang radio host/entertainment columnist/talent manager na si Jobert Sucaldito, 58.

Noong unang magsampa ng reklamo si Erik, at ng talent manager ni Erik na si Erickson Raymundo laban kay Jobert.

Nagsimula ang legal battle nila noong March 30,

Hanggang sa noong January 2019, makalipas ang mahigit dalawang taong paglilitis, nag-plead ng guilty si Jobert sa salang ordinary libel sa halip na cyber libel

ERIK AND ERICKSON'S LIBEL COMPLAINTS VS JOBERT Ano ba ang pinagmulan ng pagdedemanda nina Erik at Erickson laban kay Jobert?

Sunud-sunod na blind items ang inilathala ni Jobert sa kanyang Facebook account, mula March 10 hanggang March 22, 2017.

Tungkol ito sa "mag-talent/manager" na tinawag ni Jobert na "gay, bakla, baklita" kalakip ng iba't ibang tirada hinggil sa diumano'y "kawalanghiyaan, kaplastikan, kabaklaan" ng mga ito.

llan pa sa blind items ni Jobert ay naglalarawan ng diumano'y sexual liaisons ng mag-talent/manager.

Narito ang bahagi ng sinumpaang salaysay ni Erik na isinumite sa Quezon City Prosecutor's Office noong March 30, 2017:

"Attacking my sexuality is a clear insult and harmful to my person and career. He also repeatedly attacked

my character, labelling me a traitor and one who mooches on other people."

Si Erickson ay president at founder ng Cornerstone Entertainment Inc., ang talent management company na may hawak sa career ng Kapamilya singer na si Erik.

May isa pang blind item na nagsasabing inaalok ng "BUY ONE TAKE ONE" ang artists ng talent management company "kaya ang ibang artists ay nababump off" sa isang show.

Magaling din daw ang talent management company na manghikayat ng "promising singers" na magpa-handle sa kanila, kapalit ng pangakong "sure win" ang mga ito sa sasalihang talent search na ang mga "hurado" ay hawak din nilang artista.

"These accusations smack of bad faith and reveal an intention to besmirch the name and reputation of Mr. Raymundo, as well as Cornerstone."

**COURT DECISION ON LIBEL CASE VERSUS JOBERT** 

Sa huli, nag-plead bargain si Jobert na siya ay "guilty" sa mas mababang offense na "libel" sa halip na "cyber libel."

Opinion ng legal expertise mula sa University of the Philippines Criminal Law professor na si Atty. Sandra Marie Colonel kung bakit ordinary libel sa halip na cyber libel ang inakong offense ni Jobert.

Mas mataas ang penalty sa cyber libel.

Every count of cyber libel is punishable by "6 years and 1 day up to 8 years" or "8 years and 1 day to 10 years."

Sa kaso ni Jobert, lumalabas na nag-plead siya ng guilty sa kasong ordinary libel upang mapababa ang kanyang offense.

## Sharlene San Pedro reacts to Alexa Ilacad bullying accusation

Ayaw sanang pagsalitain ng malalapit sa kanya si Sharlene San Pedro tungkol sa bullying accusation na ibinabato sa kanya ni Alexa Ilacad, ngunit kailangan daw niyang maituwid ang maling sinabi ng dating kaibigan.

Ayon kay Sharlene, baka na-carried away lamang si Alexa sa kanyang damdamin noong panahong nagsasalita ito dahil may ipinu-promote itong pelikulang pinagbibidahan niya.

Nong October 24, Inakusahan ni Alexa ang mga dating kasamahan sa Goin' Bulilit at sa teen-comedy series na LUV U, partikular na sina Sharlene at Nash



Sharlene San Pedro (left) on restoring friendship with Alexa llacad: "Oo naman... hindi kasi ako nagtatanim ng sama ng loob. Ayoko po ng ganun at saka hindi ako masyadong shawhir na tao"

Aguas, na diumano'y nam-bully sa kanya.

"Pero, I was really pinaka-hurt kay Sharlene because I thought we were friends."

#### SHARLENE'S REACTION

Noong mga panahong yun, pinili ni Sharlene na huwag magsalita upang hindi masira ang promotion ng pelikula ni Alexa.

Pero ngayon ay nagdesisyon siyang magsalita na. "Kasi never, never, never ako mambully, kasi yung kuya ko po ay na-bully po sa school."

Ikinagulat daw ni Sharlene ang sinabi ni Alexa na parang trinaydor daw niya ang kanilang pagkakaibigan

Saad ni Sharlene, "Para po sa akin, if she really thought we were friends, sana lumapit siya sa akin, sana kinlear niya po sa akin, kasi I approached her many times.

#### NASH IS THE REASON

Ayon kay Sharlene, pakiramdam niya ay si Nash ang dahilan kung bakit nagtatampo sa kanya si Alexa.

"Ang alam ko, kaya siya nagtatampo sa akin kasi lagi kong kasama si Nash at lagi kong kausap si Nash.

"Noong naghiwalay sila, si Nash ay laging tumatawag sa akin.

"Alam mo naman yung kaibigan mong brokenhearted, kapag ganun ay kailangan ng kausap.

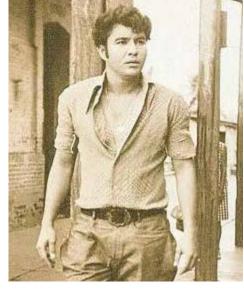
"Kailangan ng kausap so andun ako para i-comfort. Sabi pa ni Sharlene, kaibigan talaga ang turing niya kay Alexa kaya nagulat siya sa naging pahayag nito. Diin ni Sharlene, "Gusto ko lang i-clear na never,

never akong nambully ng tao."

Open ba siyang maging magkaibigan silang muli?
Sagot ni Sharlene, "Oo naman, para naman ayoko,

hindi kasi ako nagtatanim ng sama ng loob. "Ayokong sumagot sa interview, pero sa tingin ko lang kailangan ko lang i-clear itong issue na ito, kasi

bullying is very strong word."



## Dante Rivero: Idol of the '70s

Dante Rivero was rightly billed the Idol of the

Women adored his mestizo good looks, acting ability and fashion sense. Off-cam, Dante is Louisito Ramos Mayor, the son of US Navyman Louis Mayer and Paciencia Ramos.

Dante is the favorite leading man of Susan Roces, Amalia Fuentes, Pilar Pilapil, Boots Anson-Roa, Liza Lorena, Hilda Koronel, Rosemarie Sonora.

He was the prized actor of Lea, which cast him in Wanted: Perfect Mother, Santiago, Villa Miranda, Lupang Hinirang, Cherry Blossoms, Cadena de Amor, Crush Ko Si Sir, Gold Bikini, Magic Makinilya, Ang Gangster at Ang Birhen, Leslie, Andrea, among others.

Outside Lea, Dante starred in Kung Bakit May Tinik ang mga Rosas, Natutulog Pa Ang Diyos, Kadenang Rosas, Dalaga, Kapitana Ester.

Dante is still very much around, doing mostly father and supporting roles on television and cinema.

He was recently honored by the Philippine Movie Press Club with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

## Lacson backs proposal to elect president and vice president in tandem

MANILA, Philippines — Senator Panfilo Lacson supports the proposal to have the president and vice president elected in tandem, just like in the United States.

Lacson backed the idea floated by Buhay Rep. Lito Atienza, which the latter said would address the "problematic" election of the two top officials from opposing political parties.

"I would support that except that I am not sure if it is a violation of the Constitution. I am not sure. I have not read the provision pero bakit hindi nga in tandem na boboto [but why would we not vote them in tandem]?" said Lacson.

But the senator said that should Atienza file a House bill to pursue the proposal and it turns out not to be in consonance with the provisions of the 1987 Constitution, it may end up declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

Atienza earlier made the suggestion following the latest feud between President Rodrigo Duterte and Vice President Leni Robredo over the latter's leadership in the Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Illegal Drugs (ICAD).

Duterte fired Robredo as co-chair of



ICAD 18 days after appointing her in the committee, over her taunt that he should just tell her directly if he does not want her holding the position.

"Our current set up wherein the president and the vice president may belong to different political parties is really problematic, counterproductive and highly impractical," Atienza was quoted as saying in a media report.

Lacson, meanwhile, said that Robredo "did all the right things" as ICAD co-chair "because she started consulting many people."

"Even if she was fired, I think public opinion is still on her side," the senator added

### POGO continued FROM page 25

has expressed its displeasure over its citizens' involvement, both as gamblers and workers. This August it asked the Duterte government to crack down on Pogos and protect any Chinese citizens who had been victimised.

Duterte said he was not a fan of online gambling but was unwilling to ban it, because of its contributions to the economy. He warned operators to pay their fees.

Since 2016, Pogos had "largely flown under the policy radar", which meant fewer regulations and less public and media attention".

These good times could come to an end. Pagcor has since mid-August banned licences for new online gaming firms, and Congressman Salceda has filed a bill that would impose a 5 per cent franchise tax on Pogos, and a 25 per cent personal income tax on Pogo workers.

Salceda said "a clear, definitive tax regime for Pogos will be a potent revenue source.

He said any Pogos not paying taxes would not be given a permit to operate.

"No tax, no licence. Let them go," Salceda said.

## Candid SPOOF

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



Parents at Kassandra Adajar's debut have their photo session.



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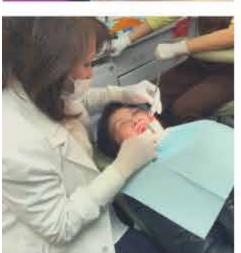
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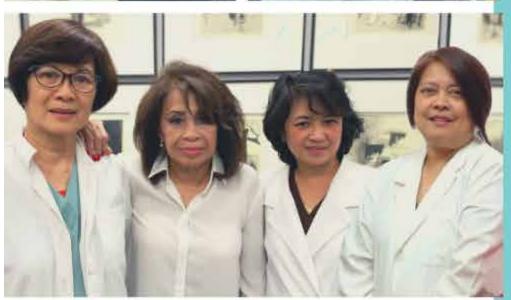












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