Little Manila Ential ential DUTERTE TO THINK ABOUT VP RUN

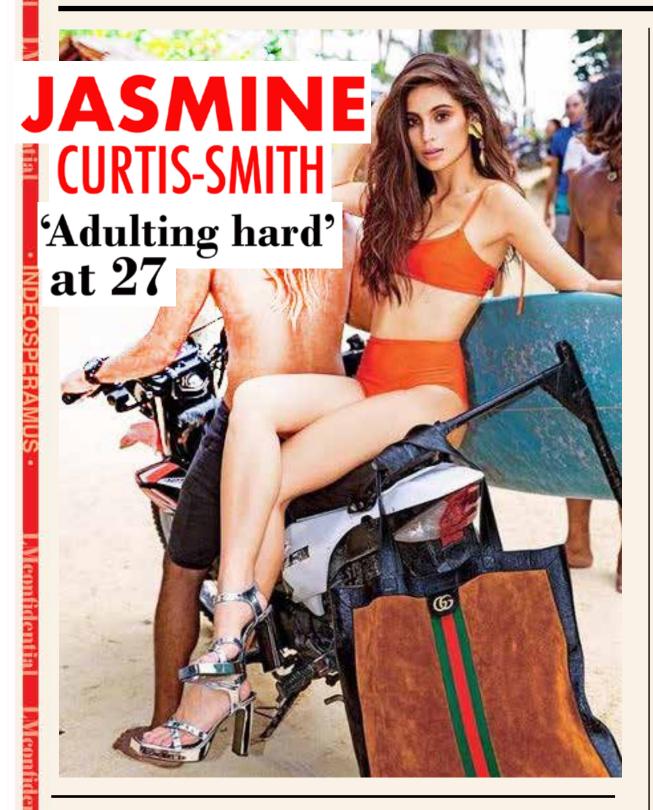
President Rodrigo Duterte is thinking over his party's call for him to run as vice president in next year's elections, Malacañang said.

Palace spokesman Harry Roque Jr. made the statement after the Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-Laban), headed by Duterte, voted to come up with a resolution urging the Chief Executive to run for vice president in the 2022 polls.

"Sa lahat po ng nagtatanong kung ano ang kasagutan ng Presidente, ang kasagutan po ay pag-iisipan po niya (To everyone who's asking what the President's answer is, he will think about it)," Roque told reporters.

"On the one hand, sabi niya nakapagsilbi na siya sa bayan. On the other hand, iisipin niya kung ano ang pinakamabuti para sa bayan. 'Yun po ang kasagutan ng Presidente (he said he already served the country. On the other hand, he will think of what's best for the nation. That's his

> **STANDING UP** continued on page 4



Two Miss Philippines Earth 2021 candidates not in favor of trans women joining pageants for natural-born women; Kevin Balot agrees

Dalawang kandidata ng Miss Philippines Earth 2021 ang hindi sang-ayon sa pagsali ng transgender women sa beauty pageants para sa natural-born women.

Ngayong June ay ipinagdiriwang ang Pride Month.

Ipinakilala sa press ang unang batch ng Miss Philippines Earth 2020 candidates kagabi, June 1.

Dito ay tinanong sina Daena Yapparcon (Miss El Nido, Palawan) at Jerimi Nuqui

(Miss Caloocan) kung payag ba silang maging kandidata sa sinalihan nilang pageant ang trans women.

MISS EL NIDO

Ayon kay Miss El Nido, ang beauty pageants ay pagdiriwang para sa natural-born

Kung siya raw ang tatanungin, mas mainam kung magkaroon ng sariling pageant para sa transgender women.

Sagot ni Yapparcon: "I do believe that beauty pageant celebrates the beauty of women, the natural beauty of women.

"So, I do believe that it already celebrates the femininity.

"I believe that transgenders should have their own beauty pageants.

"And it's because to celebrate their own beauty, and to let people know that and to

> **TRANSWOMEN** continued on page 4



Sharon Cuneta loses Steven Spielberg project because of fake positive covid19 test



After much speculation, Sharon Cuneta finally revealed the reason why she flew to Los Angeles, California, this month.

In an Instagram live session with her husband Sen. Kiko Pangilinan, the Megastar said she was supposed to be a part of Jo Koy's all-Filipino cast Hollywood film, which was going to be produced by Steven Spielberg.

However, she had to let go of the opportunity after she received a "false positive" COVID-19 test result.

According to the actress, she was supposed to play Jo Koy's character's supportive aunt in the film, which was loosely based on the comedian's

"I was coming to Hollywood to do my first Hollywood film, not for any platform, not for Netflix, but for cinematic release with premieres all over," Sharon said.

"Produced by Dan Lin who made 'Aladdin,' and the big boss, the one and only Steven Spielberg, the very first all-Filipino cast [that] I was so honored to be chosen to be part of."

Sharon said Jo Koy talked about her and after several meetings with the casting director, she was cast as one of the two main female roles in the movie.

Because she was a legal resident, she was allowed to travel to the US. She

SHARON CUNETA continued on page 20

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Sharon Cuneta leaves family, country to

'collect myself'

apamilya actress Sharon Cuneta left the country and her family to rest abroad.

In her Instagram account, Sharon posted

her passport, saying she's flying to her Mommy's Gramp's country. She, however, didn't specify where country she was bound to. "I'm going home. Of course my real home, where my heart is, is where my husband and children are. But tonight I am flying home to my Mommy's Gramps' country, where only my eldest and I are legal residents," Sharon



wrote.

"I need to breathe, collect myself, gain strength. Love you all and will miss you guys. Please pray for

me, @mariano.peachy and @annadasig . God bless you always!" she added.

In another post, the "Megastar" posted photos of her with Sen. Francis Pangilinan and their three children being emotional for their farewell.

"Praying and saying bye to my family..." she wrote.

HARSH! Geneva Cruz reacts to 'Ugliest Cruz' comment

To say that social media is toxic is underplaying it.

Surprisingly, it doesn't stop celebrities from using various platforms to further their agenda.

As such, the thing just goes on and on and on...

Recently, singer-actress Geneva Cruz was the subject of harsh criticism courtesy of a fan who deemed her the "ugliest" Cruz comparing her to cousins Sunshine Cruz and Donna Cruz.

The fan wrote, "Pinakapanget talaga tong c Geneva sa magpipinsan pero cya pa nakarami ng julake..."

Hurtful as it was, Geneva didn't take it sitting down.



She was quick to shut down her social media accounts.

Kidding.
She responded to the fan writing,

"LOL ganda mo kasi. Wag ka na mainggit, that's gonna make you uglier..."

Geneva didn't stop there.

She added, "WALANG PANGIT SA PAMILYA KO. WALANG PANGIT NA TAO. UGALI MO LANG ANG PANGIT. WHICH MAKES YOU... PANGIT..."

Tit for tat?

Well, that's how social media turns users into monsters.



Scarborough, Ontario M1B 2K4



Kris Bernal avoids giving straight answers to questions about network transfer

Is Kris Bernal transferring to ABS-CBN?

This was one of the questions asked during her True or False Q&A session on Instagram on May 1, 2021.

A netizen asked: "May balak kang lumipat sa 2 pero na-wrong timing lang?"

True or false, Kris did not give a straight answer.

Instead, she wrote as her reply, "Kung saan ako dalhin ni Lord.

"I never choose or reject a project because I see opportunities as valuable so I consider every role or show that is given to me.

"As I said, kung saan may trabaho, doon ako."

Another netizen asked Kris, "Gustong lumipat sa ibang network?"

To which Kris anwered, "Only if there's an opportunity or wherever I'll get accepted that's where I'll go for."

But she gave a direct and pointed answer when a netizen asked: "I heard you have a new project with GMA?"

Her quick answer: "False! So far, there isn't any offer yet of a new show." Kris was a contract artist of GMA-7



for 14 years until 2020, beginning in 2006 after winning the Ultimate Love Team title of Star-Struck: The Next Level with Mart Escudero.

Instead of Mart, however, Kris was paired with Aljur Abrenica. They became one of the prized love teams of the

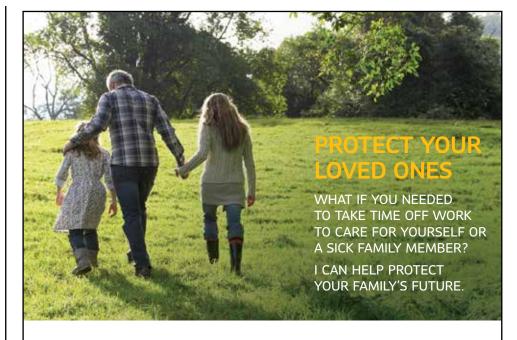
Kapuso network at that time, and topbilled several top-rating programs, such as Dapat Ka Bang Mahalin (2009) and The Last Prince (2010).

When her love team with Aljur ended, Kris went solo as lead actress in GMA-7's top-rating afternoon dramas Koreana (2010), Hiram na Puso (2012), and Impostora (2017).

In September 2020, Kris revealed that her contract was not renewed by GMA Artist Center.

In November 2020, Kris joined Cornerstone Entertainment as her new management. She also did the weekly show Ate ng Ate Ko on TV5.

In March 2021, Kris had a brief appearance in GMA-7's Owe My Love as the young version of Benjamin Alves's



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Zaijian Jaranilla mistaken for a thief

MANILA, Philippines — A scene had to be cut while rolling when actor Zaijian Jaranilla was mistaken as

"May isang foreigner na hindi kasama sa scene, akala niya nagnakaw talaga ako, so hinatak niya ako. Tapos nag-cut. Chineck ako ng mga staff kung okay lang ba ako tapos in-explain doon sa foreigner na film lang," the former child actor recalled.

"Almost Paradise" is a Filipino-American crime

and Gary Rosen. It stars Christian Kane as Alex Walker, a former

Drug Enforcement Administration agent, who finds himself settling in the Philippines after his forced retirement. While living there, he is drawn to lawless elements that thrive in his community.

The show simultaneously airs on the Kapamilya Channel and A2Z. It also streams on iWantTFC and Kapamilya Onlive Love on Facebook and YouTube.

drama produced by Dean Devlin

a real-life thief by an unknowing foreigner while on the set of the actor's crime drama "Almost Paradise."

Catriona Gray clarifies how she managed trip to Aus-

tralia despite its closed borders

Miss Universe 2018 Catriona Gray on visiting her family in Australia: "In deciding to come here to Australia I had to choose to either cancel/postpone work or to not see my family - and I feel like one of the biggest realizations I've had in this season is that

relationships and family are the most important things - so it was an easy sacrifice to make."

Noong May 4, lumipad patungong Australia si Miss Universe 2018 Catriona Gray para makapiling ang mga magulang niyang nakabase roon.



Sa comments section, isang netizen ang nagtanong kung paanong nakapasok si Catriona sa Australia gayong sarado pa ang borders ng Australia gawa ng pandemya.

Tanong ng netizen, "I thought Australia's border is closed?"

Ipinaliwanag ni Catriona na siya ay pasok sa exemption ng travel ban kaya siya nakarating ng Australia.

Paglilinaw ni Catriona, "closed for tourists but not for citizens or returning residents."

Vice Ganda calls people behind ABS-CBN shutdown "ganid at masasamang loob"

Tinawag na "ganid at masasamang loob" ni Vice Ganda ang mga taong nasa likod ng hindi pagkakaloob ng bagong prangkisa sa ABS-CBN.

Sa Twitter, May

5, 2021, nagbahagi ang It's Showtime host ng kanyang saloobin ukol sa unang anibersaryo mula nang namaalam sa ere ang ABS-CBN noong May 5, 2020.

Eksaktong ika-7:52 ng gabi noong araw na yun, naging itim ang TV monitors sa mga kabahayang nakatutok sa Kapamilya network dahil nagtapos na ang free TV broadcast ng network.

Ito ay matapos ipag-utos ng National Telecommunications Commission, sa pamamagitan ng Cease and Desist Order, dahil napaso na ang prangkisa ng ABS-CBN isang araw bago sila magpaa-

Ayon kay Vice, hindi nagtagumpay ang mga taong kumitil sa prangkisa ng



network dahil nanatiling nakatayo ang ABS-CBN at patuloy pa rin itong sumasahimpapawid.

Mensahe ng It's Showtime host, "Isang taon na ang nakalipas ng tangkain ng mga ganid at masasamang loob na ang mga KAPAMILYA

ay mapagkaitan ng serbisyong kailangang kailangan nila lalo sa panahon ng pandemya.

"Ngunit di sila lubos na nagtagumpay. Dahil andito pa rin kami at patuloy na isinasabuhay."

Dagdag pa niya, napanindigan ng ABS-CBN Corporation ang slogan nito dahil patuloy pa rin itong nagseserbisyo sa bayan kahit wala itong franchise to broadcast sa free TV.

Aniya, "ang sinumpaang linyang 'In the service of the Filipino worldwide'.

"Ang pamilya ay di sinusukuan. Nahihirapan ngunit nagtatagumpay.

"Andito pa rin kami para sa'yo KAPAMILYA!"







Good Moral Character not Required for Philippine Cops \subset

President Duterte lowered the minimum height requirement for police, firefighters and jail and correction officers. To make everyone almost eligible, clean criminal record and good moral character is not required. Ehe, sus Guinoo ni Roxanne na nakatihaya, ano ba itong nasabi ko?

After all, they already have examples to follow. Policeman Jonel Nuezca killed his neighbour Sonya Gregario, 52, and her 25-year-old son Frank. Prior to this incident, Nuezca already faced five administrative charges and two with murder but both were dismissed for lack of evidence. But he was still allowed to carry a gun while off-duty. Recently, Police

Master Sergeant Hensie Zinampan, who appeared to be drunk, pulled Lilybeth Valdez's hair and shot her in the neck, killing her instantly, according to the family.

Senator Miguel Zubiri said he believed the lowering of height requirement would encourage more Filipinos to become policemen, firefighters, and jail and correction officers.

Senator Ronald dela Rosa, a former PNP chief, also believed the measure was a "key in opening the gates of public service."

Hindi kaya kaya ibig niyang sabihin "opening the gates of hell to public disservice?"

By the looks of it, police officers are starting to look

like criminals with badge. Let us not forget, the police were also the ones who killed the 4 intelligence soldiers who were following a suspected terrorist in Sulu. Hay naku, ano ba ivan?

Let's lower the height, and increase the waist. Forgotten is the increasing size o the beer bellies of the policemen. Unlike in North America where the joke is cops eat donuts, in the Philippines, they more likely get fat on free beer from bars which are also partly-owned by police officers. What is the solution ex-PNP chief Debold Menorias Sinas? Exercise by moving your feet while sitting? Well, let's see how that works.

Vice Ganda almost took a leave from 'It's Showtime'

MANILA - Kapamilya host Vice Ganda revealed that he almost took a leave of absence from his daily noontime show "It's Showtime" because of the sudden spike in COVID-19 cases in the country.

During the recent virtual press conference of his upcoming concert "Gandemic: Vice Ganda, The VG-tal Concert," Vice said that he loves the show so much so he reconsidered his decision.

"Noong nagkaroon ng surge, mag beg off muna sana ko na hindi muna ko papasok (It's Showtime) pero 'pag ginawa ko 'yun, hindi rin papasok 'yung mga kasamahan ko. So 'pag ginawa namin 'yon, anong mangyayari sa programa?" Vice said.

"Mahal na mahal ko 'yung programa na 'yon kaya kailangan kong i-consider

kung kahihinatnatan ng programa," he added.

Vice also said that all staff of

Vice also said that all staff of the noontime show, including the hosts, are taking swab tests every day.

"So we made a compromise na 'sige pasok tayo pero kailangan ganto kahigpit.' Every day, swab kami sa 'Showtime' sa sobrang takot namin na negative ka nga ngayon baka bukas positive naman. Magkakasama tayo tapos may isa na palang positive, so every day nagpapa swab kami," he said.

"'Pag walang Showtime hindi talaga ko lumalabas. Kaisa-isang beses na lumabas ako nagpunta ko sa Belo para siyempre maganda ako pagdating sa concert," he added.

Vice Ganda promises a night of music and laughter in "Gandemic: Vice Ganda, The VG-tal Concert" on July 17, 9 p.m. (Philippines) and July 18 at 11 a.m. (worldwide streaming). Tickets are now available via http://bit.ly/Gandemic.

TRANSWOMEN continued on page 4

have the respect they deserve."
MISS CALOOCAN

Bungad naman ni Miss Caloocan, napapanahon ang tanong at siya mismo ay



Miss Philippines Earth 2021 candidates Jermini Nuque (left) and Daena Yapparcon (center) say that trans women should have their own pageant and should not join beauty pageants for natural-born women. Meanwhile, Kevin Balot (right), a trans women titleholder, also agrees.

nakikita sa social media na kasalukuyan itong pinag-uusapan.

Sabi ng aspiring beauty queen, "It's a nice question. Some of the transgender and women are talking about it especially in TikTok. I see it."

Pareho sila ng opinyon ni Miss El Nido na ang pageants na gaya ng Miss Philippines Earth ay para sa mga babae.

"So, my answer is no," ani Nuqui.
Paliwanag pa niya, "I respect transgender. I respect their community, as their opinion on their selves.

"But I also believe we need inclusivity.
"Miss Universe, we are celebrating the natural-born women.

"And I believe too that this transgender, they have their own pageants where they can showcase their skills, their talents,

their beauty.

"And as long as we respect each other's values, I think we can have a better world where a war-zone earth can turn into a beautiful and a wonderful one."

KEVIN BALOT AGREES

lginiit naman ng TPinay transgender beauty queen na si Kevin Balot ang dati niyang sinabi

na dapat ay hiwalay ang pageants ng natural-born women at trans women.

Noong 2012 ay kinoronahan si Kevin bilang Miss International Queen, ang itinuturing na most prestigious beauty pageant para sa trans women.

Ang isinusulong ni Kevin ay mabigyan ng pantay na pagtingin ang beauty pageants para sa trans women at pageants para sa natural-born women.

Eksaktong isang taon na ang nakalilipas nang nag-trending si Kevin sa pahayag niyang ito. Binatikos siya ng mga pumapabor na payagan ang pagsali ng trans women sa Miss Universe pageant.

Kagabi, June 1, ni-repost ni Kevin ang Facebook post ng netizen na kapwa niya trans woman.

Sa post ng netizen, sinabi nitong ipinagdiwang niya ang pagkakasali ni Miss Spain Angela Ponce, isang trans woman, sa Miss Universe 2018.

"It felt like the first time a man landed on the moon." anana netizen.

Pero meron nga raw prestihiyosong pageants para sa trans women gaya ng Miss International Queen, kung saan nanalo si Kevin at si Trixie Maristela noona 2015.

Iyon daw ang nais niyang mabigyang pansin—bigyan ng parehong importansiya ang kanilang pageant, kagaya ng Miss Universe.

Ang ipagdiwang ang pagkapanalo nina Kevin at Trixie, gaya ng ipinagdiwang ang pagkapanalo noon nina Pia Wurtzbach at Catriona Gray.

Sabi ng netizen, ito ang "better definition of inclusivity and equality."

Sang-ayon dito si Kevin.

Caption ng trans woman titleholder: "Thank you soo much!! [heart emojis]

"Hindi lang sa Miss Universe kundi sa lahat ng international platform na sinasalihan natin."

Lock-in shoots, benefits and disadvantages

ust got word that several new TV series and films are on extended lockin shoots in different locations around Luzon. It means that networks and film companies have resumed production against all odds, and that augurs well for the entertainment industry.

Filming nonstop in a Laguna resort is the new GMA drama series "Legal Wives," about a Muslim man (Dennis Trillo) who marries three women.

The wives are played, in proper

Andrea
Torres
and
Bianca
Umali.
Legal

order, by

Alice

Dix-

son,

Legal Wives" is coming soon on GMA Primetime.

One of the good things brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic is the way TV and movie projects are now

being produced.

They are now more carefully planned, mapped out to the smallest detail. Shoots are held in a common location, following shorter working hours in observance of health protocols.

After a month or so, the project is completed. The complete show is put in the can, so to speak. Everyone goes home happy.

Lock-in taping is the order of the day.

To be able to produce a TV show or a movie, producers go the extra mile by housing cast and crew under one roof, so to speak.

The procedure isn't all that simple.

Days before actual taping, all personnel involved in the project go through a series of health protocols. They are gathered for several days in one place, like a hotel, where they undergo swab testing.

If found negative for Covid-19, everyone is herded off to the location, where they are to stay throughout the filming. They are not allowed to leave, or even mingle with other people outside of their own bubble.

Needless to say, producing a TV show or movie these days entails added costs to producers. Over and above the usual expenses incurred in production, they must also pay for housing the cast and crew in hotels or resorts, including food.

Resorts out of town, either north or south of Manila, are usually the favored locations of shoots these days. They need not be too far, though.

Actors are also not al-

with their assistants to limit the number of people on the set.

Producing is one tough nut to

lowed to come

days,
admits
a production
staff, yet
the show
must go
on. Content
must be
supplied to
network, no
matter the

crack

these

Dennis Trillo and Bianca Umali cost or the circumstances.

Sacrifice is a

must, especially among actors, who are used to the comforts of the old practices, pre-pandemic.

A veteran actor tells me he entertains lock-in shoots for a number of reasons.

He either likes the role, or the project itself, which means he can still find a medium with which to express passion in his work, which is healthy.

He needs to work to earn his keep and put food on the table. "What's a little compromise if it means I can still be productive at this time of the pandemic?" He also likes the shortened filming hours that no longer require overnight shoots.

He needs to go out of the house for his mental health. It helps that shoots are often now located in the provinces, by the sea, in beautiful, openair settings.

Working in these environments can be considered a treat, he says, on top of fulfilling one's passion in acting while getting paid for it.

"I tell myself, I'm going on holiday in a nice place out of town. That thought inspires me to be thankful to God I can still have a job despite this pandemic."



Moira Dela Torre ridiculed for pandemic performance

Moira Dela Torre is currently trending on TikTok.

No, it wasn't because she posted a video of her dancing to "Renegade."

A video of her performing "Tagpuan" using a huge barrier or shield as propped on a roller made it to the site.

Not that it's wrong, of course.

Note that under the new normal, singers performing live in front of an audience more often than not use such a device to protect themselves and fans from possible COVID-19 infection.

But obviously, many on TikTok aren't used to seeing such, going on to ridicule Moira for it.

One said, 'Di ko kinaya yun face shield! Anlaki!"

A netizen pointed out, "Hind yan face shield, wind shield lol!!"

Another said, "Yang yung tinatawag na GIANT FACE SHIELD!!!"

A fan retorted, "Hindi mali ka diyan. Yang ang face shield pro max!"

It didn't end there.

There were some who deemed it more disturbing that Moira, at one point, made do without it, approaching a fan.

Worse, she actually let him sing part of "Tagpuan" using her mic.

Some of the comments: "Why is nobody here

talking about her using that huge shield yet lending her mic to a fan?"

"May pa giant faceshield pa tapos



iaabot lang din yung mic edi wala rin HAHAHA-HA..."

"Naku, Wag niyo ito pakita sa IATF! Baka hulihin ang mga yan!!"

"Common sense left the building..."

"Gano ba kalaki ang bills ni Moira at napilitan syang gawin to?"

The video is a huge hit, earning more than 1.5 million views as of this writing.

Meanwhile, in an update, the person respon-

sible for the video said all those who attended the event underwent testing and that they practiced social distancing.

Desiree del Valle on finding out she's pregnant: 'Halong tawa, halong iyak'

Learning for the first time that she is going to be a mommy was quite an emotional moment for actress Desiree del

She told Star Magic's Inside News, "When I saw this (pregnancy kit showing two lines), sobrang happy namin ni Papi. Halong tawa, halong iyak. Tumatalon kami pareho tapos hawak ko lang ito (kit)."

Papi is, of course, her husband, Boom Labrusca. The two announced they are expecting their first child together only last week.

Desiree added, "Sobrang happy ko, sobrang ang lakas lakas ng heartbeat niya. Parang I couldn't believe na there's actually a living baby inside me noong time na 'yon at saka kung gaano na siya kabuo."

The 39-year-old related how she immediately told her handlers in Star Magic about it, going on to advise them that she cannot accept projects anymore by June.



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Malaysian police kill suspected Philippine militants

Five suspected members of Philippine militant group Abu Sayyaf have been shot dead in a firefight with police on the Malaysian part of Borneo island, authorities said last May 18.

Police were attacked by men armed with guns and machetes Monday when they raided a settlement near the town of Beaufort in Sabah state, and returned fire

"Five male suspects were successfully defeated," said Sabah police commissioner Hazani Ghazali in a statement.

They were believed to be from the Abu Sayyaf group, police said, self-proclaimed Islamic militants whose stronghold is in the Muslim-majority southern Philippines, not far from Sabah.

One of them has been identified as Mabar Binda, a militant leader on the Philippine police's wanted list, Malaysian newspaper The Star reported.

Abu Sayyaf, which has distant links to the Islamic State group, has been responsible for some of the Philippines' worst terror attacks in recent years.

They have carried out bombings as well as kidnappings of Western tourists and missionaries since the 1990s, often operating in poorly policed sea areas bordering Malaysia and Indonesia.

Sarah and Matteo want to 'Change the World Together'

Pop queen Sarah Geronimo and her husband actor Matteo Guidicelli are lending their voice to the new theme song of G Diaries, which is now on its eighth season.

The power couple is interpreting "Change the World Together," written and composed by Jenie Chan, and is also the title of G Diaries Season 8.

G Diaries is a multi-awarded TV program produced by ABS-CBN Foundation which features stories of love, hope, and cooperation among local communities, and promotes advocacies on environment protection, child rights



and development, area development, and sustainable ecotourism, among others.

Sarah and Matteo's version of the song is exclusive to the terrestrial and cable airing of G Diaries.

"We've done seven seasons with five different directors and over a hundred episodes, but our viewers

continue to look forward to new episodes. G Diaries has a very positive vibe and a timely message of hope, and we are truly grateful that Sarah and Matteo agreed to be a part of this season."

Minimum height for cops lowered

President Rodrigo Duterte has signed Republic Act 11549 lowering the height requirement for the applicants of the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, and Bureau of Corrections.

The measure, signed by Duterte on May 26, lowers the minimum height requirement for male applicants in the law enforcement agencies from 1.62 meters to 1.57 meters. For female applicants, the original height limit of 1.57 meters is lowered to 1.52 meters.

A waiver for height requirement will be automatically granted to applicants belonging to the cultural communities or indigenous peoples.

In the Senate, Majority Leader Miguel Zubiri said he believed the lowering of height requirement would encourage more Filipinos to become policemen, firefighters, and igil and correction officers.

Senator Ronald dela Rosa, a former PNP chief, also

believed the measure was a "key in opening the gates of public service."

Meanwhile, Duterte has signed a law granting him the power to defer the increases in Social Security System premium contributions this year.

Under Republic Act 11548, the deferment of the SSS contribution hikes will take effect "for the duration of the state of calamity" due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The measure amends RA 11199 or the Social Security Act which allows the Social Security Commission, the governing body of the SSS, to implement the contribution rate hike.

A one-percent contribution increase is imposed on SSS members every two years beginning 2019 until 2025, based on RA 11199.

Meaning, the SSS members' contribution rate will increase to 13 percent beginning January 2021 from a contribution rate of 12 percent in 2020.

However, RA 11548 includes a new phrase that states that "the implementation of one-percent 2021

HEIGHT continued on page 18



Alden Richards is Face of Lazada

a leading eCommerce platform in the Philippines, welcomes the mid-year with its 6.6 campaign and the announcement of its latest brand ambassador, Al-Richards. The popular **Filipino** actor, recording artist, entrepreneur, and online gaming streamer stars in the latest TVC for Lazada's 6.6 Mid-year

Sale, where shoppers can enjoy 6x more free shipping vouchers and up to 90 percent off for purchases made from June 6-8.

"I am very grateful to be a part of the Lazada family. I've had the opportunity to work with them for their Birthday Super Sale last March, and I loved how everyone was just so excited and engaged," says Alden. "I'm definitely looking forward to this year's 6.6," he further added.

"We are half-way through the year and as we kickoff our 6.6 Mid-Year Sale with Alden, Lazada wants to turn this shopping festival into an opportunity to re-ignite hope and inspiration. We hope that our customers will continue to celebrate making it this far and finding ways to thrive during a very challenging time", shares Neil Trinidad, Chief Marketing Officer of Lazada Philippines.

Ely Buendia on the Eraserheads: 'We were never friends'

19 years after they split in 2002, the members of Eraserheads still aren't chummy.

And many of their fans aren't happy about it. The band's chief songwriter, Ely Buendia, earned riticism recently for candidly admitting on "Wake u

criticism recently for candidly admitting on "Wake up with Jim and Saab" that he and the rest of the band "were never close" and that they were "never tight friends."

"That's why we broke up," he said. "I mean we weren't Itchyworms. We weren't Parokya ni Edgar..."
Some fans were quick to react to his statement.

ganyan Ely?'

to respond,

Said one, "Bakit ka

This prompted Ely

"Big deal still? Why hate on people who want to tell the truth?" Big deal, still? Why hate on people who want to tell the truth? I didn't ask to be interviewed, nanahimik na nga ko dito eh living a happy life kayo yung makulit about the eheads. The music is all that matters, have you forgotten about that, and who wrote most of it? just sayin.

Buen-(@elybuendia9001) May 27, 2021

He would go on to add, "Lol it's also weird that I have more Ehead fans who hate me than DDS. Priorities, I guess."

Lol it's also weird that I have more Ehead fans who hate me than DDS. Priorities, I guess.

— Ely Buendia (@elybuendia9001) May 27, 2021

Note that it wasn't Ely who first admitted to the great divide among them.

Prior, the band's drummer, Raimund Marasigan, intimated they just can't get along.

"I know a lot of people are asking why we can't get the four of us here, and the honest answer is, we can't get along," Raimund said in a live jam session aired on Facebook last year.

"Some years we get along, some years we don't get along. This is one of the years we don't get along," he added.



Granite Ridge Golf Club, 9503 Dublin Line, Milton, Ontario.





Sharon loses Hollywood role because of fake positive covid19 test

SHARON CUNETA continued from page 1

was supposed to go to Los Angeles on May 18, then fly out to Canada the next day where the shooting was being held. She said the film was on a very tight

and efficient schedule especially because Jo Koy was going to have a big and long tour.

"What happened was before you get on a flight, you need to get a COVID test at least 3 days before your flight. I was flying out May 18. On May 16 I got swabbed by one laboratory. I cannot find it in my

heart to forgive," Sharon said.

"I was so happy. Naka-pack na kami and I was going to announce to you the very next day," Sharon said tearfully.

However, just after getting off of a Zoom call with the film's travel coordinator, Sharon was told that she tested positive for COVID-19.

And because they couldn't afford any delays, Sharon knew she couldn't make it to the filming.

"It was heart-wrenching for me. Literally nanlambot ako para ako nalula (my knees weakened and I felt dizzy), "Sharon said. What hurt more, said the actress,

was after she got the result, she took seven more COVID-19 tests.

"After that supposed positive test, all the seven different labs tested me negative," Sharon said. "That's why I was so depressed. It was false positive and seven

trusted labs tested me negative."

"Nawalan ako ng malaking oportunidad na 'di na mababalik sa akin. Kahit gusto nila Jo Koy at director na nandoon pa rin ako, wala silang choice na ituloy 'yung movie," the actress said.

Her role then was given to Tia Carrere, the voice actress be-

so depressed. It

was false positive

and seven trusted

labs tested me

hind Nani from "Lilo and Stitch."

"It broke my heart. It really did because it was such an honor to be part of the very first all-Filipino production in Hollywood backed by a producer as big as Steven Spielberg."

She added, "I felt like da- negative." la-dala naming lahat 'yung bandila ng Pilipinas in the

middle of all this Asian hate in America and some parts of the world ... 'yun ang kina-break ng puso ko and pinabayaan ako ni Kiko magluksa."

Sharon shared that Kiko was very supportive of her, even when she couldn't attend dinners with the family because she was too heartbroken and was just crying in bed.

"I needed to go to America and just leave the country and make myself productive so I licked my wounds here," she said. "Hindi na maibabalik sa 'kin 'yung oportunidad dahil lang sa isang pagkakamali sa COVID test kasi seven labs against one. Siguro naman tama 'yung seven."

The good news, however, is that she's going to multiple auditions, that's why she's staying in the US for a while.

"The good news is my manager hasn't stopped. I have Zoom meetings left and right, auditions left and right. That's why I'm here because now people here know I am accessible and I am available," the

"That's why I was actress said. "Don't worry because I still have commitments at home."

> She added that she and her manager were planning to start their own production company in the US to let the world know more about the Filipino people.

In June 2020, Jo Koy announced that he was working on a film based on his real life experiences with Steven Spielberg and Dan Lin.

Dennis Padilla's one question he's too shy to ask daughter Julia Barretto

Comedian Dennis Padilla said that he's thankful for the second life God has given him.

Padilla, 59, was referring to his full recovery from COVID-19 in March. That time, he recalled, he drew strength from his conversations with his children who would call him every night.



Then the interview touched on the issue of chanaing Julia's surname from Padilla to Barretto.

"Why does she have to change the surname? They said for my children to become legitimate, they need to carry the surname Barretto. If not, they will be illegitimate. But that was a long time ago. That was the issue when my children were still underage. Now that they are adults, they have the freedom to choose their surname." said Padilla.

When asked if Julia has legalized the surname Barretto on documents, Padilla said: "I don't know. I am too shy to ask her."

"I might hear words I don't want to hear," said Padilla in Pilipino.

Asked what is it that he doesn't want to hear, Padilla said: "Ayoko marinig yung sasabihn nila 'sorry pa, pinalitan na namin ng Barretto yung apelyido namin.' " (I don't want to hear from them 'sorry pa, we have changed our surname to Barretto).

Padilla also revealed that he was really down and out when he broke up with Marjorie in 2006.

"I don't have a career then. When I left home, I only have P8,000 cash in the bank. My political career has just ended, and I don't have movie offers and TV guesting," he recalled.

But it's all in the past now as Padilla settled his differences with his wife and children. "I'm better off as a father than being a husband. I've apologized to them, so sorry for all the wrong things I've done."



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China's unilateral imposition of a fishing moratorium in the South China Sea under its new coastguard law can curtail and put at risk the legitimate rights of Filipino fishermen to fish in Philippine territorial waters and exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and the Philippines does not recognize such act, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said.

The DFA made this clarification after the Philippines protested China's imposition of an annual summer fishing moratorium that takes effect from May 1 to August 16, 2021.

China's new fishing ban places Filipino fishermen's rights in West PH Sea 'at risk'

As announced by China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, the ban covers "waters north of 12 degrees north latitude" in the South China Sea. These waters include areas over which the Philippines exercises sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction.

"The fact that it imposes such regulation over an SCS area (north on the 12th parallel) encroaching on Philippine territory (Bajo de Masinloc) and EEZ — is a violation of Philippine sovereignty and sovereign rights," DFA Strategic Communications Exec-

utive Director Ivy Banzon-Abalos

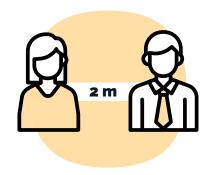
In the diplomatic protest, the Philippines said that based on Paragraph 716 of the July 2016 Arbitral Award on the South China Sea, Beijing's promulgation of a fishing moratorium, without exception for areas falling within the Philippines' EEZ and without limiting the moratorium to Chinese flagged vessels, breached Article 56 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) with respect to the Philippines' sovereign rights over the living resources of

its exclusive economic zone.

The Philippines maintained that the Arbitral Award rendered by the UN-backed arbitration court in The Hague also affirmed the traditional and legitimate fishing rights of Filipino fishermen.

"China's annual fishing moratorium extends far beyond China's legitimate maritime entitlements under UNCLOS and is without basis under international law. China cannot legally impose nor legally enforce such a moratorium in the West Philippine Sea," the DFA said.















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Former Binibinis, top models to vie for MU Phl 2021?

The search for the country's next representative to the Miss Universe beauty pageant has started as experts forecast a star-studded edition of the prestigious national contest this year.

In a post by MISSUUP-DATES on Instagram
May 28, former Binibing Pilipinas titleholders
and international Filipino
fashion models are reportedly
trying their luck in the upcoming Miss Universe Philippines
2021 competition.

Some names that floated for this year's MUP contest include Bb. Pilipinas Globe 2019 Leren Mae Bautista, who also won second runner-up at the Miss Globe contest in Albania; Bb. Pilipinas Intercontinental 2019 Emma Tiglao, Bb. Pilipinas International 2018; and Ma. Ahtisa Manalo, who finished second at the Miss International 2018 pageant in Tokyo, Japan.

Making a comeback at the MUP stage are Ma. Isabela Galleria, who blacked out of the MUP 2020 after she was tested positive for COVID-19; and Alaiza Manalo.

Also rumored to join the MUP race are Asia's Next Top Model winner Maureen Wroblewitz, Binibining Cebu Steffi Aberasturi, and pageant veteran Diana Mackey.

If they compete, this will be a star-studded edition of the Miss Universe Philippines beauty pageant, observers said.

Rumor has it that the Miss Universe 2021 competition will be held either December 2020 or January 2021.

So are you the next Miss Universe Philippines? Then show it to the universe!

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your city or province and advocate for the causes close to your heart at the Miss Universe Philippines 2021 pageant!

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MUPh 2021 Contestants Requirements

- At least 18-27 years old
- Filipino citizen
- At least high school graduate
 - No height requirement

Vice Ganda flexes tandem
with lon Perez amid calls for his
expulsion from 'It's Showtime'

Vice Ganda made sure management knows how much he wants boyfriend Ion Perez on the show.

Just recently, he took to Twitter to share "Cute ng ViceIon" among trending topics on the social media platform.

He did so amid calls for changes in the show.

Note that many fans want Ion out, believing he has outlived his relevance.

Some noted that he couldn't pass muster as host.

He isn't the only one.

Others called for Jug Jugueta and Teddy Corpuz's removal from the show.

Meanwhile, some fans suggested the inclusion of Pokwang, Rufa Mae Quinto and Ethel Booba in the show.

Kim Chiu recalls the first time she was slapped on screen

In 2007, actress Kim Chiu got a hard slap from co-star Glydel Mercado during a scene for her first teleserye



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Life's brighter under the sur



"Sana Maulit Muli."

During her "Truth or Drink" vlog, Kim admitted it actually almost sent her back to Cebu, her hometown.

According to the "Pinoy Big Brother" winner, though the slap was only make believe, it made her rushed to her car and burst into tears.

er car and burst into tears. But Kim pointed out she



does not hold grudges against Glydel.

She said the pain brought about by the slap on her face helped her give justice to her acting.

In the same vlog, Kim discussed being open to her ex-boy-friends, to celebrities who lent money to her but didn't pay her





Two dose Summer?

While our Prime Minister was touting a one-dose summer for everyone, Premier Ford is starting to talk about a two-dose summer. However, it will be late summer though. In my case, those who got their first those after April 19 can book, rebook or reschedule their second vaccine starting the week of July 19. My second vaccine is scheduled for August 11 at 5pm. I tried resched-

"Some people dream of success while others wake up and work."-- Unknown

uling online for an earlier second vaccine but it will only allow me to book on August 11 or later. I can change location and time though. So, I changed the location from International Centre to Scarborough Town Centre for 11AM so it will be closer to home.

Cryolipo Coffee is

a herbal slimming

offee which has

detoxifying

properties,

non-acidic, and appeOn July 19, let's see how early I can reschedule my second vaccine. More likely, I'll get a date that is close to August 11.

Theres hope that we will have a Christmas this year. Let's all work towards that.

Take care everyone.

RR Enriquez gets candid about love and business

Model-television personalty RR Enriquez has opened up about her relationship with long-time boyfriend and retired PBA player Jayjay Helterbrand.

RR Enriquez (right) and sister Melissa

"Nag-start kami 2009 so mga 12 years na kami. Noong nagmeet kami ni Jayjay, parang pareho kami ng gusto – ayaw namin magkaroon ng anak, ayaw namin pagpakasal," said RR during an exclusive interview in Quezon City recently.

It might sound complicated, but RR said that she and Jajjay have learned to love and accept each other through the years without entertaining the thoughts of getting married. Both are Christians.

Asked if they still plan to get hitched, RR said: "I am not closing my doors. Si Alice Dixson nga nagkaroon ng baby kahit na 51 na. I will pray for it

pero I will not force myself to get married."

RR added:"I'm 37 years old now, but I still think I'm 18 years old, parang ganun, Feel ko bata pa ako. Pero sobrang happy ako kay Jayjay. Kung Christian ako, mas Christian siya."

After her stints in "Wowowee" and "Banana Split," RR and her sister have established Cryolipo Coffee which is now a popular brand among showbiz personalities and health-conscious individ-

suppressant."

RR said that the coffee product is sold online.

Helping RR in the coffee business is her sibling YouTube sensation Melissa Enriquez who also acts as business partner and product endorser for Cryolipo Coffee.

Melissa is a transgender woman who has made a name for herself as a vlogger.

"Mas sikat ito sa akin ngayon at pinagkakaguluhan. So I advise her to invest in the business and use her influence. Higit sa lahat, I always remind her to use her money wisely," said RR.

RR

and Melissa also shared tips to those who want to venture into business. "Take risks. You should be a risk-taker because you don't know what's good or effective if you don't do it. Know your business, have the best products, use and love them. Love your own."

Dennis Kristel Fulgar fulfills dream of directing Fil-Kor series

Kristel Fulgar added another feather to her cap after directing an online Filipino-Korean series.

Kristel shared the official poster of the series she directed titled Love From Home.

"Yes, I may not be in the photo but I can proudly say that I am one of the people behind this project. Yung isang malaking pangarap lang sakin dati as a k-drama fan, posible palang mangyari," she said.

The series stars Filipina actress Joyselle Cabanlong and Korean actor Jaewon



Kim.

She extended her gratitude to her local production channel One Click TV and to one of its founders Yohan Kim in helping her fulfill this dream.

"This won't be possible without @o.c.tv and the help and support of Big

Boss @yk20k," she said.

"At sa aking mga kababayang Pilipino, sana masuportahan po natin ang sariling atin," she added.

Netizens were quick to congratulate Kristel on her new achievement.

"Congratulations ate. Your dream is here and we're proud of you," one netizen said.

"Proud of you direk!" another netizen commented.

Love From Home will premiere on the YouTube channel of One Click TV on June 4.

SELECTIVE AMNESIA?: Another video of Julia Barretto eating isaw resurfaces

Footage taken from a 2014 episode of "Gandang Gabi Vice" featuring Julia Barretto and Enrique Gil is currently trending online.

Apparently, it's a "receipt" that



the young actress has already eaten isaw (barbecued chicken intestine) despite maintaining otherwise in her boyfriend Gerald Anderson's vlog.

Recall that when she appeared on Gerald's vlog she was made to sample Filipino street food including isaw, papaya, singkamas, Indian mango, balunbalunan, kwek-kwek, binatog na mais, suman, and dinuguan.

When Gerald asked which one she is most excited to try, Julia quipped: "Wala!"

But she was willing to try for her babe.

Later, photos and videos of Julia eating isaw circulated online.

Fans chide Julia Barretto for making bogus isaw claims

Meanwhile, the new viral video was bombarded with comments from netizens mostly disappointed why Julia had to "lie" about isaw.

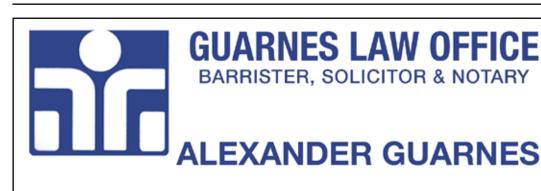
Some of the comments:

"So cringe. Julia forgets her own lies."

"Hahahaha pretentious msyado si gurl"

"Nkaka amnesia pala kumain ng isaw."

"Isaw Princess"



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'All skin tones are beautiful', Proud morena Bianca Gonzalez declares

For the nth time, TV host Bianca Gonzalez is promoting self-love, particularly when it comes to skin color.

"Hindi 'kawawa' ang morena. Hindi dehado, hindi lugi, hindi pangit ang maitim kumpara sa maputi. Tama na ang harmful messaging na yan, please. That would be my message to 17-year old me in this picture, and to all other brown-skinned girls (and boys!) who might be reading this," she wrote on Instagram, then using the hashtag "#ProudMorena."

Bianca also shared the link of her latest episode on "#PaanoBaTo: The Podcast," where she advised her listeners to stop thinking that having dark skin is less than fair skin.

"That maitim is uglier than maputi... All skin tones are beautiful, really! I mean let's encourage our modern children to love their skin they are in; to take care of it, to moisturize, to scrub, to get healthy and glowing skin instead of these harmful messages that they aren't pretty enough because they're

dark or that they have to be whiter in order to get noticed."

AJ Raval kinumpirma ang relasyon nila ng former PBB housemate na si Axel Torres

> Ang 2014 Pinoy Big Brother All In housemate at basketball player na si Axel Torres ang boyfriend ni AJ Raval.

Ito ang kinumpirma ng sexy actress bago nagsimula ang virtual story conference para sa pelikulang Nerisa ngayong Lunes ng hapon, May 24.

"Naging kami po noong wala pa ako sa showbiz," sabi ni AJ tungkol sa pagsisimula ng relasyon nila ni Axel.

Nag-umpisa ang mga post ni Axel sa kanyang Instagram account ng mga litrato nila ni AJ noong May 2020. Tumutugma ito sa kuwento ng sexy star na hindi pa siya artista nang maging boyfriend niya ang dating housemate ng Pinoy Big Brother.

May isang anak si Axel kay Aina Solano, ang kanyang exgirlfriend na naging housemate niya sa PBB All In. Nagkaroon din siya ng relasyon sa GirlTrends member na si Erin Ocampo.

Ginagampanan ni AJ ang karakter ni Lilet sa Nerisa, ang sexy drama movie ng Viva Films na pagbibidahan ng former beauty queen na si Cindy Miranda.

Siya ang kaibigang tutulong kay Nerisa para mahanap ang asawa nitong nawawala, na bibigyang-buhay naman ni Aljur Abrenica.

Nagbida na si AJ sa Death of A Girlfriend kaya marami ang nagtataka sa pagpayag niyang maging suporta ni Cindy sa Nerisa.

Sagot niya sa mga nagtatanong,



"Okay naman po sa akin.

"Sigurado po dito sa bagong karakter, bagong project, meron din naman akong bagong matututunan."

"Be that girl who wakes up with purpose and intent. Be that girl who shows up and never gives up. Be that girl who believes anything is possible and is willing towork for it." KIM CHIU



Wurtzbach tells Andrea Meza: Back up your files

'Back up your files'

Miss Universe 2015 Pia Wurtzbach has one important unsolicited advice for newly crowned Miss Universe Andrea Meza of Mexico: back up your

"Marami na ang magsasabi na enjoy, but my real advice is to back up your files 'cause I lost a lot of pic-



tures during my reign. I'll never get those memories back. Invest in a nice camera and back up your files, girl!

> WURTZBACH continued on page 22

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BIRTHDAY

1-2. Aidan Rodricks celebrates his 16th birthday with his family



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Alex Gonzaga knows how to work hard and reward herself"

atching her on TV5's Lunch Out Loud (LOL) or following her vlogs is always a fun time to many. Alex Gonzaga exudes

Beyond that demeanor is a hardworking wife to Lipa City, Batangas Councilor Mikee Morada.

After attending to her showbiz commitments and while waiting for Mikee to come home, Alex cooks a dish for him or orders food if she is pressed for time. Alex certainly knows how to work hard and reward herself.

"Yes, it is," shared Alex about shopping as a form of relaxation, "that's why the word window shopping was invented (and coined). Punta ka lang sa mall. Mag-window shop ka lang. If you can't afford it just yet (because of budget constraints, at least,) you have a goal (to save up and) buy it later. For me, it's a way to reward yourself."

People have embraced online shopping and enjoyed its advantages.

'When you want something, you can 'add to cart' it first," said Alex. "Then you can go back to it again anytime when you have the money at nakita mo na OK na yung deal (and when you have the best deal)."

Being the face of Shopee's Payday Sales is one of the blessings that Alex has received these trying times. She headlines the brand's TV commercial.

The then young Alex was a shopa-

"My husband is very matipid," said Alex. "When Mikee wants to buy something, whether it is a big purchase or a small purchase, hindi niya binibili agad. Pinag-iisipan niya ng 3,000 times na ganung level." Alex recalled

In just

that when Mikee was planning to buy a laptop in the States, they went to four stores. He would compare prices and talk to the staff. Mikee was simply valuing his hard-earned money.

> Tht was his advice to her. By the time you've read this story, Alex has already started a lock-in shooting for a movie.

> > "This is my first movie na kasal na kami." Last year, she did a film with sister Toni Gonzaga and they had a two-and-a-half week lock-in shoot in

Nueva Ecija.

"It was supposed to be (an entry to the) MMFF (Metro Manila Film Festival). Fans will just wait for the official announcements of Alex's movie releases.

Aside from that, Alex, who is one of the top YouTubers in the country, will gather fellow vloggers and collaborate in gastronomic cooking content. Definitely, the host-actress' plate is full these days.





1. ABS-CBN Rise Studio rising star Shanaia Gomez celebrated 2. Ronnie Adajar celebrates his birthday with wife Jemilie and

DonBelle officially launched as love team in 'He's Into Her' premiere

After months of fan anticipation and social media hype, Donny Pangilinan and Belle Mariano's teen romance He's Into Her premiered online by setting viewing records on iWantTFC and making the streaming service the top free entertainment mobile app in the Philippines.

Over the weekend, iWantTFC became the top free entertainment mobile app in the country in both Google Play and the App Store as fans watched the premiere episode of He's Into Her, which first became available last Friday (May 28).

On the same day, the series also set the highest number of concurrent users on iWantTFC, doubling the platform's daily average users and increasing its hourly average by five times, as viewers watched the unpleasant but 'kilig'-filled first meeting of main characters Deib (Donny) and Max (Belle).



on social media, with the hashtag #HesIntoHerNOWSTREAM-ING dominating the trending topics on Twitter Philippines.

Fans worldwide can continue to be the first ones to watch Deib and Max's love story develop by watching the advanced episodes on iWantTFC every Friday at 8:45 p.m. (Manila time) - two days before they air on Kapamilya Channel, A2Z, and Kapamilya Online Live every Sunday night at 8:45.

Politician admires Cristine Reyes' body...of work

Batangas Vice Governor Mark Leviste wants to meet Cristine Reyes. Why? He has a big crush on the

The 43-year-old went on to relate how he has long been following Cristine's career and that he likes her, uhm, body of work.

Is he planning to court her? Mark is mum about it.

He maintained he just wants to get to know the actress and hopefully be able to tell her how he is among her fans. This is not the first time Mark was linked to a celebrity.

Prior, his name was attached to Kris Aguino, with the latter revealing how Mark sent her flowers on her birthday.

Mark didn't say if he actually courted Kris, saying simply he is among many who admires her.

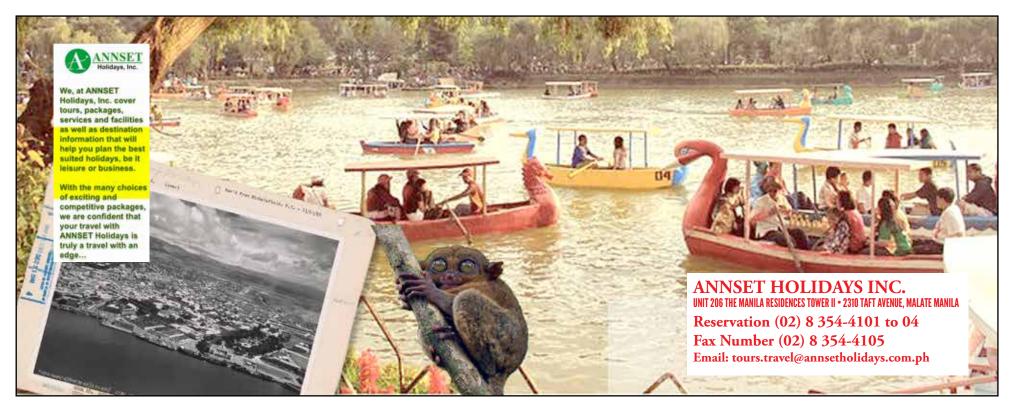
ARIELLE PEREZ's and her single "What if"

AAAHH it's only been a couple of weeks since I released my

single "WHAT IF" and it already has 6,000+ streams on @spotify and I now have 4,000+ monthly listeners. Thank you all so much



and support, keep streaming on @spotify, @applemusic, @ deezer and more



Jasmine Curtis-Smith is 'adulting hard' at 27



Jasmine Curtis-Smith is adulting hard at 27.

This was her sentiment as she narrated on social media how she purchased a condominium unit several years back, which, as it turns out, was unlawfully lived in by other people.

"Story of this unit... purchased this as an investment almost 6-7 years ago. Wasn't able to utilize it for a year and a half after turnover because of my lack of knowledge in property handling! I was about to move in after that year and a half but when I got to the unit, it was LIVED IN," she said.

"All the plastic sealing of my sinks, faucets etc were torn and with empty bottles, sachets and whatnot left behind! They even stole the range and cabinet handles that came with the unit," she added.

Curtis-Smith said the condominium association changed security and managements a year or two after that incident so she decided to keep the unit and not sell anymore.

"After all, I still am not that knowledgeable with property handling! Plus thought about how useful this place will be not just for me but for overseas family visiting in the future. Like my mama who likes being near the shops and cafes," she said.

After deciding to keep it, Curtis-Smith said she is happy to have her own place which she turned into her quarantine nest and mini studio for work last year.

"Voila! It's ready. Holy wow, I am adulting hard at 27."

Regine Velasquez and Ogie Alcasid both had their second shots of the Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine and convinces everyone to get the vaccines

"We [finally] finished our second dose," Velasquez said as she showed a photo with a volunteer at the Quezon City vaccination facility on her Instagram page today, June 2. She can also be seen holding her completed vaccination card.

The Asia's Songbird urged her fans to get vaccinated against COVID-19, saying it will help people go back to living "normal lives."

"For us to achieve herd immunity at least 70 to 80 [percent] of our population need to be vaccinated. This is the only way we can all go back to our normal lives," she stated.

Alcasid, meanwhile, showed a photo of himself while getting the vaccine, through his Instagram page on the same day.

"After getting exposed again to a [COVID-19 positive patient] at work, wifey and I had to quarantine to fulfill the requirement for the second jab," the composer-singer recalled.

Alcasid then admitted that he had doubts about getting vaccinated. He stated that he initially preferred to have Pfizer shots but added that it has been "so far, so good" with his Sinovac jab.

"Alam natin na marami pa rin ang nagdadalawang isip magpabakuna. Noong una ay Pfizer ang akala naming mahusay nguni't sa aming mga nabasa



BIRTHDAY





1. Alyssa Rae poses with her dad Marvin Torreno on her birthday. 2. Logan poses with her dad Marvin on his 13th birthday.

Darren Espanto is all grown-up in new single,

The artist blends his pop roots with hip-hop and R&B in this song from his upcoming album

Darren Espanto marked a new era in his career with a new single, "Tama Na," released on Friday, May 28.

In the track, the 20-year-old singer sings about walking away from a one-way relationship that has gone nowhere. It blends Darren's pop roots with hip-hop and R&B sensibilities, and the electronic beats highlights Darren's signature soulful vocals.

The song is a collaboration between Darren and fellow artist Zack Tabudlo who wrote, produced, and mixed it.

Darren, who is a fan of Zack's

music, shared that it had always been the plan for them to work together.

"Last year, Zack told me how he became part of the MCA family and

we thought that finally, this would be our chance to work together. In just a couple days, Zack created 'Tama Na' and I really liked the song instantly. It's a sound that people haven't heard from me before and it's also a genre I've always wanted to try," he said.

The two worked together via Zoom, with Zack quiding Darren through the

'Tama Na'

recording process online.

"It was
honestly such
a chill session,
mostly because
a lot of it was us
just talking

about random things that aren't even related to the song," Darren said.

The song is off Darren's upcoming album. It will be released in a music video format soon, and is currently out on streaming platforms. It's release also comes as Darren prepares for a virtual concert, set to stream live on KTX on June 19.



pagkatapos ay [nalaman naming] kung ano ang ibigay, yun ang pinakamabisa," he said.

(We know that many are still thinking twice about getting vaccinated. At first, we thought Pfizer was the best vaccine, but we read and learned that whatever is given to us is the most effective.)

"Kaya ako nagpabakuna, hindi lang para sa sarili ko, kundi para sa nakararami. Kaya maging protektodo, sa bakunang sigurado," he appealed.

(I got vaccinated not only for myself but also for the rest of us. So be protected with safe vaccines.)





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PHOTOGRAPH'

Nicole Scherzinger, proudly in 'Trese'

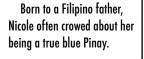
Nicole Scherzinger from The Pussycat Dolls just posted on social media a

her character in the upcoming anime adaptation photo of Filipino graphic novel "Trese" which will stream on of the Netflix. the caption, the singer-actress wrote, "So excited announce that I'll be joining my girl (Shay Mitchell) and an incredible cast of other Filipinos

as part of 'Trese'- a @netflix original anime series coming June 11th."

"I'm so proud to be a part of such a di-

So excited to announce that I'll be joining an incredible cast of Filipinos in Trese, a @ne original anime series coming 06/11. I'm so proud to be a part of such a diverse project which brings visibility to stories, talent & voice project which brings visibility to beautiful stories, talent and voices from our Pinoy



culture," she added.

Atasha Muhlach graces Metro cover in her first fashion shoot

Atasha Muhlach is all grown up! Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzalez-Muhlach's unica hija comes of age on her very first fashion cover. As Metro.Style's newest cover girl, she shared her thoughts on the future, her family, and growing up.

"The overall process of learning new things is not just from Point A to Point B to your destination. It's a matter of how you can get there and how far you can get," she said with a smile, showing the confidence she needs to live life the way it was meant to be lived whether she realizes it or not.

The 19-year-old also shared her thoughts about entering showbiz. Despite her affinity for the stage (she

was in a production of "The Sound of Music"), Atasha hasn't seriously considered a career in showbiz. She's not opposed to the idea, but it's not something she wishes to actively pursue at the moment. If a door opens, she'll keep a "why not?" attitude.

But Atasha talked about other things, too, from her hobbies—like painting—to her thoughts on social media. Visit Metro.Stylefor the full cover story.

In response, her father, Aga Muhlach, posted a heartfelt message on his Instagram account. He said, "Let me first just say how proud I am of

you... my dearest @atashamuhlach... from the day you were born til present I would question myself countless times if I did the right thing raising you as a father. Seeing you on the cover of Metro... just made my heart



so tender. Atasha you did this on your own and you know in your heart that I would always (well I'd like to believe that) make you decide on your own. My happiness is whatever and anything that'll make you happy and you know that..."





Maris Racal enjoying a 'happy' relation-

ship with Rico

Speculation about her and Rico Blanco supposedly making sweet music has been going on for some time.

In a recent interview, Maris Racal said more than enough to make their shippers giddy. Asked to describe her relationship with

the singer-songwriter, she answered simply, "Masaya." She didn't give details apart from them working on a new project. Actually, the singer-actress appeared somewhat uneasy



talking about their relationship.

In any case, let's take her word for it. Rumors about Rico and Maris having romantic ties emerged early this year, with both exchanging sweet nothings on social media.

Maris was linked prior to Iñigo Pascual.

Rico has been single for the longest time but he was once romantically linked to KC Concepcion.

Rabiya Mateo's 'complicated situation' with BF

The country's representative to the recently concluded Miss Universe tilt has opened up on her alleged breakup with boyfriend Neil Salvacion.



Rabiya admitted all is not well with her and Neil.

She didn't go into details, relating simply "it's a complicated situation." The 24-year-old llongga beauty added, "But we're friends." We need to talk about things when I go back to the Philippines... (but) we need to have space as of the moment."

Rabiya is hopeful everything will be sorted out, noting, "We've been in this kind of situation before."

"I'm not closing any doors. We've been together for seven years... who knows...."

John Lloyd Cruz to be paired with Andrea Torres?

Talk is that the former ABS-CBN star is going to appear in a GMA sitcom and soon.

A GMA insider shared the show will be helmed by Bobot Mortiz, who used to directs shows on ABS-CBN. More, the show is said to also feature GMA-7's sexiest Andrea Torres as John Lloyd's leading lady.

GMA is yet to confirm the report but fans are already excited about it. Note the show is going to be John Lloyd's first after his lengthy sabbatical. More, Andrea is the most recent ex of Derek Ramsay, who is now making sweet music with John Lloyd's ex Ellen Adarna.

John Lloyd and Ellen have a son, Elias.

House: Senate can still act on economic Cha-cha

MANILA, Philippines — Contrary to senators' claims, the Senate still has time to scrutinize the proposed amendments to economic provisions of the Constitution, especially when Congress resumes session on July 26.

This was according to Quezon City
Rep. Precious Hipolito-Castelo, who explained that the proposed economic revisions in the 1987 Constitution – contained in Speaker Lord Allan Velasco's
Resolution of Both Houses 2 – remain "very much alive and can still succeed within this year."

"So the Senate cannot really consider it before we go on our annual mandatory break. We will transmit it to them during the recess and they will have time to scrutinize it and act on it during our third and last regular session, which starts on July 26," she said.

RBH 2 is expected to be passed on third and final reading before the June 4 break.

The measure, which has not been certified as urgent by Malacañang, has the support of the super majority coalition in the House. It aims to relax what its authors claimed were restrictive economic provisions of the Constitution by empowering Congress to change such restrictions whenever necessary.

Castelo said the House would be busy with the proposed national budget for 2022 during the first few months of the last regular session. "While we are considering the budget, we hope the Senate could find time to tackle RBH 2," she said.

She said several senators have expressed support for the House initiative to relax

economic restrictions "so the country could attract more foreign investments to enable it to recover faster from the crippling pandemic."

She noted that even Senate President Vicente Sotto III stated in January that the Senate was open to considering Chacha provided it was limited to economic provisions and would not involve political amendments.

"As we have assured senators, the Chacha push is confined to the restrictive economic provisions. There has been no proposal for a political amendment and the House will kill it if there is any," Castelo said.

Camarines Sur Rep. LRay Villafuerte, who is opposed to Velasco's leadership, predicted RBH 2's doom following the refusal of senators to toe the House line.

"Resolution of Both Houses 2 is practically dead in the water. Passing RBH 2 is an exercise in futility as it appears dead in the water in the Senate," he said.

The House leadership is bent on approving this week the measure on third and final reading before Congress goes on recess on June 4. Sessions resume on July 26 when Duterte delivers his sixth and last State of the Nation Address.

"Going through the motion of passing RBH 2 on third, final reading will just be an exercise in futility, especially when the House leadership could better spend the precious hours on more urgent measures such as on COVID-19 response and economic recovery," he added.

Sotto earlier hinted at bypassing Velasco's measure, citing lack of material time as well as the need to focus on other priority measures.



Sharon Cuneta at 55 has new love team, MaRon

MaRon, the name coined for the onscreen partnership of Sharon Cuneta and Marco Gumabao for the film "Revirginized," has undergone many interesting transformations.

There was SharCo, which Sharon said reminded her of the fictional ogre character Shrek, the star of the highly successful series of animated films by DreamWorks. There was also CuBao, a play on the two actor's surnames, and also the name of an important hotspot in Quezon City.

All these were revealed in Sharon's YouTube channel's last two entries, which also features some behind-thescene outtakes and interviews not just with Sharon but also with Marco and director Darryl Yap during their shooting in Subic, Zambales, in March.

According to Sharon, the story happens only in one weekend.

"It is about the transformation of this sad woman's life. It's also a coming-of-age movie in many different context," she said.

"I'm excited," Sharon continued.

"After four decades, I think I've earned the right to experiment and do movies that are not really the kind of movies that my audiences are used to seeing me in. When it's like that, you take a chance and it's usually worth it. At least when I retire, I can say that I did what I wanted to do."

The 55-year-old Megastar also had a good laugh because her current leading man is 29 years her junior.

"I have a new leading man. Everyone



else is too old for me now. Marco is my 'honey' in the movie. To my former leading men, ang tatanda n'yo na," she quipped.In a separate interview, which was part of Sharon's second vlog about "Revirginized," Marco, a self-proclaimed "Sharonian," recalled what it's like to work with Sharon.

"I was in the office of Viva (producer of the film) when they told me the news. I couldn't believe what I was hearing," he recalled. "What's nice about her is that she doesn't really make you feel that you're inferior to her. Ms Sharon made us feel comfortable to be with her, especially on the set. She's so nice, genuine, and easy to talk to."

Marco added: "Today is our last day of shooting. Honestly, I just want to remember the whole experience. To be given the opportunity to be her leading man is really something. I'm just going to be a sponge and absorb everything I learn from her."

On the other hand, Darryl claimed that directing Sharon was among the items at the top of his bucket list. "I'm filled with mixed emotions because I will miss Sharon. I'm happy because this our last day, and I would finally be able to say that I already have a Sharon Cuneta film. I'm also kind of sad because Sharon is really an angel to work with. She's a very happy person, very generous and, above all, very professional."

The film is scheduled for release this month. Sharon, meanwhile, admitted that doing "Revirginized" was a "new" and "very different" experience for her. She said that even though Viva Entertainment, which used to manage her career, is the producer, "this set is really Direk Darryl's call. All the details, including the set location, are all his."

"It's different because I grew up with a regular onset production family. Ninety-nine percent of the time, I had the same production designer, art director, and even wardrobe. There was even a time when I only had (the late) Eddie Garcia as my director ... Ngayon iba na because it's a different generation. This is all new to me," Sharon added.

Sharon said she still had a lot of work lined up for her this year. This includes a teleserye for Viva Max and for ABS-CBN. "There's also another movie with Direk Darryl and some projects that I still can't talk about. I can't tell you what's inside my head and what's making my heart jump. You'll know in a very short time."



Charming, cheerful Alexa

There's something in Alexa Ilacad that gives the impression she's beyond her artista looks and likewise not merely benefiting from a surname deeply associated with star makers. To somehow explain what it is, she possesses an aura that exudes charm and cheerfulness. She looks unpretentious and sounds delightfully raw, simply real.

That was the impression I made out of her during a recent virtual press conference to promote her latest single "Stay Right Here." While I have listened to a couple of her songs before and heard her name in showbiz circles a number of times, I had yet to interact with her or even see her face before that hour.

Charming, cheerful Alexa Alexa Ilacad drops her latest single, the urban

dance pop track 'Stay Right Here.'

She was very accommodating and straight to

the point in answering questions. "Yes, I always find myself wanting to talk to someone, especially in this pandemic," she said when asked if it ever got to a point when she felt like she's needing a shrink to help her address anxiety.

When another reporter asked her about how she could juggle acting and singing duties under a lockdown situation, she implied it's actually her hectic schedule that helps her deal with this strange scenario that has been going for over a year now.

Her new single dropped in digital stores last April 30 is correctly described as "an urban dance pop track heady with atmosphere and dripping with charismatic vocals."

It is also a "stark departure from the upbeat, near-naivete" of her preceding single "Love At First Sight" put out late last year. That track's acoustic version turned out to be a pleasant version significantly different from the master recording. It shouldn't be a bad idea if there'll also be a stripped-down take of "Stay Right Here," which sonically relied on its party mood arrangement and pointed to the fact that the singer, in her own words, had chosen Dua Lipa as her life's peg. It's easy to understand the connection when you listen to the song. But worth-noting is Alexa's own strength to convince you to hold on to her song until you realize you're already in a place you'd want to be, more so if you're having a kind of cabin fever caused by prolonged indoor stay. The title takes hold once you're assured you need not go out because it's safer right at home.

The song's basic beauty of melody and Alexa's engaging singing are a good mix with unplugged guitar, perhaps even with the one in her room, as accompaniment.

Alexa was first seen in Goin' Bulilit (2008-2013) before she took on a couple of primetime series, The Good Son (2017-2018), and The Killer Bride (2019). She bagged her first lead role as Hasmin in Santigwar (2019) before portraying Bobbie Salazar in the movie Four Sisters Before the Wedding (2020).

After releasing her debut album To The Moon And Back in 2016, the new label Off The Record backed her continuing rise on the music scene.

Donnalyn Bartolome's confrontation with Marco Gumabao, Super Tekla

Donnalyn Bartolome took to social media to air footage of what exactly happened at her now-controversial "Last to leave the pool wins 1 million pesos" challenge.

In it Marco Gumabao is seen confronting Donnalyn.

"Paano magiging happy ending, e, nadaya nga kami dito, di ba?" said Marco to Donnalyn.

"Di ba kasi pumunta kami dito. Sabi mo one million, okay, cash prize. Hindi kami mukhang pera, pero kumbaga para sa amin, alam mo yun, pera ito, may matutulungan kami," he continued. "Tapos, parang umangat lang ako dun, dinaya mo kami na parang 'O ano out ka na?' Parang, come on. Ang daya naman ng ganun!"

Tekla then interjected expressing his thoughts as well.

"At tsaka excuse me lang, Miss Donnalyn, I know first time kita na-meet," he started. "Pumunta kami dito, nag-effort,

and then siyempre, talking about one million (pesos), kahit sinong tao, one million, wala talagang aahon kahit magkaduguan na."

Donita then asked everyone to calm down but Tekla continued ranting.

"Ini-explain ko lang kasi, di ba, nangangatog na yung tuhod ko diyan? Alam mo ba put***ina, takot ako sa ahas. Takot na takot ako. 'Yan ang pinakatakot ako! Aatakehin ako pero tiniis ko kasi put***-na, one million 'yan, e! Nakakag*go, sa totoo lang, pikon na pikon ako! Ang akin lang dapat pag magpapa-contest ka dapat may rule."

But later Marco revealed it was all just a prank, which made Donnalyn burst into tears.

"Ito lang masasabi ko. Wag kayong mag-aaway for money," Marco told viewers.

Then Donnalyn gave P15,000 each to



Marco, Tekla, and Donita.

Meanwhile, under the comment section, the actress-model explained that she uploaded the raw clips so everyone can now move on without conflict in their hearts.

"I never looked at this as a competition but a way to make people happy and promote vloggers. My team checked the shots so we can all move on to the last participants. Sorry if you think it's unfair for me to join, I just thought my subscribers would want to see me compete as their representative to win the 1 Million. If I don't win.. the other 2 last participants promised to share their 1M if ever they win. Thank you for watching," she said.

But it seems, the "prank" and "whole drama" didn't sit well with some netizens.

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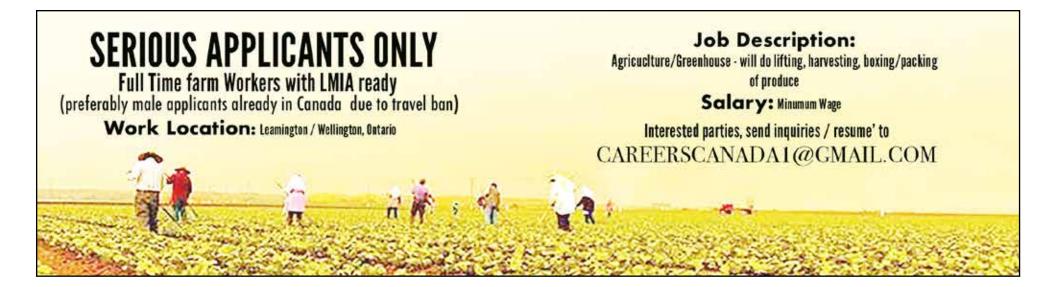
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Erik Matti warns: 'Movies will die'

Esteemed film director Erik Matti took to social media recently to rant about mounting production costs amid the ongoing pandemic.

He made sure people got the point, too, posting a screenshot of a computer screen, showing actual figures.

He said, "Most people think the difficulty of producing content only lies with the producers. We always hear people say, 'If you can't afford to make movies then don't make them.' Yes, if this

continues, we will end up not making any movies anymore. People will just go to TV and advertising. Movies will die."

He blamed the ongoing pandemic,



lamenting the continued closure of cinemas.

"With the cinema closed and with no assured income for our movies, where do we go? To some, they say, 'Well it's just the movies. The least of our concerns in these trying times.' But to most of us, movies are our life. We can't just let this die."

Note that although President

Duterte has eased lockdown measures in most parts of the country, the opening of theatres and other entertainment venues are yet to be allowed.

'Climate of impunity bred trigger happy cops'

Makabayan lawmakers on June 1 condemned the cold-blooded murder of a 52-year-old mother by a policeman which was captured on video that has since went viral on social media.

Asst. Minority Leader and Gabriela Women's Partylist Rep. Arlene Brosas and Bayan Muna Rep. Ferdinand Gaite said the killing of Lilibeth Valdez by Police Master Sgt. Hensie Zinampan brought back the bitter memory of the fate of Sonya Gregorio and her son, who were likewise shot dead by a policeman as dozens of people watched.

The video footage showed that Zinampan held Valdez by the neck before shooting her in the same area at point blank range. The incident took place in Fairview, Quezon City.

"The persisting climate of impunity bred these trigger-happy cops," said Gaite.

Brosas noted that this is the second time in less than six months that a mother died in the

hands of policemen.

"Quite disturbingly, such incidents indicate a pattern of police-perpetrated attacks against innocent mothers. This is an extreme manifestation of President Duterte's brand of macho-fascism, which seems to have taken root in the Philippine National Police (PNP)," she said in a statement.

The partylist solon added: "The PNP cannot clear its image when it is continuously entangled in police rage killings." Thousands of violent deaths have already been blamed on the police in connection with the Duterte administration bloody war on drugs.

Gaite had clearly linked these recent killings to the drug killings.

"Talagang nakasiksik na sa utak ng kapulisan ang kautusang kill, kill, kill ng kanilang pangulo. (Their president's 'kill, kill, kill' command has clearly been ingrained in the minds of the police)," lamented Gaite.



Gladys Reyes, Orabella share tips on starting **business**

ward-winning actress Gladys Reyes is a part of a growing industry of mompreneurs — mothers who have successfully balanced family life with running a business.

Gladys, together with her husband and fellow actor Christopher Sommereux, run a food and catering business. The 36-year acting veteran is also currently conducting a workshop for aspiring actors.

Most recently, she was tapped by Orabella to host an online press conference for members of the media and the blogging community that featured Arabella del Rosario, Orabella's skincare brand ambassador; Anne Acuña, Orabella Marketing Manager; and Aina Tejada,



beautiful skin while providing earning opportunities to

Filipinos.

Gladys shared her insights and tips on how to become a successful mompreneur.

Study the business you are entering. "Mas maganda kung ang papasukin mong negosyo ay passion mo," she advised.

It takes guts to start a business. "Hindi pwede sa negosyo na konting failure, susuko na agad," Gladys advised.

Set realistic goals and timetables. "Sa ano mang gawain, dapat magkaroon ng specific objectives," Gladys said.

Find people who will sup-

port you. Having a support system is important. During times when you feel down and discouraged, they are the ones who will help lift you up. Your support system can be your husband, friend, or neighbor, as long as they are someone you can trust.

Believe in yourself and use what you've learned in being a mom in running your business. Being a mom is a good preparation for running a business, according to Gladys, as mothers will do everything to give their children a good future.

In the same press conference, Orabella user-turned-reseller and distributor Tejada shared her experience in becoming an entrepreneur.

"Nagsimula po ako sa pagiging user ng Orabella. Nagustuhan ko 'yung products, kaya naging reseller ako. I found selling difficult at first because Orabella was just being introduced that time.



Is Alex Gonzaga ready to become a mommy?

Alex Gonzaga wants a baby but she is

She thinks she might not be able to hack it as a mommy.

She told G3 San Diego in a recent interview, "Gusto ko na siya. Pero parang 'pag nandiyan na, feeling ko parang hindi ko pala kaya. (I want to start my own family. But I feel like, when it happens, I'll realize that I'm not ready for it.)"

The social media darling surprised followers early this year announcing her marriage to longtime boyfriend and politician Mikee Morada.

The couple's intimate at-home wedding actually happened late last year.

John Lloyd Cruz signs up with Maja Salvador's talent management agency

Seasoned actor John Lloyd Cruz is officially back in showbiz!

"We are happy to share with you the CAMback of the one and only John Lloyd Cruz, now under Crown **Artist Management** (CAM)," the talent management agency of actress Maja

Salvador wrote on their social media accounts with the photos of the 37-year-old-star. The talent company also ploaded the

teaser video of John Lloyd, who could be seen getting down from a private plane.

"The time has already come," said the caption for the video.

Recall that news about John Lloyd's comeback in showbiz surfaced recently.

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HEIGHT continued from page 6

increase in contribution rates and the monthly salary credits provided in this section may be suspended by the President of the Philippines for the duration of the state of calamity under Proclamation No. 929."

On March 16 last year, Duterte signed Proclamation 929 declaring a nationwide state of calamity due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The entire Philippines is placed under a state of calamity for six months, "unless earlier lifted or extended as circumstances may warrant," according to the proclamation.

"The other scheduled contribution rates and the monthly salary credits herein provided shall continue to be valid," according to the newly-signed law.

Liza Soberano talks about involvement in 'Trese'

Liza Soberano admitted she is treading unfamiliar path doing voice work for "Trese," the anime adaptation of the Filipino graphic novel.

Soberano revealed she was actually hesitant at first to take on the task, doubting her ability to execute it properly.

"Honestly when it was first offered to me I kind of had some hesitations and I think that was mostly due to the fact that I didn't really have the confidence or I was kind of doubting myself if I could really do it," Liza shared.

"In voice acting, you are supposed to bring that emotion out through your voice. Of course while you are dubbing it there's a bit of emotion that you have to put out in your face pero not all the time. It's carried out in your

voice and that's something I had to learn,"

She is thankful that Rudolf Baldonado was here to guide her.

"I have a very high pitchy voice. So I was trained by Sir Rudolf, my voice coach, to modulate it and bring it lower," she said.

"I'm talking from my head but they taught me how to talk through my chest, with my chest. So it's kind a hard for me to adjust from head talking to chest talking."

Asked if there is any similarity between her and Alexandra Trese, she said, "I think our similarities — we are both very brave. I feel like I'm brave for even taking on the character of Alexandra Trese knowing that it's not my forte, voice acting is not my forte. Basically knowing that it's such a big role, a big project. And it's a big shoe to fill basically. And I know that 'Trese' has a lot of fans, a lot of comic book fans, and they are very protective of these characters and of course they only want

Ella Cruz tanggap ang kanyang insecurities

Isang Aeta na umaapaw ang kumpiyansa sa sarili at nangangarap maging beauty queen ang role ni Ella Cruz sa Gluta.

Muli ring nagpamalas na kanyang acting ability sa Ella sa pelikula.

Sinabi ni Ella na hindi lamang para sa mga Aeta o dark-skinned ang mensahe na ihahatid ng kuwento ng Gluta dahil para raw ito sa lahat ng mga taong dumaranas ng anxiety at insecurities.

"Makakatulong ang movie para ipaabot sa lahat na meron tayong ganda, skills at talent," sabi ni Ella.

ELLA'S INSECURITIES Hindi nagdalawang-isip ang aktres



na sabihin ang insecurities niya nila bilang tao at

"Una sa lahat, ang liit ko. Marami ang

mas maganda sa akin, tapos medyo hindi ako makinis noong nagsisimula ako [sa showbiz]

Pero hindi raw niya hinayaang matalo siya na kanyana insecurities.

"Yun talaga ang pinaka-nagsabi sa akin na I'm doing fine. I'm doing great, I'm doing good in this industry.

"Hindi man ako palaging nasa cover ng famous magazines na 'yan, at least I have an award confirming that I'm doing



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Anne Curtis, Erwan Heussaff answer questions about their relationship

Celebrity couple Anne Curtis and Erwan Heussaff did not evade questions about their relationship -- such as who made the first move and who usually decides what they would eat -- in one of their latest videos.

Playing a game as part of their endorsement for Century Tuna, Heussaff initially said he could not remember who made the first move in their relationship, but Curtis pressed him to admit.

"I think, yeah. I did the first move," Heussaff eventually said.

The actress, however, revealed her husband usually plans food surprises for breakfast or lunch, which makes her day.

"Even as simple as making a surprise breakfast or surprise lunch that I didn't expect, I'm always so happy," Curtis said.

The celebrity couple also bared they are not clingy with each other, although Heussaff acknowledged a short change with Curtis during her pregnancy.

It was also Heussaff who used to encourage the "It's Showtime" host to work out and eat healthy food, noting the arrival of their first child, Dahlia.

According to him, he would remind Curtis to eat the right food to be a good example to their daughter.

"It's okay to have fried chicken," Curtis said jokingly.

The food vlogger also revealed he would give the actress 30 minutes to decide what to eat as she usually has a hard time thinking



what food to consume.

"I always know what I want to eat. She never knows what she wants to eat. So a lot of times I give her a deadline to decide. So if she can't make up her mind within 30 minutes, I end up eating what I want to eat. Then bahala siya," Heussaff said.

'Nasan ang hustisya?': Celebs, netizens gush over Anne Curtis' 'dyosa' look

Curtis took a break from showbiz in 2019 and left for Australia as she prepared to welcome her firstborn away from the limelight.

Last February, she and her small family returned to the Philippines, after over a year of being based in Melbourne.

The screen superstar, 36, also said she only intends to return to showbiz full-time once Dahlia turns a year old.

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Arabella del Rosario

hints boyfriend Jimuel Pacquiao doesn't want her to join pageants

Star Magic artist Arabella del Rosario has the makings of a beauty queen, but it seems like she was not keen to become one.

el Rosario said that several camps have invited her to join national beauty pageants. "May mga lumapit na sa mom ko,

asking kung interesado raw ba ako sumali sa beauty pageants. But I think pageant is not for me," said Arabella. (Some people have approached my mom asking if I would be interested to join beauty

pageants).

Asked if her boyfriend Jimuel Pacquiao was stopping her from pageants, Arabella answered with a smile. Arabella described her relationship with Jimuel as healthy.

"Kami kasi ni Jimuel, we're very close. We started off as friends tapos we're very communicative with one another. He always reassures naman, and he

doesn't give me any reason to doubt anything. So hindi naman ganun kahirap yung relationship namin.

We're very healthy overall," she said. (Jimuel and I are very close. We're very communicative with each other. Our relationship is not difficult).

Arabella also said that her boyfriend encouraged her to believe in her product endorsements.

"Very supportive boyfriend naman siya sa akin.Sabi niya you should believe in what you endorse. Siyempre kailangan mo i-try and you have to really believe and

walk the talk talaga kasi if you don't really believe in the product, it really does show. So kailangan talaga

naniniwala ka sa product hindi lang basta basta," she added. (He's very supportive. He encouraged to use the products I endorse. You need to believe in the product you endorse).

Arabella said she wanted to work with her boyfriend for a future project, although there are no offers now for them to work together.

Why Vilma Santos has not done any teleserye

The long hours in shooting teleseryes would eat up her time as a public servant.

She explains, "Kasi noong nauso na iyong mga soap, mga teleserye, medyo public servant na ako, iyong time ko na ang hindi pupuwede.

"Kasi magdamagan ang shooting na iyan, e, thrice or four times a week. They will start grinding at 7 a.m., they will finish at 7 a.m. the next day, and then break lang and then shooting.

"Hindi ko kakayanin sa job ko as a public servant kaya nasakripisyo, wala akong teleserye."

TURNING DOWN OFFERS

Vilma reveals she received a lot of teleserye offers from two giant networks, ABS-CBN and GMA-7, but she had to turn these down because of her role as a public servant in Batangas.

"Yes, meron talaga, kaya lang alam ko kaagad na hindi talaga puwede dahil alam ko iyong oras ng taping nila, e. Nagrereklamo na nga iyong iba kaya nagkaroon ng issue sa cut-off, nag-request na iyong mga artista ng cut-off na time kasi hindi na kaya iyong 7 a.m. to 7 a.m. the next day.

"Naku, hindi na kaya, kaya nagkaroon na sila ng tinatawag na cut-off.

> "E, with my other job pa, nakataya na iyong health ko. At saka it's really hard to be 35 and gorgeous! Junior citizen na," Vilma quips.

At this point, however, Vilma cannot remember anymore which teleseryes that gired were first offered to her.

It is because when these offers came, she turned them down immediately.

"Wala na akong maalala doon sa soap kasi public servant na ako niyan noong nauso, e.

"Kaya di na ako iyong nakapag-entertain pa ng particular na soap na nakipag-deal pa ako.

"Hindi na umabot sa ganun kasi ino-offer pa lang, wala na, e, because iyong time nga, hindi ko talaga kayang ibigay."

GRADUAL DECLINE continued from page 1

answer)," he said.

Duterte was also urged to choose his running mate for president in those polls, according to the resolution.

Opposition coalition 1Sambayan said Duterte's possible vice presidential bid "not only makes a mockery of the Constitution but a joke of the worst kind."

"It is laughable and the height of impertinence to the Filipino people," 1Sambayan convenor Howard Calleja said in a statement.

Calleja described the President's possible candidacy as a "macrocosm of the Davao formula," a way for Duterte to stay in power after his term ends next

But Roque denied that Duterte was planning a political dynasty.

"Paano po magkakaroon ng plano, e wala pa pong desisyon ang Presidente?

Ang sinabi lang po niya, pag-iisipan niya dahil siya ay na-nominate. Hindi naman po puwedeng balewalain 'yon (How can there be a plan when the President is yet to make a decision? He just said he would think about it because he was nominated. That cannot be brushed off)," Roque said, in response to 1Sambayan's statement.

"Wala pa naman pong desisyon ang Presidente. Ang masasabi ko lang, baka the joke may be on them (The President has no decision yet. All I can say is the joke may be on them)," he added.

The Palace recently announced that the President would leave it to God on whether he would run for vice president in next year's elections.

Duterte's six-year term ends in June

The President is not eligible for reelection under the Constitution but can seek another elective post.

Sen. Maria Josefa Imelda "Imee" Mar-

cos also on Tuesday said she believes that Duterte will win if he decides to run for vice president.

"Mag-aatrasan sigurado ang may balak kapag pumila si [Presidente] bilang VP (Those who have plans [for the vice presidency] would surely back out if [Duterte] lines up as VP [candidate]!" Marcos added.

Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa said he would support Duterte if he chooses to seek the vice presidency in 2022.

Senate President Vicente Sotto 3rd also on Monday admitted in a television interview that he was eyeing the vice presidency in the 2022 national elections.

Meanwhile, PDP-Laban Executive Director Ron Munsayac has denied rumors that Sen. Emmanuel "Manny" Pacquiao has resigned as acting president of the ruling party.

"This is fake news. Sen. Manny Pacquiao is still the party's national president," Munsayac said.

In an interview with CNN Philippines, PDP-Laban Vice President for External Affairs Raul Lambino said he saw no problem with Pacquiao's leadership, adding that members had to be consulted and it was up to them to decide whether Pacquiao would be replaced as president.

Roque said Pacquiao remains Duterte's ally amid talks of a rift within the party.

A meeting between the President and the senator is being sought to keep the PDP-Laban party stable.

The meeting was deemed important by the Pacquiao camp as there are signs of a rift in the party and this could affect Pacquiao's dream to be named as standard-bearer next year.

Pacquiao, according to Munsayac, asked for a truce in politicking as he prepares to fight in Las Vegas in August against unbeaten Unified Welterweight world champion Errol Spence.



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LOOK: James Reid is high up on a billboard at New York's Times Square

ames Reid has made it to the iconic Times Square of New York City, appearing on a digital billboard for the music streaming platform Amazon Music.

The actor-singer's billboard in the Big Apple comes after his

original song "Crazy" made its rounds online through Amazon Music's Mixtape Asia playlist.

"We up in NYC again [emoji] @amazonmusic #CRAZY," Reid said on his Instagram page, May 15. His announcement came with a photo and video of the billboard that shows the streaming service's logo, cover art for "Crazy" and the words "Mixtape Asia Playlist."

Careless Music, the record label co-founded by Reid, also showed a photo and video of the digital billboard on its Instagram page on the same day.

"It's gettin' #Crazy in NYC," it stated while pinning its location at Times Square, New York City.

The Mixtape Asia playlist features 60 tracks from various artists, including "Crazy," Ylona Garcia's "All That," Olivia Rodrigo's "deja vu," and BTS's "Dynamite." It is said to be curated by the platform's music experts.

Reid's former on-screen partner, actress Nadine Lustre also appeared on a billboard on Times Square last April, after being featured on the Spotify playlist's "EQUAL" campaign. With Viva comeback, Ruby Rodriguez hopes to work with ABS-CBN, other networks

"Let it be known that I started with Viva. Parang ano lang 'yan

eh, bumalik ka sa roots mo."

That's how seasoned comedian and TV host Ruby Rodriguez opened her virtual press conference early this week as she signs with entertainment and talent management company Viva as its comeback artist.

Ruby, who is now based in Los Angeles, California, said that she returned to Viva not only because her Viva batchmates are also returning to the agency, but also because for the longest time, she had no manager and she needs someone to stand up for her to fix her schedule and to choose the right projects.

"So we decided to go back to Viva kasi ang Viva eh kumbaga, subok na matibay, subok na matatag. Saka nagtitiwala ako sa kanila kasi d'un ako nag-umpisa. Viva built my career in acting and the movies. It was really Viva that gave me the biggest break," she enthused.

She clarified that while she was discovered on the set of a Maricel Soriano project that earned her a mainstay role in '90s fantasy sitcom "Okay Ka, Fairy Ko," it was Viva that made her a contract star during her '90s heydays and gave her most unforgettable movie

roles such as those in "Alabang Girls" with Andrew E., "Ipagpatawad Mo" with Vilma Santos and "Kaputol ng Isang Awit" with Sharon Cuneta.

"Of course, Vic Sotto, 'Okay Ka, Fairy Ko.' 'Di natin maalis 'yung (fact) that it was Vic Sotto who put me in. And then there was Maricel Soriano who opened the door. Vic Sotto pulled me in, Viva sealed the deal."

Her acting career, she said, was put on a halt when she hosted noontime show "Eat Bulaga" for 31 years.

She said she loved sitcoms the most because she was not a TV host originally.

"Now that I'm in the next chapter of my career, I think Viva should handle my career and they are the best that should handle my career because they know me, I mean, everything."

With Viva, she can hone her acting skills again.

"I was so happy that Viva didn't look at the age. Hindi sila tumgin sa age, hindi sila tumingin sa race, hindi sila tumingin sa weight. Ang tinignan nila kakayahan. Tinignan nila 'yung talent nu'ng tao so ang feeling ko, 'Wow, eh may asim pa pala ang lola mo!' Kasi kinuha ka kasi they trust you to support their new talent. And when they trust you to support their new talent, ang feeling mo, makakatulong ka talaga sa new talents at mapapsibol mo sila."

She is willing to fly in and out of US for her Viva projects.

"Wala naman akong contract. I'm a freelancer,

actually. Nagkaro'n lang sila ng notion because I was hosting 'Bulaga.' But actually, hindi. Na-identify lang, but I can actually do anything and anywhere."

She wishes to work with John Lloyd Cruz and even ABS-CBN stars Kathryn Bernardo, Anne Curtis, Gerald Anderson, Robin Padilla and Piolo Pascual.

"I've never worked with John Lloyd. I think he's a very, very good actor and I respect him so much," she said of the former Kapamilya star who is now set to have a TV comeback on GMA.

"To all the artists, please keep your feet on the ground. Respect your elders kahit na mas sikat kayo sa kanila. They're still your seniors. Always remember to greet them, even if it's just good morning, hello, goodbye. A little respect is important. Please be on time. If you'd be late, please advise earlier, hin- di 'yung call time na, tsaka lang kayo

magsasabi... para the people can adjust," she advised today's new generation of stars.

"Isipin n'yo po na tayong mga artista, we're paid very well. Isipin n'yo po 'yung crew, 'yung mga taong nagsesetup ng ilaw. Kung hindi kayo makakarating, please, sabihin n'yo the day before. Kawawa po 'yung mga taong dumadating ng maaga tapos bigla pong mapapackup ang taping.

"'Wag tayong masyadong mag-inarte. Let's all learn how to adjust. Lalo na sa panahon ngayon, 'di na tayo pwedeng magdemand na, 'I want my own dressing room.' Learn to share and be considerate to others, especially to the staff and crew."



Jinkee, Pera lang ang habol kay Pacquiao



"PINEPERAHAN ko lang daw si Manny (Pacquiao), pera lang daw ang habol ko sa kanya." Ito raw ang isa sa mga "fake news" na kumalat noon na hinding-hindi makakalimutan ni Jinkee Pacquiao.

inkee Pacquiao, wife of boxing-champ Manny Pacquiao, has opened up about gossips which really affected her.

In an interview with celebrity doctor Vicki Belo, Jinkee recalled how she would hear rumors that she married her husband for money.

Jinkee recalled how she would ask financial assistance from their godparents so that Manny would have pocket money when he trains for boxing.

"Alam 'yan ng mga ninang namin kasi ginigising ko sila ng maaga. 'Ninang, help me, help us'," she

shared. (Our wedding godparents knew our humble beginnings. We would even wake them up early in the morning. 'Ninang, help me, help us'),"

"I never thought: 'Can he provide for me?, Jinkee said in Filipino.

She never imagined that she'll have the kind of life she has right

"Kumbaga, God holds the future. Hindi mo naman alam kung ano ang future mo dito. Basta nagmahal ka lang, magkasama kayo, may mga ups and downs. Pero hindi mo alam kung ano ang mangyayari in the future," she said. (I mean, God holds the future. You don't know what will happen in the future. I just chose to love, be with him despite the ups and downs.)

Indonesia study shows China's Sinovac vaccine highly effective

Two shots 94% successful in preventing symptoms: review of inoculated medics

JAKARTA -- China's Sinovac Biotech vaccines have proved highly effective among Indonesia's health care workers, according to a new study by the country's health ministry.

The review, which looked at nearly 130,000 medics, found that two shots of the Sinovac vaccine was 94% effective in preventing COVID-19 symptoms, 96% effective against hospitalization, and 98% effective in preventing death, lead researcher and health official Pandji Dhewantara said

The effectiveness of a single shot was only 13%, the study showed.

The ministry said the study, conducted between January 13 and March 18, was aimed at examining the effectiveness of the vaccine, not its efficacy -- the degree to which a vaccine prevents disease. An efficacy report by the country's food and drugs administration is scheduled to be released by June after a full clinical trial has been completed.

"This study does have limitations, but the information is important enough for the public and the government to determine what strategic steps can be used for vaccination in the general public," Dhewantara told an online news conference. "This is an indication that complete vaccination is highly recommended."

Indonesia has so far received 75.9 million vaccines, with over 90% coming from Sinovac. The country has given at least one vaccination shot to 13.6 million people, and two shots to 8.8 million people as of May 11.



Kim Chiu gets ride of a lifetime with bf Xian Lim

Kapamilya star Kim Chiu has surprised her boyfriend, actor Xian Lim, with the fulfillment of riding a motorcycle with him.

On Instagram, Xian said he cannot contain his happiness when his dream came true

"I remember months ago while I was training in @mxmessiah, I told coach @samtamayo that someday, I'll be able to ride a motorcycle and have Kim in the backseat and we'll be able to travel to places we've never set foot in. Through hard work and patience, grabe I never thought this day would come...nakakatuwa lang," he said.

Xian thanked his girlfriend for the ride of a lifetime.

"Thank you for this @chinitaprincess nakakahappy that this is our first time to explore on a big bike. It is such a different experience. I love you for trusting me (heart emoji) thank you! (Sorry sa mga nakaka asa nito at nacocornihan na haha sobrang saya ko lang talaga)."

Kim reacted to post with: "As long as you are happy!! Kahit mega init, laban lang!! Hahahha. Thanks xi!!"

Prior, Xian posted a photo of him with Kim, declaring that exploring the world with her is the "best feeling" he could ever ask for.

WURTZBACH from page 11

And the memories will stay forever," said Pia when asked about one important advice for Andrea, during an endorsement for DR. COCO, a brand new locally-made hand soap, via Zoom on May 19. (Many will tell

her to enjoy her reign, but my real advice is for her to back up your files 'cause I lost a lot of pictures during my reign).

Pia said that she has reached out to Andrea, and they have communicated via social media.

The German-Filipino beauty queen also wished the best for Rabiya Mateo who represented the Philippines at the 69th Miss Universe Competition in Hollywood, Florida last May 17. Rabiya finished in the Top 21 of the prestigious competition.

"I'm sure she (Rabiya) will be successful after Miss Universe. People love her and they can relate to her. She's also funny," Pia added.

Andrea Torres on working with John Lloyd Cruz: 'A great honor'

Though nothing is final yet, Andrea Torres is excited to share

the screen with returning award-winning actor John Lloyd Cruz. Note Willie

5

Revillame recently announced he's cooking a sitcom for John Lloyd.

He then teased that the initial of the latter's love interest in the aforementioned show is "A.T."

Willie Revillame says ABS-CBN OK'd John Lloyd Cruz's appearance on GMA

In an article published on PEP, Andrea said the idea of being paired with John Lloyd flatters her

"If ever, it would be a great honor. He is a brilliant actor and I am a fan," she said.

She also thanked Willie for "considering" her for the project.

PH secures 202 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines - Galvez

MANILA – The Philippines has secured 202 million doses of coronavirus disease (Covid-19) vaccines from various pharmaceutical companies and the World Health Organization (WHO)-led COVAX facility.

Sec. Carlito Galvez Jr., the Chief Implementer of the National Task Force (NTF) Against Covid-19, said 158 million doses were government-procured while 44 million doses were secured through the COVAX facility.

"Ngayon po makukuha po natin na 'yung 202 million doses. Ito po ang mabibili po natin at ibibigay po sa atin ng COVAX (Now we can get 202 million doses from the COVAX facility)," Galvez said during the Cabinet meeting.

A total of 300,000 doses of Sputnik V jabs arrived lst month and 1.3 million doses this month, along with 25,000 doses of Moderna vaccines procured by the private sector.

On May 20, another 500,000 doses of Sinovac was delivered and 1.3 million doses by the end of the month.

Galvez said the government will be



JABS REPORT. Vaccine czar Sec. Carlito Galvez Jr. (2nd from left) and other officials report to President Rodrigo Duterte during the Cabinet meeting on Thursday (May 13, 2021) in Malacañang. Galvez said the country has so far secured 202 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines.

signing a head of terms, or summary of the intended terms of a commercial transaction, with Pfizer-BioNTech to purchase 40 million doses.

Supply agreements with Novavax and Johnson & Johnson was finalized .

The COVAX facility might deliver 2.2 million Pfizer doses between May and June, Galvez added, and two million AstraZeneca doses to be allocated for second doses.

Overall, the Philippines will get a total of seven million doses in May and 10 million doses in June.

The country's vaccine inventory may

reach 21,829,050 by the end of June. The current tally is 7,759,050 doses, with 2,623,093 doses already administered.

The daily vaccination capacity in the National Capital Region also increased from 59,000 to 83,000. The government

targets to expand it to up to 120,000 daily.

To date, the country has activated 3,458 vaccination sites with 5,155,957 doses in its stockpile.

Candid SPOOF

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



Prizes were given out at the Filipino Centre Toronto Dr. De Villa Invitational Golf Open last July 2018.

Kim Chiu says ex-boyfriend doesn't want to be friends with her

When asked if she experienced being cheated on by someone, Kapamilya actress Kim Chiu candidly replied, "Yeeesss! Truuuuth! True!" PHOTO/S: @CHINITAPRINCESS INSTAGRAM

Natatawa na lang si Kim Chiu, 31, nang mapag-usapan ang tungkol sa dati niyang nobyo na hindi niya pinangalanan.

Sa kanyang vlog noong May 30, sumabak siya sa "Truth or Drink Challenge" kaya nausisa ito kung payag ba siya sakaling makipagkaibigan sa kanya ang ex-boyfriend.

"Friends naman kami. Friends kami!" natatawang

Sabay ipinahiwatig niyang hindi sila nanatiling magkaibigan ng tinutukoy na dating karelasyon.

Natatawang hirit niya, "Ayaw lang niya ako maging friend!"

Tinanong din si Kim kung naranasan na ba niyang manloko ng karelasyon.

Sagot niya, "Never!"

Sumunod na tanong sa kanya: "Have you ever been cheated by someone?"

Diretsong sagot ni Kim, "Yeeesss! Truuuuth! True!" Dati nang nabanggit ni Kim sa isang TV interview na naranasan niyang maloko ng isa nitong ex-boyfriend.

Natawa naman ang mga kasama ni Kim na kumukuha ng vlog niya, pero hindi na nagdetalye si



Kim tungkol sa karanasang iyon.

Ang hindi raw naranasan ni Kim ay ang magpautang sa isang karelasyon.

Sabi niya, "No, wala pa. Pasalamat na lang sa Diyos at mga naging karelasyon ko ay may pera naman sila."

Hindi kaila sa publiko na isa lang ang ex-boyfriend ni Kim, at iyon ay ang dati rin niyang ka-love team na si Gerald Anderson.

Apat na taon silang magkarelasyon hanggang sa naghiwalay sila noong 2010.

Kilala ang kanilang tambalan bilang Kimerald. Nagbalik-tambalan sila sa Kapamilya teleserye na Ikaw Lang Ang libigin, na umere mula May 2017 hanggang January 2018.

Sa ngayon, si Kim ay masaya sa piling ng longtime boyfriend na si Xian Lim. Siyam na taon na silang magkasintahan.

Si Gerald ay masaya rin sa bagong karelasyon na si Julia Barretto.



BIRTHDAYS

1. Mae Gales (4th from left) celebrates her birthday indoors.

2. Mae Gales celebrates her birthday outdoors.

3. Noli Silo jr (2nd from right) celebrates his birthday with sister Chiara, mom Cely and dad Noli.













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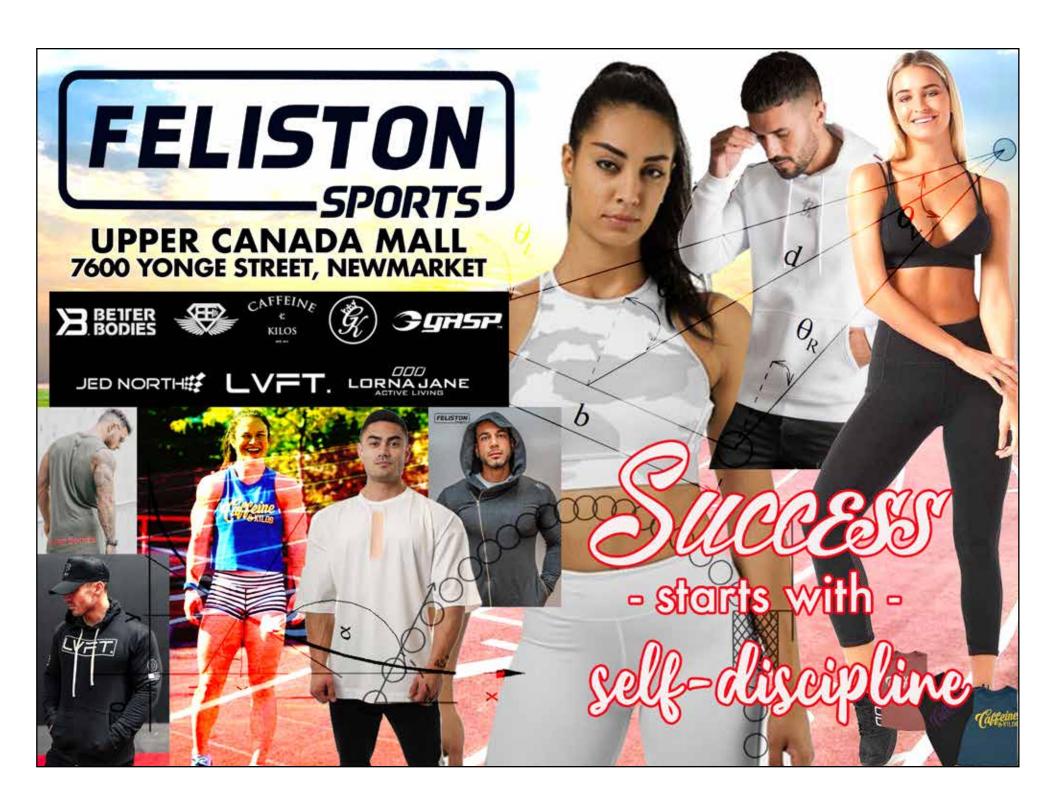


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