



SEPTEMBER 2021

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PHILIPPINE VAX CERTIFICATE STARTS

Full Nationwide Implementation by October

Metro Manila — The government is set to launch the National Digital Vaccine Certificate (Vax-CertPH) before September ends, a move that will unify varying vaccine cards nationwide.

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) said the initial rollout of VaxCertPH will include Metro Manila residents

and overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

The agency is targeting the full nationwide implementation by October, according to DICT Undersecretary for Digital Philippines Emmanuel Caintic.

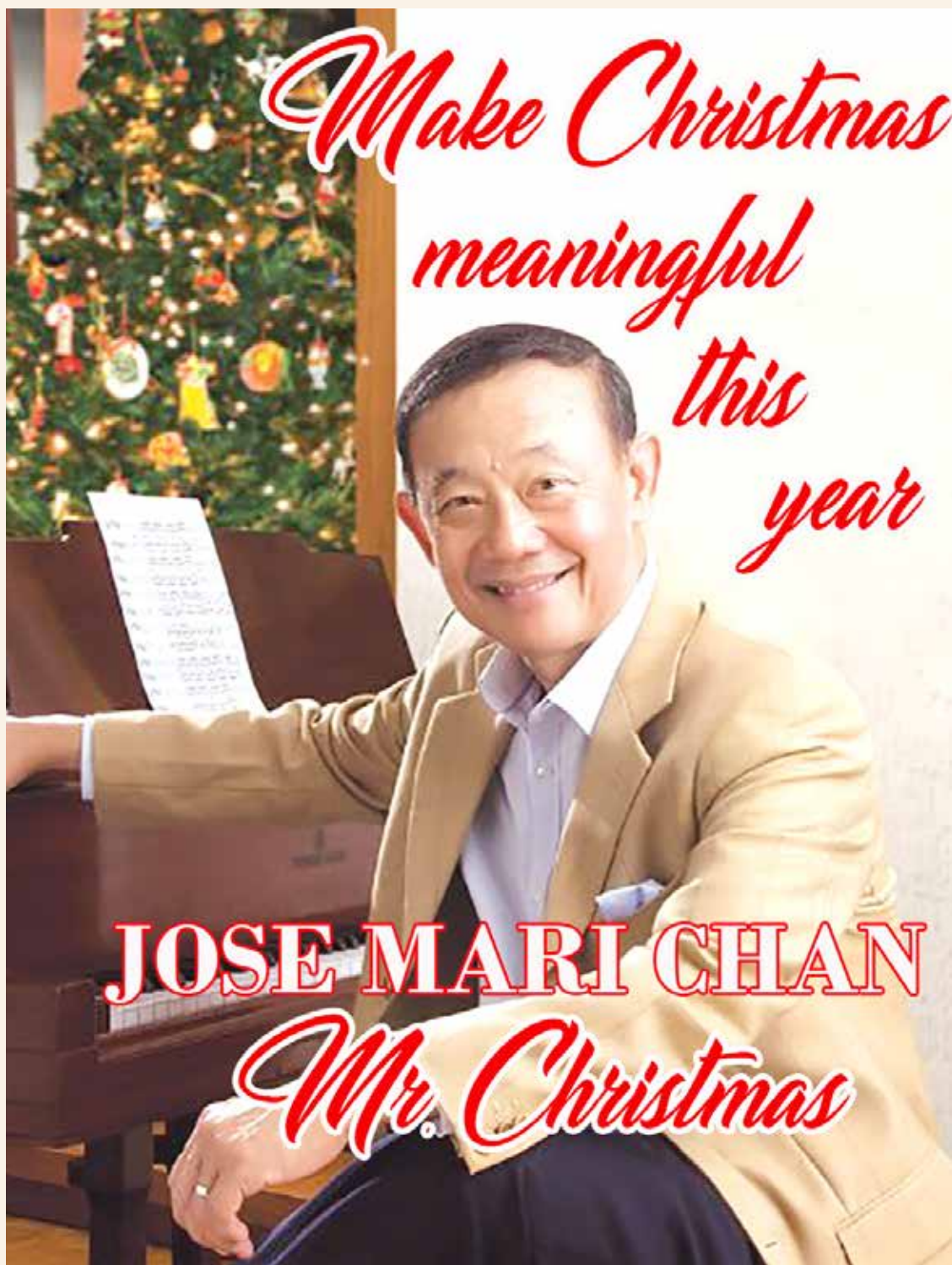
“Allow us to have adequate preparation for local governments because they are our partners. We are one government.”

The launch of VaxCertPH will push through even as only 17% of Filipinos aged 18 and

above are fully-vaccinated against COVID-19 while 23% only had their first dose so far.

VaxCertPH includes the patient’s personal data, brand and lot number of the vaccines, and

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Look Back

Luneta Skating Rink, 1970's

Secured vaccines enough for all Pinoys



Residents wait for their turn to get a shot of Sinovac vaccine at the cinema area of a mall in Antipolo City on Aug. 24, 2021.

MANILA — The quantity of COVID-19 vaccines secured by the Philippines this year is enough to vaccinate all Filipinos, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III said.

During a meeting with President Duterte, Dominguez said the country received around 48.89 million doses from March 1 to Aug. 25, with 42 million more doses to arrive from Aug. 26 to Sept. 30, and another 103.59 million doses to be delivered from October to December.

“So actually we are expecting roughly 50 million doses a month from September to December. If that happens, maybe by January, we should have been able to inoculate everyone,” Dominguez said.

Dominguez gave assurance that the country has no problem financing the COVID-19 jabs, saying: “We don’t have a problem with money. We can finance all of these. We don’t have to worry about money here. We have already all the money ready to be paid for these doses.”

For 2022, Dominguez said the government has set aside more than P45 billion in unprogrammed appropriations for the procurement of booster shots.

Fully vaccinated

Vaccine czar Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. said 13.3 million Filipinos are now fully vaccinated, representing 17.33 percent of

VACCINES on page 20

GARAPALAN Duterte abusing powers for political agenda vs Isko Moreno

MANILA, PHILIPPINES

‘It’s foul play,’ says political science professor Carmel Abao

A political analyst sees President Rodrigo Duterte’s recent moves against Manila Mayor Isko Moreno as an example of abuse of authority for political gain.

While conceding that Duterte legally has the power to determine who distributes aid from the national government,



equally clear are his motivations in wielding such a power, said Ateneo de Manila political science professor Carmel Abao.

“It’s not only unfair, it’s foul play.... It’s foul play because as sitting President, his job is to ensure that elections are fair and free but he’s obviously just protecting his own interests,” she told Rappler on Tuesday, August 10.

“He’s abusing his authority

and using the office of the presidency for his own political agenda. In Tagalog, we call that ‘garapalan (shamelessness),’” she added.

On Monday night, Duterte said he would withhold from Moreno the power to distribute lockdown cash assistance that has already been downloaded for distribution to Metro Manila local governments.

The President justified this by claiming Moreno was “disorganized” and could not

GARAPALAN
continued on page 16

Daniel Padilla, Kathryn Bernardo featured on New York Times Square billboard



MANILA, Philippines — Kapamilya couple Daniel Padilla and Kathryn Bernardo were the latest Filipino celebrities to be featured on a digital billboard in Times Square, New York City. In her Instagram account, Daniel’s mother

Karla Estrada proudly shared the photo of the billboard. “I wish I’m in Times Square right now! At mag sisigaw ako ng anak ko yan! Anak ko yan!!! Congratulations Kathniel and the entire team!” Karla wrote in the caption. Apart from Daniel and Kathryn, vlogger Mimiyuuuh and P-pop group SB19 were also featured on the Pepsi digital billboard.

4 FilCan Students Receive FCT Outstanding Graduate Awards

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT-Retired

The Filipino Centre Toronto-FCT, a 22-year old community-based, service-focused & volunteer-run hub in the GTA, has aptly recognized and honoured 4 top

student graduates during its 14th “Annual Rosalinda C. Javier Outstanding Students Awards Day” (RCJOSA) on August 22, 2021, at the FCT Social Hall, Scarborough, Toronto, Ontario. Celebrated yearly, the competition

FCT STUDENTS page 16

Why Alodia Gosiengfiao isn’t that active as vlogger anymore

After starting her YouTube channel in 2007, fans have always looked forward to getting new, exciting content from Alodia. But this year, it seems the 33-year-old popular cosplayer is not too keen about it anymore, posting less and less content on her channel. Alodia revealed she is just too busy with her many business ventures including Alodia Beauty and Tier One Entertainment, the esports company she co-founded



in 2017 along with several others. “I think I’m getting a little overfatigued and I know I can’t afford to get sick because I still have tons of stuff to do like business meetings in between and project deadlines. It’s because I juggle so many other things,” she shared in her most recent vlog. It’s no joke. According to Alodia, she feels like she’s working a “legit nine-to-five job.” “Like we have quotas to hit per month, contracts to adhere to, minutes watched, numbers to reach, and it is no easy task trying to do this while balancing other aspects in your life,” she said. But she feels fulfilled inasmuch as through her work she helps other people. “This job provided so many livelihoods to people in this generation and I’m so happy and thankful that it reached this point,” she shared.

Honey Shot

Nadeene, 15, is the youngest of the girls among 5 Panaligan siblings. She plays volleyball. She is currently working on a summer job that her elder sister, Maria, used to work in. She is the daughter of Genelie and Sherwyn Panaligan. We wish her all the luck in her future endeavours.



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Jose Mari Chan wants us to make Christmas meaningful this year

Ready for Jose Mari Chan memes? King of Christmas Carols says he’s flattered but…

The “Ber” months are here and you know what that means: it’s unofficially the start of the Christmas season!

Two things are sure to happen as we wake up to September 1: Christmas carols will be played on Spotify and Jose Mari Chan memes will once again flood the internet.

So what does the King of Christmas Carols think of this tradition?

“I’m flattered but I hope they don’t overdo it, baka sabihin ng mga tao, ‘Ayan na naman wala na bang bago?’” Chan quipped in Oscar Oida’s report on “24 Oras.”

Chan, who composed popular holiday songs “A Perfect Christmas” and “Christmas in Our Hearts,” urged his fellow Filipinos to “make Christmas meaningful this year.”

“How do you do that? Take care of your health. If you have not been vaccinated yet, please, please have yourself vaccinated. Because come Christmas, you don’t want to be sick in bed. You don’t want to



be in the hospital,” he said. “Show your love by sharing your blessings with those with less in life, with those who are hungry, those who are underemployed or unemployed,”

he added.

Chan himself said that he continues to share his talent despite the lack of concerts amid the pandemic.

“Sometimes they would request me na, ‘Could you submit a video of yourself singing?’ Then I do. I submit it because that’s part of the gift of music that God has given me,” he said. “God gave me the gift of music in order for me to share with his people. I always say yes.”

LJ Reyes confirms breakup with Paolo Contis

Actress LJ Reyes confirmed her breakup with boyfriend Paolo Contis.

In the teaser video of Boy Abunda’s “The Interviewer,” the veteran host asked LJ: “Ang separation niyo ni Paolo, was it mutual?”

Paolo Contis shares lessons learned he can apply to ‘next partner’ or ‘next life’

“It was so difficult, it was so painful,” LJ answered emotionally.

“Kung hindi lang malakas ‘yung pananampal-



ataya ko sa Panginoon, hindi ko alam kung saan ako pupulutin,” she added.

When asked who between them asked for the breakup, LJ said it was Paolo.

“Matagal ko nang nararamdaman na parang nakahiwalay na siya sa amin,” she said.

Paolo recently unfollowed LJ as he deleted all her photos on Instagram, fueling speculations that the Kapuso couple broke up.

Their daughter Summer’s photos, however, are still on the social media site.

Get to know Kris Aquino’s ‘special’ someone, Mel Sarmiento

Former Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Mel Sarmiento is now the talk of the town.

This after the Queen of All Media, Kris Aquino, identified him as someone “special.”

She did so by writing a sweet birthday message for him.

But who is Mel, really?

Mel headed the DILG between 2015 to 2016 under Kris’ brother, the late former President Benigno “Noynoy” Aquino III.

Prior, Mel was the Vice Mayor and later Mayor of Calbayog City until he became congressman of Western Samar.

During his term as Mayor between 2004 to



2011, Mel received the 4th Konrad Adenauer Medal of Excellence (KAME) along with Bohol Gov. Erico B. Aumentado, Mayor Dixon Q. Yasay, Municipality of Opol, Misamis Oriental, and Barangay Captain Carlos C. Rigor, Barangay Paco, Mankayan, Benguet.

The KAME is an award for the best managed local governments and is the only foreign award for such purpose recognized by the Philippine Government.

Anyway, Kris related that she and Mel are in the getting-to-know-each-other stage.

“He’s getting used to my quirks and we are adjusting to the fact we met as fully formed adults with a lifetime of experiences behind us so in many ways, mahaba na ang pasensya namin,” she told a fan.



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Life’s brighter under the sun



Secretly married? Ogie Diaz clarifies Liza Soberano, Enrique Gil status

MANILA, Philippines — Talent manager Ogie Diaz denied that Liza Soberano and Enrique Gil already tied the knot.

This was after social media users noticed that Liza and Enrique wore identical rings in a YouTube video.

In his recent vlog on his YouTube channel, Ogie clarified that those rings were just set props.

“Hindi totoo ‘yan,” Ogie declared.

“Yung singsing na ‘yan ay hindi totoo. Parang ano ‘yan photo shoot or nagba-vlog sila, nandoon si Perry. Ipinasuot ni Perry kay Liza ‘yung singsing na props,” he added.

Ogie said he was surprised after social media users tagged him in the post.

“Naloka ako. Daming nag-tag. Parang ako, ha totoo ba ito? Bakit walang sinasabi sa akin si Liza? Ako



ang manager, wala akong alam. Kaya siyempre dali-dali ako ay nag-text kay Liza para linawin lahat,” he said.

“Tinanong ko siya, ‘Anak, ano ba ito?’ So pinasa ko kay Liza ‘yung naka-encircle na singsing (sa pictures). Sabi ni Liza, ‘Parehong kanan po ‘yan. ‘Yung isa ay accessory na suot ko, ‘yun ‘yung galing kay Tito Perry; ‘yung ring po ni Quen, kanya po ‘yon,’” he added.

The host and talent manager said Liza pledged to him that he will never be the last to know if something happened between her and Enrique.

“Kaya sabi ko kay Liza, ‘Alam mo naman ako anak puwede mo akong lihiman basta huwag lang ako ‘yung last one to know.’ Ang sabi ni Liza, ‘No problem po, malalaman niyo po kung sakali,’” he said.



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Same result sa Canadian election 2021?



We are going to vote on September 20. Is Justin Trudeau going to get his majority? By the way it looks now, he will be lucky to retain his minority government. If not, I predict a slim majority for the Conservatives under Erin O’Toole. Personally, I actually prefer the liberals right now because I want the mandatory mandate on vaccines and Trudeau’s promise of a vaccination passport, assuming he keeps his promise.

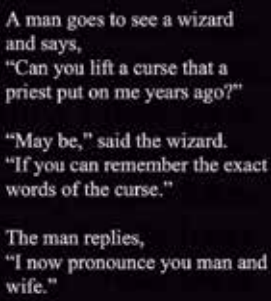
Ford and O’Toole are not in favor of vaccine apssports becasue they claime that it will divide the country. However, in the satirical indigenous satirical online publication, Other times, Canada is a “Country with ‘certificates of Indian status’”

already. So, in a way, we are already divided. Both the provincial and federal governments provide a range of benefits, programs and services to First Nations peoples.

WHERE FILIPINO POLITICIANS ARE BETTER

If there is one issue I am so glad about Filipino politicians, it’s that none of them are anti-vaccine. I ahve not heard or read of even one of them telling the people not to

get vaccinated. From the top to the bottom na pinakamababa na politician, lahat gusto magpabakuna. Now, by October 2020, may national vaccination certificate pa. Walang kumontra. In fact, tanong ng senado, bakit ngayon lang?

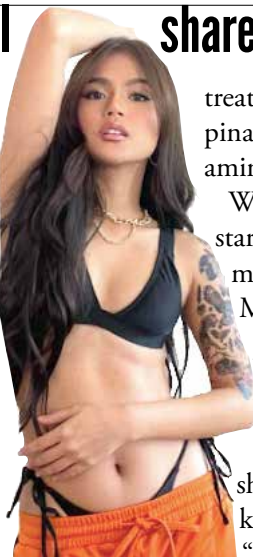


Maris Racal shares details of relationship with Rico Blanco

Maris Racal recently opened up about her romance with seasoned musician Rico Blanco.

In a recent episode of “Magandang Buhay,” the 23-year-old Kapamilya star shared how she and the 48-year-old singer-songwriter started getting close writing music together.

“Du’n kami start nag-click talaga, nag-work together,” she said. “But right now, siguro malaking percentage yung pareho kami ng values sa life, pareho kami na may malaking family and very close together. So, gets namin paano mag-



treat ng family. So, ‘yon yung pinakaimportante talaga sa amin.”

When asked if it’s hard starting a relationship in the middle of a pandemic, Maris related: “Hindi ko po alam, kasi before pandemic po nag-start.” Though, she noted it’s kind of hard to “maintain” it given ongoing restrictions.

Meanwhile, Maris also talked about her inhibitions sharing their relationship to the public. “Lagi po naming pinag-uusapan. Pero every time na ganoon po yung topic, natatakot talaga ako, napi-pressure ako. Kasi natatakot ako sa kung ano ang iisipin ng mga tao. Kasi, strange kasi yung relationship



namin because of the age gap. It’s like the big elephant in the room, so natatakot akong i-ano ng mga tao,” she said.

But she’s really surprised by the warm reception. “Hindi ko in-expect na matutuwa pala sila.” As for their term of endearment, Maris and Rico call each other “babs.”

Rico’s sweet gesture towards her? “Marami naman. Simple lang naman kasi si Rico na boyfriend. Parang hindi naman siya yung tipong, like, araw-araw na nagbibigay ng bulaklak. Pero siguro, every time na nagbibigay siya ng flowers, ganun, kinikilig ako. Kasi hindi siya ganoon, simple lang siya. So, every time na may ibibigay siya, parang kinikilig ako.”

FRIENDSHIP NEVER ENDS: Gretchen Barretto gives ayuda to Lolit Solis

In an on-and-off relationship, actress Gretchen Barretto gave popular entertainment columnist Lolit Solis ayuda consisting of high-quality rice and other food products.

Solis broke the good news on Instagram recently.

“Bait ng Gretchen dahil binalikan ang mga nakasama niya sa mundo ng showbiz, talagang give love siya,” Solis wrote. Since the 1994 Metro Manila Film Festival scandal, the two showbiz personalities have been in an on-and-off relationship. These days, Barretto and Solis are in good terms. “Huh huh, Salve at Gorgy, ipaabot nyo ang malaking Thank You ko kay Gretchen Barretto na isinali ako sa listahan ng binigyan niya ng ayuda na in fairness ha, mga imported canned goods na hindi

tipid, talagang marami. Plus bongga ang bigas, top of the line at class A. Bait ng Gretchen dahil binalikan ang mga nakasama niya sa mundo ng showbiz, talagang give love siya. “Thank you din kay Francis Simeon na kumuha ng address ko kaya nalaman ni Gretchen. At hindi ako naputulan ng ilaw, nasira lang at aayusin na ang tulo ng bahay ko. Please Gorgy at Salve, HELP ! Help ! Huh huh huh!!! #classiclolita #takeitperminutemeganun #74naako”

Viral online seller earns management contract

Queen Inutz, an online seller who have earned huge buzz on social media, is now part of Star Image Artist Management. Star Image Artist Management handles the likes of Xander Ford, Buknoy, You Do Note, and Carlo “Gigil Kid” Mendoza, among others. Queen Inutz captured the hearts of netizens with her lively banter. No one is actually buying her stuff, with

most attending her online sessions merely to gawk and listen to her. In fact, yesterday, Aug. 13, one of her videos, her eight, received 2 million views after an hour. It has since garnered 4.5 million views.



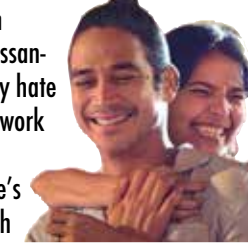
She counts comedian Chad Kinis among fans. “Sobrang goodvibes ko kay QUEEN INUTZ ng Daisy_Licious Ukay ! Grabe! Gusto ko siya mameet!!! Hahahahaha sobrang tuwang tuwa ako sa kanya! Queen inutz labyu!!! Paano kaya kita macocontact?,” he wrote as comment to one of her viral videos.

‘Money team’: Piolo Pascual, Alessandra de Rossi don’t want to be called a ‘love team’

MANILA, Philippines — Kapamilya stars Piolo Pascual and Alessandra de Rossi prefer to be called a “money team” rather than a “love team.”



In the show “Slam Book,” Piolo and Alessandra quipped that they hate each other and they work together for money. “Love team? There’s no love. We hate each other,” Alessandra



said. “Only money,” Piolo replied. “The money team,” Alessandra replied. Piolo also revealed that Alessandra hates love teams. “No, she’s always anti-love team. She’s not the type of person that who come to that type of casting because we have to come up with a rom-com. And I’m all for that,” Piolo said.

Kiko Estrada shares sweet photos with girlfriend Heaven Peralejo



Kiko Estrada and Heaven Peralejo are officially a couple.

The two celebrities confirmed the news themselves. On their respective social media accounts, the former co-stars shared sweet photos of them. “I love you,” Kiko’s caption to his first Instagram post. Recall that the hunk actor deleted all of his photos some months ago.

Heaven, on the other hand, replied: “I love you too.” Meanwhile, the actress deemed herself as Kiko’s “infinity.” Before their announcement, a photo of them seemingly getting cozy during a family party has gone viral. Recall that it was only last March when Heaven was mentioned as the third party that caused Kiko to breakup with then girlfriend Devon Seron. But Heaven was quick to deny the allegation. The following month, Kiko confirmed that he and Devon indeed separated. Later, Kiko and Heaven were spotted together in Boracay.

PH’s Maya-3, Maya-4 cube satellites reach Int’l Space Station

The Philippines’ Maya-3 and Maya-4 cube satellites have been successfully delivered to the International Space Station (ISS) on Aug. 30. The country’s first Philippine university-built satellites were among the cargos that hitchhiked aboard SpaceX’s

Falcon 9 rocket. The STeP-UP Project is a graduate program with a nano-satellite engineering track housed within the University of the Philippines-Diliman (UP) Electrical and Electronics Engineering Institute. Funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the project is implemented by the UP Diliman in partnership with the Kyushu Institute of Technology in Japan.

Alex Calleja breaks down

Funny-man Alex Calleja is known for making people laugh.



But the reverse happened recently when he appeared on his friend Ogie Diaz’s vlog. In there, the Tempo columnist revealed the hardships he and his family are going through given ongoing lockdown measures imposed in the National Capital Region. “Masakit. Kasi ‘di ba sabi nila dati ‘wag ka daw magreklamo sa gobyerno, magtrabaho ka na lang. ‘Di ba naaapektuhan ang trabaho natin? Dati, sabi ko magtrabaho ka na lang,

‘wag mo intindihan ang gobyerno. Walang epekto sa’yo ‘yan, trabaho ka lang. Hanggang sa naaapektuhan talaga tayo directly. Bakit? Hindi ka na makapasok eh. Nones-sential daw ‘yung entertainment. Nones-sential daw kami,” he shared, sobbing. Alex is hoping things will soon become better, noting how other countries have already opened up, lessening restrictions. “Naniniwala ako na ‘yung mga dun nagtatrabaho din ‘yun. Ano ang difference? Ang government nila,” he said. “Tama ba sila? Wala akong pakialam...Pero bumalik sila ng normal...Malapit na sila kumpara sa atin,” he added.

PH joins US-led naval exercises in Southeast Asia

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippines’ navy and coast guard recently joined a US-led maritime exercise in Southeast Asia.

The Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) started in Singapore and online last Aug. 10. Twenty one countries from the Indo-Pacific region joined the multilateral exercise, the largest to date.

Participating countries were Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Canada, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, New Zealand, Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, United Kingdom, United States, and Vietnam.

The US Navy 7th fleet earlier said

this year’s drills included 10 ships and more than 400 personnel. The exercises were designed to encourage countries to use maritime forces to enhance understanding of operational environments, build capacity for humanitarian support missions, and uphold international laws and norms. Two different exercises highlighted the interoperability capabilities of these assets with other units, it said.

Seminars on maritime domain awareness were also conducted online.

A maritime operations center in the International Fusion Center in Singapore served as a centralized hub for crisis coordination and information sharing as the participating navies track merchant vessels that were “simulating suspicious

vessels of interests throughout Southeast Asian seas,” the US 7th Fleet earlier said.

The South China Sea is one of the world’s most crucial commercial gateways. China claims it entirely, but some Southeast Asian countries like the Philippines have competing claims.

Scenarios in the SEACAT were designed to “encourage countries to work together through maritime domain awareness assets to better understand operations and adherence to international norms,” Capt. Tom Ogden, commander of Destroyer Squadron said.

“Practicing multilateral, multi-platform intercepts help our Southeast Asian partners prepare for possible real-world engagements in the future,” he said.

Michelle Madrigal reveals separation with husband Troy Woolfolk

Michelle & Troy are divorcing. The former actress shared this with fans on social media.

“Y’all have been asking us for awhile now...We didn’t have to but we’ve shared our lives with y’all in the past so here we are today,” she wrote on Instagram.

According to Michelle, she and Troy remain friends and are aiming to be good co-parents to their daughter Anika.

“We hope that y’all can give us the space and respect with our decision. We thank y’all for all the love and support you have given The Woolfolk family. We will always have love for each other and cherish the good times rather than the bad ones,” she ended.

Meanwhile, Troy quipped in the comment section and wrote: “But damn we sho did look good together



. Hahah (fire emojis)”

It was in 2019 when Michelle and Troy tied the knot in Austin, Texas.

The couple welcomed their first child in 2017.

Lorna Kapunan on Nadine Lustre’s tussle with Viva: ‘Case is still pending’

The issue between Nadine Lustre and Viva Artist

Agency is far from over.

This, despite the recent announcement of Vincent del Rosario, President and COO of Viva Comm., Inc., that they are to sit down soon with the actress-singer to discuss possible movie projects.

According to Lorna Kapunan, Nadine’s lead counsel, it doesn’t change anything.

She said in a statement: “Nadine has a separate movie contract with Viva that is still existing.

“What she terminated was the management/agency contract with VAA.

“The case is still pending since we filed a Motion for Reconsideration of the Decision of the court.

“Nadine is now self managing.”

Not a few were disappointed to hear about the statement.

Many believe the protracted legal battle detrimental to Nadine’s career.

In any case, Nadine herself has chosen to remain silent on the issue.



Is Bianca Umali now ready for daring roles?

Bianca Umali is considered among hottest actresses of her generation.

Not only is she blessed with a beautiful face, she also has curves to die for.

It is no surprise that some fans have expressed desire to see her play more mature, daring roles.

Is she up for it?

Bianca addressed the issue in a recent interview.

She said, “I’m not saying no to it pero at the same time sa ngayon, at this point of my career I think it’s something na hindi pa time.”

Seemingly realizing how she might’ve disappointed some of her more libidinous fans, she added, “I think if it is part of the story, I never say no naman to anything as long as I can do it...”

She went on, “I think it depends on how it will be executed, how important it is sa story.”



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Digital Certificates Starts This Month

DIGITAL continued from page 1

the place and date when the doses were administered. It also contains a QR code that will be used to match data in the Vaccination Information Management System (VIMS), a central database serving all LGUs. The clamor for a unified vaccine card came after the Hong Kong government refused entry to hundreds of fully vaccinated Filipino workers last month. Officials there said they are not allowing vaccine cards not connected to a single source, like the ones issued by different LGUs in the Philippines.

VaxCertPH, which is free for everyone, aims to replace the vaccine cards, as well as COVID-19 swab test result certificates.

The digital vaccine certificate is different from the Bureau of Quarantine's (BOQ) International Certificate of Vaccination or "yellow card," which is mainly for travel.

Vaccinated persons will have to register with the portal that the DICT will

launch soon. The agency vowed only government will have access to the data.

Rollout challenges

The initial rollout of VaxCertPH was initially scheduled on Wednesday, September 1. The DICT, however, delayed this for two to three more weeks due to some challenges - like enhancing readiness of data systems of LGUs, correcting mistakes on encoding data, and integrating all data sets.

Caintic added that the DICT decided to limit the initial rollout since most LGUs are financially incapable of shouldering the necessary new systems.

The integration of far-flung barangays into VaxCertPH system is also a challenge, given the high interconnection costs and bad or even non-existent internet signal.

The undersecretary said the DICT is working to hook more rural health units online to ensure the VIMS network will reach even the farthest barangays.

Grilled by lawmakers

The delay of VaxCertPH's rollout earned the ire of lawmakers.

"Ngayon medyo gahol na gahol na tayo sa oras While we're all doing catch up, our OFWs are suffering," Ang Probinsyano Party-list Rep. Ronnie Ong told Caintic.

The lawmakers also pointed out that the government can instead integrate VaxCertPH and the yellow card into a single vaccination pass.

However, Caintic said it's better for Filipinos traveling abroad to have the two since some countries may recognize either one or both soon. He added that the yellow card is being used as proof of travelers' vaccination primarily against diseases such as malaria and yellow fever, among others. It was only during the pandemic that the World Health Organization (WHO) ordered the inclusion of COVID-19 vaccination in the yellow card.

The DICT official also said the Philippines was one of the first countries that adopted a digital vaccine certificate aside from a few European nations.

Former Health Secretary and Iloilo Representative Janette Garin, meanwhile, urged the DICT to also devise a system that will detect fake vaccine cards.

For now, authorities are advising Filipinos traveling abroad to settle for the yellow card until VaxCertPH is up and running.

The BOQ has opened express lanes online for OFWs who wish to apply for a yellow card, amid reports that slots are already fully-booked until the end of the year.

Kisses Delavin weighs in on the idea of trans women joining Miss Universe

Miss Universe Philippines candidate Kisses Delavin didn't hesitate to answer when she was recently asked for her two cents about trans women participating in beauty pageants for natural-born women.

During a recent interview with pageant websites, the former "Pinoy Big Brother" housemate said: "A lot of people need to hear this. There are Catholic beliefs and I am from a Catholic family, but also I found that even if you practice religious beliefs, we do not have the right to make other people feel unsafe."

"So I think for me, trans women should feel safe to join whatever they decide," she added.

According to her, women are "multidimensional."

"If it's what you want, go for it. And i-wagayway mo 'yung being who you are."

She thinks despite not sharing the same beliefs as others, they should still make everybody feel welcome.

Asked if she's an ally of LGBTQ+, Kisses answered: "I am an ally of all kinds of people. We need not to single out LGBTQ+, they are still normal people."

"There are so many things other than being LGBTQ+. They are talented and... We need to focus on what they can do instead of just focusing that they are LGBTQ+. Because they are so much more than that for me."

Maymay, how she learned to be a 'risk taker'



Last year was a turning point for the Pinoy Big Brother (PBB) alumna to overcome her weaknesses and level up her self-confidence.

"Dati po kasi sobrang lagi akong napapangunahan ng takot kapag ang binibigay na (acting) role sa akin ay feeling ko hindi ko kakayanin, sobrang bigat at feeling ko hindi ko mabigyan ng hustisya yung character ko," said Maymay.

She also had a tendency to avoid performing solo before because she would feel "unprepared." "Pero nagsimula akong maging risk taker nung feeling ko handa na ako kasi binigyan ko ng pagkakataon yung weakness ko na pag-aralan ko siya talaga. Kasi dati pag nanonood ako ng TV, kapag nag-a-acting, akala ko sobrang dali lang. Pero nung nandun na ako, na-experience ko na, di ako makaiyak," she recalled and revealed that she would refuse to see herself on TV because of her acting.

Later on, she realized that the only way to overcome her fear is to learn new things. "Lahat kailangang pag-aralan - sa acting man or sa pag-pe-perform. Kaya kumuha ako ng session sa dancing at singing para mas maging confident talaga ako. Kasi yan talaga ang alam ko na nahihirapan ako at kailangan kong pagtuunan ng pansin at pag-aralan," disclosed Maymay.

The 24-year-old star continued, "The more na tinatanggap ko yung mahihirap na projects like yung solo prod tsaka yung mga mahihirap na character, the more na nag-i-improve ako kasi maraming akong natutunan sa bawat proyekto na ginagawa ko lalo na kapag mahirap at mas masarap sa feeling kapag mahirap kasi mas worth it."

"So kapag may binigay ulit saakin na mahirap na role or mahirap na production, kakayanin ko kasi kinaya ko 'nung last time eh," she added.



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Happiness



Sharon Cuneta urges people to ‘come together’ amid ‘mishandled’ COVID crisis

She didn’t point fingers but it is obvious the Megastar is not happy with the ongoing pandemic creating a huge economic snag. The “Revirginized” star took to social media recently to air her opinion on the matter, going on to call on everyone, particularly the wealthy, to rise above “ayuda” and actually

suggest ways to help the poor and the cash-strapped. “Hindi yung mamimigay ka ng pera tapos tapos na,” she said. Sharon shared that she herself has been wracking her brains trying to think how she can help. Not that she hasn’t already. She made this clear to a basher who sarcastically urged her to simply help sans media coverage. Sharon said, “Ang dami mong hindi alam sa mga nagawa ko na at ng pamilya ko...Pati mga anak ko nag-aambag mula sa ipon pati alkansya.”

As to her making public prior aid given, she explained, “KAIL-ANGAN namin ipaalam ang napaalam na dahil humihingi din kami ng tulong mula sa iba na nagpapakitang kung kami ay may naitulong, sana sila/kayo rin...” In the end, Sharon appealed for unity. “We as ordinary citizens NEED TO COME TOGETHER AND HELP ONE ANOTHER WHEN THE HELP WE NEED IS NOT COMING...”



Christian Bables on allegations he is gay: ‘I think no’

Christian Bables once vowed not to portray gay characters ever. It was understandable. He has portrayed several gay characters prior, both in “Die Beautiful” and “Panti Sisters,” and he was afraid of pigeonholed. He is not wrong. In fact, there are some who actually thinks he is gay in real life. Nothing wrong with that, of course, but is he? In a recent interview, Christian made clear: “I think no.” He then explained, “This is simply because my preference ay hindi po same sex.”

Seemingly wary that he might alienate fans from the the LGBTQ community, he hastened to add, “But I’m a proud ally to the community.” Note, Christian is portraying a gay character again in his new movie, “Bekis On The Run.” Why did he go back on his word not to portray such? “Napag-usapan namin before ng manager ko ‘yun, si Tito Boy Abunda, na siguro, pahinga muna ako sa paggawa ng gay roles. Pero ‘yun nga, ‘yung gay roles ang ayaw magpahinga sa akin. Parang gustung-gusto po nila ako,” he said. Not that he wouldn’t have accepted the role either way. Apparently, Christian loved it that “Bekis On The Run” director, Joel Lamangan, handpicked him for the role. “Masaya na ma-handpick ng isang Joel Lamangan para sa kanyang pelikula. Sino po ako para tumanggi? That’s Direk Joel Lamangan. Kahit siguro ang role na ibigay niya sa akin ay ipis, gagawin ko po, ma-experience ko lang na makatrabaho si Direk Joel Lamangan.”

Alex Gonzaga thanks cellphone snatcher’s wife

MANILA, Philippines — Actress and vlogger Alex Gonzaga thanked the police after helping her recover her cellphone which got



snatched in EDSA. “Thank you so much sa Guadalupe Nuevo Police Sub-Station 7 for helping us!” she said. She also thanked her driver and the motorists who helped her chase the snatchers. According to Alex, her phone was

snatched from a certain “Sofie,” who was taking pictures of Alex using the actress’ cellphone while traffic was slow-moving in EDSA. Alex also jokingly thanked the snatcher’s wife for being a subscriber on her YouTube channel. “And lastly salamat sa asawa ng snatcher ko dahil subscriber daw pala sila! Thank you Lord! Marami pa rin talaga ang mas mabubuti at matulongin na kapwa natin,” she said.

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Overwhelmed Philippines hospitals hit by staff resignations

MANILA - Exhausted by the COVID-19 workload, Loui quit her job as an intensive care unit nurse at a private hospital in the Philippines earlier this year. The 30-year-old, who declined to give her last name for fear of reprisals, is among thousands of medical workers who have resigned during the pandemic, complaining of low pay and poor working conditions. Others have sought better jobs abroad. "We can't even take a proper day off because we are often called back to cover for other staff



who were in quarantine or resigned," said Loui, who was earning 20,000 pesos (\$394) a month, including overtime, before she quit in March.

'DEMORALISED' Philippine Nurses Association President Melbert Reyes said he feared that hospitals could see even more nurses quit if their demands for better benefits and conditions went unmet.

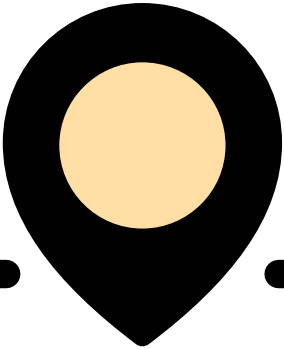
"A lot of our nurses are demoralised," Reyes said. Union leaders in several hospitals in virus hot spots last week threatened to strike, while a nursing group warned that dozens could resign over unpaid allowance and benefits. The state auditor last week flagged "deficiencies" involving 67.3 billion pesos, casting doubts on the regularity of related transactions in the health ministry's pandemic response. read more "But to the issue of whether the money has been stolen, that is pure bullshit," Philippines President Rodri-

go Duterte said. The lure of better paying jobs abroad is also making it harder to fill nursing vacancies, said Donnel John Siason, president of the union at the University of Santo Tomas hospital. This year nearly 7,000 nurses have moved abroad, including to the United States and Britain, joining hundreds of thousands of other Filipino nurses already working abroad. Dave Santos, a 39-year old nurse at the Quezon City General Hospital, said he hoped to leave the Philippines too. "We are giving our best," said Santos, a father of three. "But we are just people who get tired and we have needs."

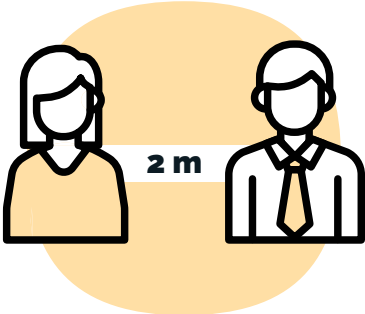


Cancel Culture is modern-day bullying

Former Katrina Jayne Dimaranan who won Binibining Pilipinas Tourism in 2011 is competing for the Miss Philippines Universe title. In the interview challenge, Katrina remained her candid, bubbly self. She was then asked, "In today's world, someone or some group often claims to be offended by something. Do you think that the world has become too politically-correct and too sensitive?" The 28-year-old representative of Taguig City said, "I don't think that the world has become too politically-correct. I think that what is going on right now is cancel culture that we need to get rid of. I feel that it is a modern day (form) of bullying. And I also feel that we need to stop cancel culture because it's as if we keep judging people based on what their opinions are - if it's opposing with ours, all of a sudden, it's wrong! Cancel culture needs to disappear because it seems we lost empathy for people."



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Nadine Lustre New BF Is
A Resort Owner In
Christophe Bariou,
Siargao?

Who is the new boy-
of Nadine Lustre? Is the
Christophe Bariou?
Christophe Bariou is
being alleged as the
new boyfriend of
famous actress Nadine
Lustre and here are
some details about
him.



friend
name

Music, a company co-owned by the actor.
They also closely worked for Lustre's album,
"Wildest Dreams".

And just recently, getting much
attention are the photos of the actress
with her rumored boyfriend. Some
netizens online claimed that he is
a French-Filipino who studied and
worked in France. In his Facebook
account, it stated that he is the
owner and co-founder of BE Siargao, an online mag-
azine. Apart from that he also accordingly co-owns
a luxury resort in Siargao. He is the founder and
managing director as Maison Bukana.

Meanwhile, last June, Nadine said based on a pre-
vious article that "it is what it is" between her and
James. She has not yet clarified the rumors about
her and her rumored new boyfriend. But to recall,
she and James broke up after nearly four years of
being together.

As of now, what James wanted for her are the best
of things and for her to do the things she would be
the happiest doing.

Naging Pia Wurtzbach & Gerald Anderson?

Veteran showbiz scribe and
talent manager Lolit Solis is
among those who have taken
notice of actor Janus del
Prado's controversial posts.
Janus didn't name names on
the post but many believe,
including Lolit, that it all
pertains to Gerald Anderson.

She wrote on social media,
"Kaloka naman ang mga
ganap sa buhay ni Gerald
Anderson... Pati si Janus del
Prado kasali na sa casting..."

Lolit couldn't believe how
the issues surrounding Ger-
ald wouldn't die.

"Mula ng break up nila ni



Bea Alonzo, hanggang
ngayon, talagang hindi
natapos ang ending
ng script ng buhay
niya. Ngayon
naman, heto nga at
pati si Janus kasali na sa
kuwento," she said.

She would go on
to add, "Tutoo pala
na meron din naging chapter na
Gerald at Pia Wurtzbach nang
gumagawa sila ng movie. Kalokah
na unti unting lumalabas mga flash-
back huh!"

Again, it should be noted that
Janus didn't mention any names on
his post. Not even that of Pia.



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Life's brighter under the sun



Anyway, Lolit continued: "Parang
napaka exciting ng buhay ni Gerald
Anderson dahil ang dami ng casting...
At reveal talaga iyon kay Pia dahil parang
isang quickie romance on the set lang
diumano ang nangyari dahil that time
sila Gerald at Bea Alonzo parin ayon sa
mga post ni Janus..."

Her takeaway?
"Bongga ha, ang galing ni Gerald
Anderson, lady killer talaga ang dating,"
she said.

"Nagagawa niya lahat ng secret at lum-
alabas lang pag may pumiyok. Hah hah,
hanga na ako talaga sa magic ng charms
ni Gerald. Talagang matinik, wammlang
paltos."

Mikael daez on BIR, Vloggers

Kasabay ng pagdami ng mga celebrity

WURTZBACH
continued on page 10



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Let's ge these parties started

Finally, the socializing has started. I got invited to a housewarming party of Joseph Mendoza and Ampee Panaligan. That in itself is a big deal to me. When you've been stuck at home with nowhere to go for the last year and a half, an invitation to socialize is like hitting the lottery to me. If the last has taught me anything, it's that I may be an introvert, but not that "introvert."

I am going to try to live by the life motto of war photographer Robert Capa, "always be ready to go to the next bar or the next war, and always be seen in the company of beautiful women."

Cassy Legaspi surpasses 'baptism of fire' in acting

After her first teleserye acting experience in First Yaya, Cassy Legaspi seems good and ready for the next one. It's safe to say that she has surpassed the baptism of fire well and emerged more inspired and insightful. Meantime, she's taking the time off from doing TV series to pursue other interests and to recharge.

As for the details on what's in store for Cassy and her team-up with Joaquin Domagoso, also her co-star in First Yaya, in the coming months, the rising Kapuso star said: "For now, none that I know of yet. (But) I think there are talks." Fans will be thrilled to see Cassy and Joaquin in their own romantic-comedy series.

Reflecting on the work she has done in First Yaya, Cassy shared that her acting debut, the pandemic way, was "very different" and it was nothing like how she expected it to be.

Recently, Cassy, the newest Palmolive girl, filmed her TV commercial. It was her first time, according to some reports, to do a campaign without her family in it.

"Growing up, at the back of my mind, I had a list of commercials that I always wanted to do. This is one of them, naging dream come true (It is now a dream come true)," said she. "And also, the timing was just so right... My family, of course, was really surprised and happy for me that I got this project. This is the one that I've been eyeing (for), yung dream that turned into a reality. They were all proud of me and (they would) tell



(Rivera) and Ate Bea Alonzo. Hopefully, I get to work with them."

'PBB' hosts name their dream celebrity housemates

MANILA - "Pinoy Big Brother" (PBB) is coming back for a 10th season and what better way to kick it off than to have a new celebrity edition.

In line with this, the return-hosts of the show were asked in a virtual press conference on Monday to name their dream celebrity housemates that they would love to see on the show.

For Toni Gonzaga, it would be interesting for her to see real-life couple



Entertainment is the greatest socializing force in the world.

Daniel Beaty

Well, I'm not going to the next war, any war. I may not be going to bars but I'm going to events in the community. We had our family picnic at Petticoat Creek. That was a relief. The pools were not open but it did not bother the kids. Filipino Centre Toronto finally held their awarding for the Top Outstanding Students of 2020. Yes, it's 2020. There are plans to catch up with the 2021 batch this year. Their Wednesday painting class starts on September 8. Marky Hugh held their music festival last 30 at FV Foods at Lawrence and it was enjoyable. Until next time, take care.

Kathryn Bernardo and Daniel Padilla as housemates. Robi Domingo, for his part, feel it would be nice to see more of Olympic gold medalist Hidilyn Diaz inside the famous blue and yellow house along with her coach.

As for Gonzalez, she said her dream celebrity housemates would be Manila Mayor Isko Moreno and Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto.



According to ABS-CBN executive Laury Dyogi, the celebrity edition will run for a substantial number of weeks, and longer than

the last "PBB" celebrity edition. Explaining the reason behind this, he said: "We wanted to start with the celebrity edition kasi gusto ko talaga that the teen edition be last because maybe [COVID-19] protocols will be different next year for the teenagers."

"The adults [will come in second], para we have more time for auditioning and screening. I didn't want to rush the auditions," he added.

When asked how celebrities become official "PBB"

WURTZBACH continued from page 9

na pumasok na sa vlogging ang pag-implement ng Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) ng tax regulation para sa vloggers at YouTubers.

Hiningan namin ng reaksiyon si Mikael tungkol dito.

"Very, very intriguing question. But I



have an answer for that," natawang sabi niya.

"I think, yung sinasabing death and taxes are inevitable sa buhay natin, at a certain extent, I think that's true.

"But I think we have to understand na yung government system natin, yung tax system natin is also evolving. Ang bilis ng pag-evolve.

"All of a sudden, may kakaibang negosyo. Tandaan natin, kung five years ago sinabi kong YouTuber ako, nganga na lang tayo. 'Ano 'yon?' Pero ngayon, 'Ah, okay, tama.'

"I think, there's school and courses now on how to be a professional YouTuber. So, I think, nag-a-adjust din ang mga tao.

"And if that's what the government requires and the taxes to be paid, kasi nagiging negosyo na rin siya, then I think it's up to us na maging responsible para sa mga obligation natin bilang Filipino kasi patas naman."

housemates, Dyogi said: "Sa celebrity audition, we don't do cattle call. We invite the ones we feel will be good celebrity housemates. Iba 'yung proseso para sa celebrity edition and para sa teen and adults edition"

As of writing, Dyogi said they are still scouting and screening possible celebrity housemates before they present it to management.

ABS-CBN has yet to announce when PBB Season 10 will begin.

Philippine 'Circumcision Season' Underway After Virus Delays

The Philippines has one of the highest rates of circumcision in the world, with many seeing the practice as key to entering manhood

For more than a year, Caspien Gruta has been teased because his circumcision – a rite of passage for boys in the Philippines – was delayed, first by a volcanic eruption and then the coronavirus pandemic.

"I worry if I don't get circumcised now, I will be shamed," said Gruta, 12.

The Philippines has one of the highest rates of

circumcision in the world, with many seeing the centuries-old practice as key for boys to enter manhood.

Every year, thousands of pre-teens have the operation for free at government or community-sponsored clinics.

But last year, the "circumcision season" was cancelled for the first time in living memory due to the virus outbreak, delaying the milestone for many boys like Gruta.

Left in limbo – and with their foreskin intact – the boys have been ridiculed by their male relatives and friends.

Circumcision has been practised in the Philippines for centuries, enduring wars and colonisations by Spain and the United States.

Male circumcision tends to be more common in nations with significant Muslim or Jewish populations, and less so in Catholic-majority places.



Yet around 90 percent of males are circumcised for non-religious reasons in the Philippines, according to World Health Organization data.

Mass circumcisions are common during the hottest months from April to June when school children are on a long break.

Normally hundreds of boys undergo outdoor surgery on a single day, but Covid-19 rules have drastically reduced group sizes.

Many areas have yet to restart the free service as they battle Covid-19.

The delays have knock-on effects.

Circumcision is an important "demarcating line" between boys and men, when the youngsters take on more responsibility in the family and learn about sex, said Nestor Castro, a professor of anthropology at the University of the Philippines.

"Once a boy gets circumcised, he already leaves the position of being a child and he is now considered... as an adult," Castro said.

"If you are a circumcised male... you should act as a grown-up man, no longer as a young boy."



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‘I want her to be happy’

James Reid on Nadine Lustre seeing a new suitor

James Reid did not immediately give an answer on whether he is ready to see his ex-girlfriend Nadine Lustre with a new suitor, but he did stress that the decision is not up to him.

“I don’t think anyone in that situation is really excited to see their ex with someone else, but you know, that’s not my choice,” Reid said during an interview with TV host Boy Abunda. Abunda was relaying to Reid a fan question.

If the decision were up to him, though, Reid told Abunda that he only

wishes for Lustre’s happiness.

“If magically I had to decide whether or not she’d be with someone, of course, I wish her the best. I want her to be happy,” he added. “I’m not her husband, neither am I her father, so she can do whatever makes her the happiest.”

Reid and Lustre, formerly known as JaDine as a love team, have remained close even after their breakup. The actress admitted that Reid has been contributing to her growth even after they called it quits as a couple. She also prefers not to put a label on their relationship.

She said Reid was her “great love”

as they both helped each other grow when they were together. For now, though, Lustre has no time for relationships because she wants to “work on herself” first.

Lustre and Reid announced their breakup in January 2020, after three years of being a couple. The actress said she and Reid have no ill feelings against each other and that their split was a “mutual decision.”

The two have since worked together for Lustre’s visual album “Wildest Dreams,” which was released under Reid’s label Careless. They have also been seen together with each other’s friends and family after their split.

Pia Wurtzbach on dealing with stalkers

Popular as she is, Pia Wurtzbach is no stranger to unwanted attention.

Usually, she just shrugs it off. But sometimes, it could get too scary. In the latest episode of the “Between Us Queens” podcast, the 2015 Miss Universe recalled an incident with a stalker.

It all started with the man sending her the “weirdest email.”

“Ang haba niya, ine-explain niya sa na, ayun na nga daw, hintay daw niya ako, gagawin daw niya akong queen of heaven, at magsasama daw kami habang buhay, at kami daw talaga dapat,” Pia shared. It didn’t end there.

After the episode, Pia was informed about a man being seen near the building she was staying in, watching her videos non-stop for days.

“Meron daw lalaki doon na, everyday, nandoon from umaga hanggang gabi tapos pinapanuod lang niya yung mga videos ko ng paulit-ulit,” Pia said.

Before matters got out of hand, Pia quickly identified the person from the emails he has been sending her promptly informing the management of the building about it.

“They were able to get the ID of the person, so we got the name. Kinakabahan lang ako kasi laging may dalang backpack daw,” she said.

“I don’t know what’s inside that backpack, and what if ma-tripan ko lang bumaba sa convenience store na mag-isa ako. Parang, anong gagawin niya sa ‘kin?”

Pia has since filed a police report on the matter.

Her advice to others going through the same?

“Girls, if you’re listen ing to this now, this is when you report, when you start feeling unsafe,” the beauty queen said.

Ivana Alawi in Bella Poarch’s ‘Inferno’ music video

Ivana Alawi appears on Fil-Am artist Bella Poarch’s latest music video “Inferno.”

The cameo is short but sweet. In fact, Ivana herself advised fans eager to see her there: “Don’t blink.”

However, to make sure fans enjoy her look in the video, Ivana posted a photo of her in the outfit she wore.

She then thanked Bella for the opportunity.

Ivana wrote, “So glad to have been able to join you, even for a quick glance...”

Bella returned the favor, saying, “Thank you for being in my MV po!!! Ahhh! Angganda mo talaga ate. labyu.”

Note that the video also features Bretman Rock, who praised Ivana for her look.

“You ate this look up,” he



wrote.

As of writing, “Inferno” is number one on YouTube trending for music list, earning more than 5 million views in less than 24 hours since it was uploaded. In the comment section, Bella wrote a “trigger warning:”

“As a victim of sexual assault, this song and video mean a lot to me. This is something I haven’t been ready to share with you just yet. It’s very hard for me to talk about. But I’m ready now. I decided to express myself by creating a song and video with Sub Urban based on how I wished my experience went. It’s a fantasy



Honeylen Tan (LEFT) and Ranielle Macapagal (RIGHT) celebrated their birthdays last month.



I wish was true. I’m looking forward to

sharing this with you all.”

Why Daniel Padilla will always be grateful to GF Kathryn Bernardo

Daniel Padilla and Kathryn Bernardo have been in a relationship for nine years now.

While their partnership look perfect from afar, Daniel admitted they also have fights just like most couples.

But these are mostly petty.

Daniel related in an interview with Boy Abunda,

“Small things, misunderstandings na mga usapan, or minsan may plano ako tapos iba ‘yung gusto niyang gawing plano...”

If anything, Daniel will always be thankful with Kathryn teaching him the value of forgiveness.

He didn’t share details, relating simply how it stemmed from him doing something wrong.

“Nagkamali ako before. I was a kid. I was stupid. And still tinanggap niya ako, tinanggap niya ako ng buo,” he said.

It is such that Daniel maintained he is now more

forgiving.

He said, “Kapag ako ay trinaydor at may ginawang mali, kaya kong patawarin ‘yung tao na ‘yun. Kasi para sa akin din iyon. Kapag hindi mo ginawa ‘yun, you will be lost...”

Asked if he is the jealous type, Daniel related, “Pareho kami. Ako seloso ako pero hindi ako nageselos kay Kathryn kasi alam kong wala naman dating sa kanya ‘yung mga lalaki. Kapag ako nageselos, doon ako bad trip sa kung sino lumalapit sa kanya. ‘Yun ‘yung kakausapin ko. I will talk to the guy...”



Marky Hugh held their festival at FV Foods last August 29.

SHANAIA GOMEZ dreams of working with Kathryn Bernardo: ‘She matured so elegantly’

New Star Magic artist Shanaia Gomez shared which three Kapamilya actresses she idolizes the most.

From joining beauty pageants in Canada to trying her luck in showbiz in the Philippines, 18-year-old Shanaia Gomez admitted it was a dream come true when she was offered to join the Star Magic family this year.

“To be honest I really did not expect that I would be up there on that stage one day. If you were to tell my younger self that I would be there, I would not believe you (laughs). So I’m just so grateful. When I was up there on stage, a really memorable moment would be when I was thanking my family and my friends. I could just imagine my mom’s reaction, we were probably crying or something kasi they’re just so happy and excited and ako rin I just feel so blessed. And I’m just really, really grateful. I really can’t wait to see what the future brings because I know this is just the beginning of the journey,” she said during the Star Magic Black Pen Day media con.



With her batch having new artists full of talent and potential, Shanaia shared how she plans to make her mark and be noticed in showbiz.

“Dahil bago lang naman ako dito sa industry, I think one thing I would like to do to make a difference is just to really be myself and to spread as much good vibes as much as possible. That is something that I always talk about. Always try to make the world a better place by being kinder to everyone and I hope by being able to share that with the fans and the people watching, I hope that in a way it can help make the world a little happier,” she shared.

Shanaia said she has always admired three ABS-

CBN stars whom she hopes to get the chance work with someday.

“I’m really, really excited to one day work with maybe Liza Soberano, Kathryn Bernardo, and Anne Curtis. Silang tatlo are some of the people I really look up to even nung nasa Canada pa ako. Their journey just really inspired me. Especially Anne Curtis and Liza Soberano, they were still learning Tagalog and parang I’m like that too.

Si Kathryn

be part of the Star Magic Black Pen Day, Shanaia shared her advice to those who also want to try their luck in showbiz someday.

“I think one thing that they need to keep in mind is to never give up and to always have people that they know always want the best for them. To surround themselves with people that care about them and want what’s best for them and who want them to be the best versions of themselves. Because the journey is really not an easy one. There will be a lot of bumps and things that might want to make you give up. But when you surround yourself with the right people and you know to never give up then anything is really possible,” she added.

with her amazing acting when she went from being a young actress to how she matured so elegantly,” she reveals.

Although she is one of the youngest artists to



Flashback

FROM LEFT, Eddie Ilarde is show with (FROM LEFT) Mario Montenegro, Chiquito, Joseph “Erap” Estrada, Mario’s wife Letty Alonzo, Hector Reyes, Eddie’s wife Sylvia, Leila Benitez, Freddie Webb, Rudy Manlapaz.

Taken in 1972 after the bombing of Liberal Party official candidates presentation at Plaza Miranda. That time, Eddie Ilarde was the congressman of the 2nd district of Rizal province where Makati, Paranaque, San Juan, Las Pinas were part and Pasig was the capital. Some actors were running or incumbent politicians at that time like Erap (for San Juan mayor), Chiquito (Makati VM), Webb (Paranaque VM), Montenegro (Pasig Councilman), etc. Ilarde and other Liberal candidates, John Osmena, Ramon Mitra Jr., Genaro Magsaysay were injured. Manila Mayor candidate Ramon Bagatsing, Sen. Jove Salonga and Sen. Gerry Roxas were heavily injured. The actors plus politicians went to pay a visit to Ilarde at the hospital where he was confined.



LOGAN’S CONFIRMATION

1. Logan Torreno poses with the priest after confirmation.
2. Logan poses with grandma Luth Esguerra.
3. Logan pose with aunt Marie and cousin Jake.
4. Logan pose with his family.



Mario Alpuerto Leads New Set of Toronto Kapuso Lions Club Officers

TORONTO - Mario Alpuerto, a very active leader in the Filipino-Canadian community and Deputy Regional Commander of the Order of the Knights of Rizal Canada Region, was recently



elected as President of the Toronto Kapuso Lions Club. The unassuming Alpuerto, humbly accepted his responsibilities as incoming President and pledged his total commitment to the goals

MARIO on page 12



FRANK CRUZET, receives an award for the art sector the Philippine artist group of Canada, the Quincentennial Award from consul General Orentes V Castro.



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Hannah Arnold crowned Binibining Pilipinas International 2021

Masbate's pride Hannah Arnold walked home bagged the coveted Binibining Pilipinas International 2021 title at the Binibining Pilipinas pageant. She will represent the Philippines at this year's edition of Miss International happening in Japan in November.

Masbate's Hannah Arnold, 24, is a model who graduated from



the University of Canberra with a degree in Applied Science in Forensic Studies.

With the theme "I am Binibini", the 57th Binibining Pilipinas pageant went back to its core values, celebrating and elevating Filipinas while empowering and enabling them to showcase their beauty, grace, and wit on a global stage.

Ivana Alawi eyed to remake Rosanna Roces sitcom

APT Entertainment CEO Mike Tuvera had a hard time thinking about casting for "1 for 3" had it been made today instead of 1997.

But he immediately said Ivana Alawi came to his mind to cast her in Rosanna Roces' role as Susie in the situational comedy that also starred Vic Sotto, Charlene Gonzalez and AiAi delas Alas.

"The first thing that comes to mind right now, I would like to invite probably Ivana Alawi in Osang's (Rosanna's nickname) role. That would be great. Pero 'yung kay Charlene, ang



hirap. I need time to think about that," he revealed.

As for Vic's role, he would want the TV-host actor to be involved in its casting. "1 for 3" is his first job straight out of college. As one of the show's writers, he had a hand in depicting how Gene (Sotto) learns to live with two beautiful and different women in one roof. Gene won a house via lottery.

In a funny twist of fate, Marilen (Muhlach) and Susie (Roces) also won the house. Thus, they settled the problem by living in the same house they equally won.

The show is one of the most popular '90s sitcoms that is going to be shown to today's younger audience through the newly launched BuKo channel.

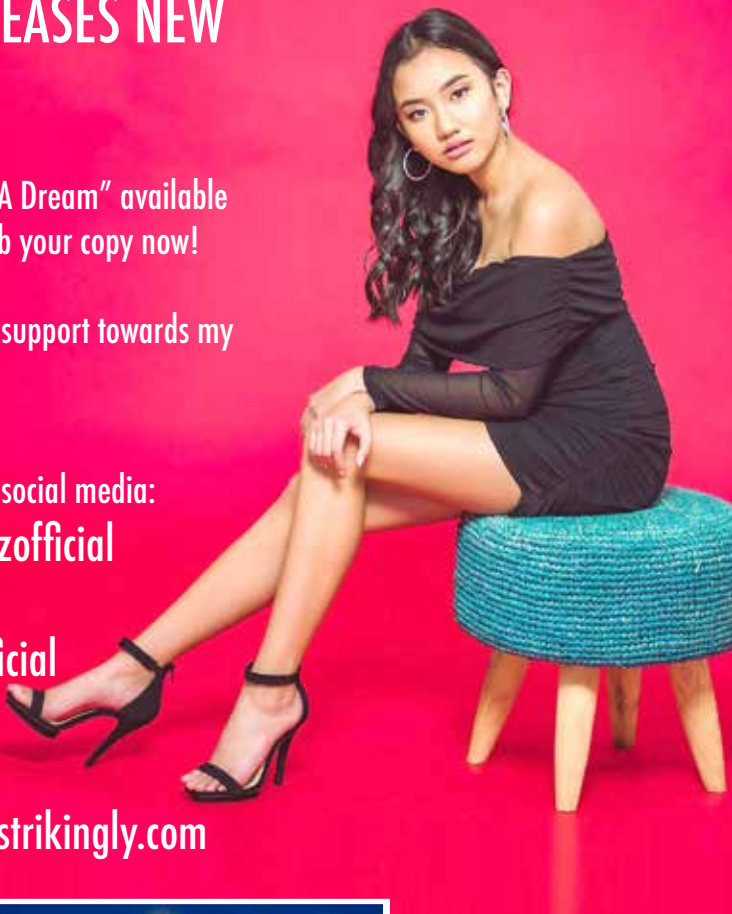
BuKo is Signal's newest 24/7 comedy channel. It is short for Bu-hay Komedy and features reruns of classic shows like "Iskul Bukol," "Tropang Trampo," "Pidol's Wonderland," "Lokomoko" and "Wow Mali."

ARIELLE PEREZ RELEASES NEW SINGLE

Arielle Perez's new single "Just A Dream" available on all streaming platforms! Grab your copy now!

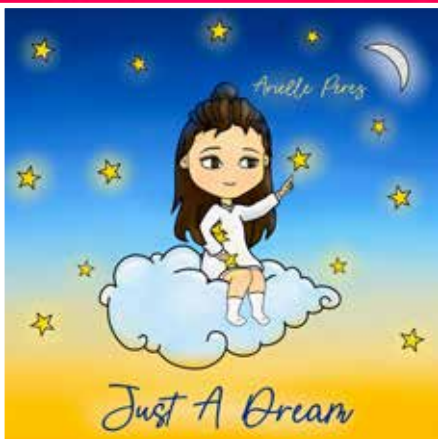
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Arielle Perez is a 14 year old Filipino-Canadian singer, songwriter, model, pianist, dancer and actress from Caledon, Ontario, Canada. She is an honour roll French Immersion student in the 8th Grade.

At a very young age, Arielle's spotlight started to show when she won the title of "Little Miss Philippines-Canada 2014. Her love to help others especially the less fortunate kids made her become the youngest Ambassador of Goodwill. She is also helping her charity in the Philippines which is the Gasang Elementary School. Her dedication to inspire and help hundreds of students became her main goal.



Last year, Arielle competed in The World Championships of Performing Arts 2020 (WCOPA) and became a multi-medalist by winning 1 Gold in Vocal SA, 1 Silver in modelling and 2 Bronze in singing and acting. In the past, she has won awards such as 2nd place in Pinoy Voice Canada, 2nd place in the singing competition in the Canadian Model and Talent Convention (CMTC), and multiple awards in Royal Conservatory of Music. She has also appeared in CHCH's Tiny Talent Time in their Season 3 episode and special holiday episode which aired on TV multiple times. Arielle got the opportunity to perform as

a front act for two of the biggest celebrities in the Philippines, Angeline

ARIELLE on page 22

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Mike Hanopol claims Manny Pacquiao owes him

Pinoy Rock icon Mike Hanopol has come out on social media to make public his woes relating to pugilist-senator Manny Pacquiao.

According to Mike, songwriter of such OPM classics as “Laki Sa Layaw” and “Katawan,” Manny commissioned him to write and record songs in 2019 but hasn’t paid for it yet.

He wrote in a post, “Sabi Pacman gusto nya makatulong di importante ang pera sa kanya e bakit ayaw mo ako bayaran(?)

“Nagpagawa ka ng Hebrew songs sa akin. I spen(t) money on studio and musician di mo naman ako binayaran.

“Sa(a)n ang tulong na sinasabi mo?

“Di ka na naawa.

Matanda na ako niloko mo pa ako.”

Mike claimed he decided to come out with the matter only after Manny made himself scarce.

He shared that he had visited his office in the senate several times but to no avail.

Mike, who survived a recent battle with COVID-19, is hopeful that Manny would hear his plea.

Manny is yet to issue a statement on the matter.



Jaclyn Jose, Dina Bonnevie share secret to showbiz longevity

Seasoned actors Jaclyn Jose and Dina Bonnevie were able to carve their own name in the showbiz industry for the past four decades.

But, how did they were able to maintain their stature and remain relevant?

During a recent press conference, Jaclyn shared it has always been her goal.

According to her, it’s not about stardom or the glitz and glam of an actor, but more of how she can portray characters.

“Walang stardom. Gusto ko humaba career ko dahil gusto ko umarte. ‘Yun ‘yung main reason ko.”

As for Dina, she believes “professionalism” and “versatility” are among the keys to have a long career.

“I think first and foremost: professionalism. I don’t think there was a time na may nagalit sa ‘king director or co-actor kasi na-late ako. I try to memorize my lines even before dumat-



ing sa set. I make sure the costumes are there, makeup is okay na, plus pakikisama sa extended family natin, make-up artists,” she shared.

“Another thing I would say is the word ‘metamorphosis.’ In the beginning, katorse — bata role ko. Nag-strive ako magkaroon ng iba’t-ibang klaseng roles. I tried to have versatility na makita ng tao, ‘Ay! Hindi lang ‘yan kaya ni Dina Bonnevie.”

In fact, Dina even declared that she was born to be a star.

“That’s what I do best.”

Dina and Jaclyn are part of GMA’s “The World Between Us,” which will take a “season break” due to the ongoing pandemic, beginning this Aug. 27.

Director Dominic Zapata announced that the drama series, starring Alden Richards and Jasmine Curtis Smith, will be taking a pause to come back on TV in November.

Matt Lozano’s weight does not matter

There was a period in Matt Lozano’s career where he contemplated quitting show biz for good. Up until 2012, the then teen actor was good roles in projects, like the movie “When I Met U.” Then, he started gaining weight—and the offers dried up.

“People would tell me, ‘You have gotten fat. You have to do this or that,’ he added. “And it was difficult to take because they don’t know what’s really going on with me and my body.”

Not an issue

During his acting hiatus, Matt focused on music and played with his former band, Cygnet. There, he felt that his looks weren’t an issue. “I was happy because I thought that people didn’t care about my weight, and music was the only thing that mattered,” he related. In 2016, he won the “Eat Bulaga!” singing contest “Spogify ft. Singing Baes.” His group has since disbanded, but he continued pursuing music as a solo artist. Matt’s new single, “Kwarto,” was written during the pandemic and revolves around self-love. “It’s about a failed relationship,” he said. “I want people to remember that being left by a loved one is experienced by many others. And I want them to carry on after a breakup,” he said.

“What’s important is to continue loving ourselves even if we’re hurting,” added Matt.





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Beauty queen-turned-actress Cindy Miranda gets a step closer to her dream

Joining a beauty pageant was never part of Cindy Miranda’s plans. “I don’t remember having beauty queen idols growing up. And it seemed it was impossible because there are a lot of beautiful girls out there, and I didn’t know where to start,” Cindy said. She entered Binibining Pilipinas 2013, where she finished in the Top 5 along with Pia Wurtzbach, Bea Rose Santiago and Ariella Arida. She’s glad she gave it a shot. “Pageants gave me the opening I needed to enter show biz,” she said. “I’m thankful for the journey.”

Disheartening

But she didn’t book major projects out of the gate. Her career moved at a glacial pace in the following years, which

had her playing bit roles. There was a point when she started doubting herself. “I didn’t get jobs right away after Binibini. Many times, I asked myself, ‘Hanggang dito na lang ba?’” In 2018, Cindy landed a role in ABS-CBN soap “La Luna Sangre” followed by two movies. But this time, she’s headlining the film “Nerisa,” where she’s paired with Aljur Abrenica. After years of waiting, Cindy finally started to see progress. “I believe you have to go through the hardships, because it will help you become strong and disciplined,” she stressed. “(Her role)Nerisa is courageous. Playing her makes me feel empowered to stand up for myself and not let others step on me.”



Future projects

While she was required to do intimate scenes in “Adan,” doing them here—with Aljur, this time—still made Cindy nervous. “I would freeze before the love scenes. But Aljur chatted me up to make me feel comfortable. We talked about our limitations ... We made sure we were fully aware of the cameras, so we could do it right in one take. And we did,” she said. “I hope to do action movies and thrillers, because those are genres I enjoy most as a viewer,” she said. “But I would be open to any kind of role. I don’t have any specific costars in mind, either, because I know I will learn a lot from whoever I get to work with,” she said. Cindy still has her shortcomings as an actress, she admitted. But she’s always willing to learn. “The projects I’m getting now are something I used to just pray for. Now, they’re in front of me. I can’t say I have already made it, but I’m nearing the doorstep. I just have to work harder and appreciate the journey,” she said.

Heart Evangelista will forgive Chiz Escudero if he cheats: ‘Because I love him’

Heart Evangelista declared she would be willing to forgive her husband, Sen. Francis “Chiz” Escudero, if she ever learns he was cheating on her.

While some consider cheating to be a relationship dealbreaker, that is not the case for the actress, she said in an interview with broadcaster Karen Davila in the latter’s YouTube vlog. The couple was asked by Davila about one thing that could possibly break them up. “I don’t think it’s a dealbreaker for me,” she told Davila. “He had struggles in his past relationships [and] he got married. And



I’ve never gotten married so I don’t really know how that feels.” Davila then asked Evangelista if she would give Escudero a second chance if she finds out her husband cheated on her. “Yes, because I love him. I don’t love him as a lover, I love him also as a friend,” she said. “Ibig kong sabihin, ‘So, you guys gonna have your happy ending? No, I’m gonna stay with you ‘til the end.’”

FCT STUDENTS from page 2 aims to encourage, challenge and reward students to achieve academic excellence and success. The honourees belonged to those who completed their respective high school and

ary School-DPCDSB, Chloe Eunice Panganiban of Henry Newman Catholic School-TCDSB, and Angelica Kaylee D. Tait of The Country Day (Private)School, under the secondary school category and Brock University BSc. Medical Sciences graduate Kathryn Chermaine Caran-

Prizes from Alvine Marasigan Flor, Precy Tumalak, and Segundino “Dodong” Tumalak. The popular awards program, which started in 2005, has already presented a total of 124 recipients under the 3 categories in the elementary, secondary, and post-secondary



post-secondary studies during the school year of 2019-2020. Given awards are Grade12 graduates John Lennard Dulin of Iona Catholic Second-

The 4 honorees with MP Salma Zahid, Mayor John Tory, FCT Presiden Mary Ann San Juan, and RCJ-OSA Committee Chair Tony A. San Juan

dang, Post-Secondary honouree. All four graduates each received a Plaque of Recognition from the Filipino Centre Toronto and Cash

levels. The annual ceremony should have been undertaken last year but due to the pandemic crisis, it was rescheduled for this summer. **FCT STUDENTS** on page 23

‘One take lang po talaga’:

MANILA, Philippines — Sexy actress Rhen Escano revealed that she was comfortable making her sexy scene with returning actor Jao Mapa. Rhen said she trusted the movie’s director Yam Laranas when it came with the sensitive scenes. The former “Ang Probinsyano” actress also said that the sexy scenes were just shot in one take. “Happy po ako and maswerte po ako na si Direk Yam po talaga ang gumawa no’n na sobrang bilis. One take lang po talaga ‘yung mga love scenes na mapapanood niyo so ‘yun talaga ang dapat abangan kung paano naming nagawa na one take lang,” she said. “Hindi naman po nawawala’ yung kaba lagi ‘pag may mga gano’ng eksena pero I really have to trust my director, my co-actor na nandon ‘yon no’ng ginawa namin kaya



Rhen Escano on sexy scenes with returning actor Jao Mapa

hindi ko po masasabi na nahirapan ako kasi smooth po namin siya na nagawa knowing na si Jao, first time ko po kasing gumawa ng love scene na hindi ko masyadong ka-age bracket pero hindi po talaga, hindi ko po naramdaman ‘yon,” she said. “Makikita niyo naman po sa mismong love scene kung may ilang factor ba. Thankful po ako na si mismong Direk Yam ang kumuha ng eksenang yon so na pull out namin sa mismong pelikula,” she added. **DJ Karen Bordador freed after 5 years** Celebrity radio DJ, model, TV, and events host Karen Bordador has been acquitted for a case of conspiracy to sell illegal drugs filed against her in 2016. After being detained for nearly five (5) years, she now advocates support for Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) both during and

after their incarceration. She will also share her experience inside prison online. Karen proved her innocence through the strong evidence of CCTV footage and key eyewitnesses. Karen had a flourishing business and career, both founded upon a clean image, at the time of the incident. She is excited for the many opportunities opening up for her in the entertainment industry now that she’s back. She has recently debuted her blog www.KarenBordador.com which reveals all her thoughtful insights. Her 1st Vlog, now on YouTube, details her first steps from Pasig City Jail into the free world. “My experience has exposed me to many PDLs who have been victimized, wronged, or neglected,” she shares. “I am pushing to improve their condition with faster case resolutions, more access to resources, and holistic education.”



GARAPALAN

from p1 pull off an efficient distribution of aid, citing the chaos that ensued in Manila vaccination sites the day before the August lockdown in the National Capital Region. Swarming at vaccination sites happened in other parts of the region, like Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, and Parañaque. University of the Philippines political science professor Ela Atienza, meanwhile, sees Duterte’s words as a “warning” to local government executives who dare to criticize his administration. “He will attack them publicly, even with accusations that have no clear evidence. This is consistent with his style,” said Atienza. She also pointed out that as of Tuesday morning, or hours after Duterte’s outburst, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) is yet to enforce his order against Moreno. This might be another case, said Atienza, of the government backtracking “when they get negative feedback on some occasions.” If Duterte were fair, Abao said, he would have first ordered the DILG to conduct an investigation into the swarming at vaccine sites to determine who is at fault. Lawyer and political science expert Tony La Viña says Duterte’s move, if he pushes through with it, could be illegal. “That’s arbitrary and because of that, illegal. He cannot exclude an LGU from a national program without basis,” he told Rappler. Moreno’s response to reporters asking for his side on the matter was to send photos of certificates from the national government attesting to orderly distribution of aid by Manila City Hall. One certificate from the DILG dated June 30 recognized him and Manila for “efficient and timely completion” of pandemic aid. Another, from the social welfare department, dated January 25, recognized Manila for “unwavering commitment and great effort” to implement pension

for poor senior citizens. Irony Duterte had also derided the Manila mayor for his past as an actor in sexy roles. Duterte even said such a background is unfitting for a future president, establishing clearly that his remarks were about the 2022 elections that will determine his successor. On Duterte’s digs at Moreno’s sexy photos from his past as an actor and model, Abao thinks the President is just hoping to dent the Manila mayor’s popularity. “I don’t think he really cares about those pictures or its impact on people’s morals. He’s doing this so that Isko’s popularity ratings don’t go up any further,” said Abao. She pointed out that Duterte had no moral qualms about appointing a former sexy dancer, Mocha Uson, to key posts in government. “Why hit Isko but not Mocha – for exactly the same situation?” said Abao. Uson, who leads a group called Mocha Girls and has sex tips videos online, was once presidential communications undersecretary and is currently Overseas Workers Welfare Administration deputy administrator. Duterte was not critical of Moreno until recently, when the Manila mayor was floated as a potential presidential candidate in the 2022 elections. In 2018, Duterte appointed Moreno as an undersecretary at the Department of Social Welfare and Development but it was a brief stint as he resigned to run for Manila mayor in 2019. In September 2019, Duterte even publicly praised Moreno, saying, “Bilib ako sa kanya. Kaya nanonood ako noong nagsasalita siya. Mas mahusay siya kaysa sa akin, sa tatoo lang.” (I believe in him. I was watching him speak. He is better than me, truth be told.) La Viña said these praises from Duterte precisely make his latest outburst against Moreno “not credible.”

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Filipinos mark September 1st as Jose Mari Chan and Mariah Carey’s ‘comeback’ day

It’s the first day of September and for Filipinos, it is the “comeback day” of Jose Mari Chan and Mariah Carey, whose Christmas songs would endlessly blast in shopping malls and residential areas as soon as the “Ber months” begin.

The Philippines is known to celebrate the world’s longest Christmas season. As September kicks off, songs and lavish displays related to the Yuletide would start playing and appear in public spaces. It is the first month with the “-ber” suffix which is also fitting since some of these months are associated with the northeast monsoon or “amihan,” when cool and dry winds from Siberia and China are blown to Southeast Asia. This results in cool air and low humidity. From a Catholic perspective, the celebration starts from December 16 to the first Sunday after New Year or the Feast of the Epiphany. Nine masses are held in anticipation of Christmas Day itself, which is traditionally held at early dawn. This is also called “Simbang Gabi.” These Eucharistic celebrations also help usher in the festivities with the church displaying star-shaped lanterns or “parols” and putting up “belen” or the Nativity Scene near altars. Well-known delicacies such as “puto bumbong” (purple rice cake steamed in bamboo tubes), “bibingka” (baked rice cake) and “puto” (steamed rice cake) are also sold by vendors to churchgoers. In line with this, memes of Chan and Carey surfaced online as Filipinos digitally



mark the start of the months-long Christmas season in the country. Some online users quipped that September 1 is the artists’ “comeback day” as it is the start of the period when their Christmas hits would be played in malls, stores and houses in anticipation of Christmas itself. Chan is known for his bestselling 1990 album “Christmas in Our Hearts” which features Holiday-themed songs such as “Christmas in Our Hearts,” “A Perfect Christmas,” “Do You Hear What I Hear,” “Give Me Your Heart for Christmas” and “Mary’s Boy Child,” among others. The popularity of his Christmas songs has earned him the title of “Father of the Philippine Christmas Music.” Carey’s hit “All I Want for Christmas Is You,” an uptempo track from her 1994 album “Merry Christmas,” is also being played during the holidays.

It is also considered one of the “ultimate modern Christmas anthems,” according to TIME Magazine. The song is famous enough to get a rerecording featuring Justin Bieber for his 2011 album “Under the Mistletoe.” There is also a revamped version of the song titled “All I Want for Christmas Is You (Make My Wish Come True Edition)” which features new scenes of Carey in 2019. No doubt that the song “Christmas In Our Hearts” by Jose Mari Chan is the most played OPM holiday song in local public places. The song is lifted from the biggest selling album in the Philippines, which sold more than 800,000 copies so far. And because of this, Chan became known as “The Father of Philippine Christmas Music.” “I do not deserve that title. There were others, like the late Levi Celerio or Francisco Santiago, who had many beautiful compositions like Ang Pasko ay Sumapit, Pasko Na Naman, etc. I really do not deserve the title, maybe only as ‘the current flavor,’ ” says Chan during an interview with Good News Pilipinas then.

Here are some interesting facts about this monster hit which you will surely hear in the country during the BER months. Let the Christmas countdown begin!

- “Christmas In Our Hearts” is the first Christmas album of Chan.
- Released on Nov. 17, 1990, the holiday tune will be 31 years old this year.
- The song was based on a poem written by Chari Cruz-Zarate.
- It was intended as a silver jubilee song for the Assumption High School Class of 1963.
- Chan decided to turn it into a holiday tune after he realized it was too precious to use it only as a homecoming song.
- Record producer Bella Dy Tan initially thought the song won’t become a hit.
- The song was certified triple platinum by the Philippine Association of the Record Industry weeks after its release in 1990.
- It is also the biggest OPM Christmas album of all time.
- The duet part was originally offered to Lea Salonga, who at that time was at the peak of her career in “Miss Saigon.” However, her record label abroad won’t allow her to do it.
- After Lea, the duet part was also offered to Monique Wilson. She agreed to do it. But she lost her voice when it was time for her to record the song.
- Chan’s daughter, Liza, was only 19 when she sang for the holiday tune. She was preparing for her exams when her father asked her out to help her with the song.

And the rest is history!

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Young good-looking Filipino priest trends on social media

A young good-looking Filipino priest has been making rounds on Facebook for giving up “the prestigious position of Rector at the St. John Vianney Seminary in Florida ... to work in depressed parishes.” Father Ranhilio Aquino, San Beda College of Law dean, made a post about the young, priest identified as Fr. Ferdinand “Ferdie” Santos that has since gone viral, eliciting praises from the online community. The post has garnered more than 1,500 likes and has been reposted countless times. Santos is not only a professor of philosophy and theology, but he is also a certified fitness coach who has captivated the internet community with his stunning looks. According to Aquino, he met Santos while the lat-



ter was a student of post-doctoral research. The two also went together in the classes of Prof. Jan van der Veken on Process Metaphysics. Santos, meanwhile, shared why he got into working out. “When life throws you lemons, make lemonade.” How’d I get into serious physical fitness? Asthma at 23, diabetes at 28. Not too keen on taking meds with their side-effects, I got into serious working out instead. Choose health, choose positivity. You can. Santos urged his followers to keep things positive and focus on what matters: “faith in God, hope for the future & love for each other.”

MARIO on page 12

of Lions Club International. He is optimistically looking forward to the unique challenges leading a civic organization face in time of a pandemic. He takes over the position which was previously held by the Club’s Charter President, Manny Yanga, another community leader who has committed to continue supporting the Toronto Kapuso Lions Club with the same enthusiasm, energy and commitment. The Lions program and initiatives focus on four key elements that are essential to its mission of SERVICE: Strengthening member-



ship through diversity, Expanding service impact globally, Supporting the LCIF Global Foundation, and Empowering every Lion as a leader. Mario Alpuerto and Manny Yanga, together with the Club’s new set of officers and members, in an unprecedented difficult time, have unanimously agreed to stand together and come up with innovative ways of providing service to the community in a socially distanced way and following health and safety protocols and guidelines set by health authorities. The other officers of the Toronto Kapuso Lions Club are: Rosalinda

Tijam, 1st Vice-President; Judith Gonzales, 2nd Vice-President; Fe Paca-Taduran, Secretary; Velona Daliva, Treasurer; Melinda Manlapaz, Assistant Treasurer; Jose Nolasco, Membership Director; Michael Roland Cruz, Assistant Membership Director; Dario Agustin, Club LCIF Coordinator; April Gonzales and Ernie Tanglao, Civic and Cultural Affairs; Jun and Dinah Padua, Socials and Fund-Raising Activities; and Immediate Past President Manny Yanga, Adviser & Club Service Chairperson. The Toronto Kapuso Lions Club is under Lions District A-711 Region 58, with Lion Sandy Heeralal-Judham as District Governor.



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Miss Universe Philippines

Miss Universe Philippines 2021 candidate Steffi Rose Aberasturi of Cebu City has called on pageant fans to stop destructive divisiveness and grow unity and harmony for a better universe.

Steffi made the reaction after some netizens claimed she's a supporter of President Duterte.

The Cebuana beauty queen did not deny nor admit the claims of some pageant fanatics. Instead, Steffi asked the public to stop political divisiveness.

"Religion, gender, race, or even our political stance, shouldn't divide us.



bet Steffi Aberasturi appeals to stop destructive political divisiveness

Now is the time to set aside our differences, communicate, and work together as one. At the end of the day, we all have one goal anyway - to live in a better universe," said Steffi on Instagram.

Steffi's full post on Instagram:

"I am still over the moon with everyone's feedback. It means the world to me that you appreciate all the creative effort, time, and passion that my team and I poured into this. This post is for those

behind the scenes that deserve as much, if not more, credit for piecing together a collective vision for you all to see.

"I am blessed and grateful that with the help of @stacysmodelmanagement. I was able to form a team of some of Cebu's most talented young creatives.

"Sleepless and in heavy protective gear, we trekked to our breathtaking venue at 3 AM to try to catch a sunrise, but unfortunately, due to the sheer size of what will soon be the Philippines' longest bridge, we just missed it. Despite breaking a heel (literally) and the windy weather that made an already difficult shoot more challenging, we pushed through together. Everyone's commit-

ment and drive, along with my stylists being prepped for even a broken heel, pushed me to give my very best.

"Beyond the creativity and passion, what makes me most proud of my team is not only how we freely voice our opinions, but that we also listen and respect each other regardless of our differences. It's dialogue and humility that make the dream truly work.

"That dream is formed from all of our backgrounds coming together. Religion, gender, race, or even our political stance, shouldn't divide us. Now is the time to set aside our differences, communicate, and work together as one. At the end of the day, we all have one goal anyway - to live in a better universe."

At a girl's college hostel, dates were permitted only on Saturday nights. One young man showed up on a Tuesday evening, explaining to an older woman in the lobby of the dorm that it was imperative he see a certain young lady immediately. "I want to surprise her. You see, I'm her brother." "Oh, she'll be surprised all right," said the woman. "But think of how surprised I am! I'm her mother!"

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Barbie Forteza

on BF Jak Roberto's 'conservative' ways

Barbie Forteza admitted her boyfriend, hunk actor Jak Roberto, could sometimes be too "conservative" if altogether traditional.

She recalled how he once called her out for wearing a curve-hugging outfit on TikTok.

"Naka-animal print ako na pang work out...ki-nol out niya ako na 'Bakit ganyan yung suot mo? Sana nag two piece ka na lang.' Sabi ko 'Napaka OA mo naman, wala din naman nakita.' I mean hindi revealing yung damit, fit lang."

Not that she finds Jak's gesture "toxic."

She understands that her partner of four years is just "concerned" about her well-being.

"May mga ga-nu'ng concern siya minsan pagdating sa pananamit ko pero hindi naman strikto. Pabiro lang din... Alam niya na ako, sa sarili ko, hindi

ko ilal-agay ang sarili ko sa alan-ganin."

She actually appreciates it.

"Nakakatuwa na bilang boyfriend, concerned siya in a cute way," she said.

Meanwhile, Barbie also shared her two cents about the recent fake news of their breakup that surfaced online.



Barbie Forteza reacts to rumors of her supposed split from Jak Roberto "Na realize ko na dahil nga we're very open about our relationship, isa yan sa mga kailangan namin mara-nasan. Siyempre may mga trolls, may mga fake news, may bash, pam-ba-bash na mangyayari kasi nga open kami sa relasyon namin. Kaya siguro may mga tao, celebrities, na pinipili nilang gawing pribado yang bagay na yan."

Despite this, Barbie said they don't just mind it. "Pinili namin maging open sa relationship kasi gusto namin i-share sa mga tao yung partner na nakakapag-pasaya sa amin," she said.

"Shinare namin yung relationship namin upang sana may ma-inspire kaming couple na i-handle yung relationship nila the way we handle - no pressure, walang stress, walang bigat, wala masyadong responsibili-ty, puno ng trust, punong-puno ng saya. Hindi kailangang mag-away sa maliit na bagay."

VACCINES from page 1

the 70 percent target and 12.13 percent of the country's total population.

According to Galvez, the country has so far received 48 million doses of vaccines and administered 31 million, noting that beginning next month, other regions including Regions 4A and 3, would receive the bulk of the 25 million doses that will be arriving.

He added that the national government continues to nego-tiate and place additional orders with various vaccine makers as it aims to receive at least 20 million to 25 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines this Sep-

tember.

The deals include additional 10 million Sinovac doses and five million Pfizer doses, as well as two million doses of the recently approved Sputnik Light.

Booster shots

While it is not yet recom-mending booster shots against COVID-19, the Department of Health (DOH) has already included it in their proposed budget for 2022.

"There was this initial com-putation of P45 billion but we have to clarify because when we were planning, we also included the vaccines for children," DOH

Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said.

She also maintained that the agency is not closed to booster dosing but it could not yet recom-mend it at this point because of "minimal scientific evidence" and the "equity component."

"The Philippine government decides based on science and ev-idence. We cannot make impul-sive actions or decisions which are not really based on science and evidence," she said. "If we give booster shots when our supply is still unstable, we will be disenfranchising those who have not received any dose of vaccine yet."

Isko Moreno's showbiz past, 'open book'

Manila Mayor Isko Moreno has no problem with critics using his showbiz past to malign him.

"Wala akong nakikitang masama sa ginawa ko. Anything na ginawa ko sa showbiz, I'm happy I survived. Pinagdaanan ko yon at marami akong natutunan do'n..."

As for disrobing for cameras, he said: "Maki-kita ninyo yung buong katawan ko except yung harapan ko. Eh, ano naman ngayon?"

"Wala naman maitatago pa sa akin. Bulatlat na ang buhay ko. Open book



naman yan! Meron akong ups and downs, mga challenges. It was made public. It's an open book. I'm not ashamed of that," he added.

Many be-lieve President Duterte was referring to Moreno rant-ing about a public official trained like a "call boy."

He was quoted as say-ing: "Kayong mga Pilipino, huwag kayong magpaloko diyan sa mga padrama magsalita pati kung... nakita ko nga sa Facebook kanina, lahat nang

nakabikini ang g ***. Tapos may isang picture pa doon na sinisilip niya 'yung ari niya. Iyan ang gusto ninyo? Ang training, parang call boy. Iyan ang training ng presidente, maghubad at magpa-picture at magsilip, magyabang sa kanilang ari."

Note Moreno is the only incumbent public official with existing photos on the internet wearing briefs.

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Scenic Bohol Casts an enigmatic charm drawn from the many archaic mementos spread throughout the oval-shaped island: from the chocolate hills and the tarsier to the 16th century watchtowers and jesuit baroque mission churches. The Chocolate Hills that abound in Central Bohol, two have been developed into top class resorts.

Sunset @ Sta. Fe Beach

Chocolate Hills

One of the Rare Faunas found in the Phillippine archipelago, the Tarsier is the smallest primate in the world. It is a nocturnal primate measuring from four to fice Inches, with a tail that is longer than body.

Those interested in tarsier watching are always welcomed by the Boholanos to see the famous primate in its natural adobe up the hills in the town of Corella

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A black coral forest is among its main attractions but virtually anywhere you drop in is sure to be rewarding. another major attraction, Cabillao is renowned for the hammerhead sharks that shoal around the clear waters. Large pelagics are very common here. And if you are really luck, you can find yourself swimming with a passing school of dolphins.

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Are tattoos for drug addicts? Billy Crawford reacts

Singer-TV host Billy Crawford has slammed a basher saying his tattoos “are for drug addicts.”

The said remark was left as comment on a photo of Billy with son Amari.

“Billy we all (love) you but your tattoos, are for Drug Addicts,” it read.

The singer-TV host retorted, “So you’re trying to say my father and my brother are drug addicts? You have to look deeper than skin child. Don’t judge a book by its cover!”

Then Billy also pointed out an alternate meaning behind they naysayer’s username.

“Having 420 on your name doesn’t make you the cleanest... (thinking face emoji).”

Fans also defended Billy, relating that tattoos are an “art form.”

“Do yourself a favor, RESPECT other people’s choice. If you don’t like what you see then try to walkaway. Dude key-word is RESPECT,” an online user said.



“I have 4 tattoos and I haven’t and will never do drugs.. I got them because I wanted them.. in what era do you live in?? your mentality is so ancient..”

Yassi Pressman excited to star in local adaptation of South Korean movie ‘More than Blue’

For the past five years, Yassi Pressman was Alyana Arevalo to the Filipino audience. Now she must shed her “Ang Probinsyano” persona to give way for new ones.

“It’s tough to break away from the character, because it almost felt like I became her. Every taping day for the past years, I carry her with me. I will never forget Alyana, but I need to set aside so I can welcome new characters, projects and



experiences,” Yassi said in a recent virtual press conference arranged by Viva Entertainment for her upcoming projects.

“Leaving the show wasn’t easy, because I had grown comfortable doing it, and I loved working with everyone,” she added. “But I will always be grateful.”

After Alyana, Yassi is set to take on the role of Cream in the upcoming local adaptation of the South Korean movie “More than Blue.” “I’m very excited to do the film with JC Santos and Marco Gumabao. The script is beautiful. I cry every time I finish it. I really feel the characters’ emotions,” she said.

Aside from “More than Blue,” Yassi also hosts the arcade machine-inspired game show “Rolling In It Philippines” on TV5. “I love hosting because it’s a lot of fun. I hope I can do another show. I’m open to exploring where hosting brings me,” related Yassi, who also used to be an MTV Pinoy video jockey.

Outside show biz, Yassi has been exploring her “entrepreneurial side.” In addition to her oral hygiene brand and dog accessories line, she and her partners have finished building a lake house in Canada, which they will rent out through AirBnB.

Why actor JC Santos wants to be a filmmaker, too

I want to have something, as in a work of art, that I can call my own,” said actor JC Santos on why he is considering becoming a filmmaker in the future.

JC’s target is to achieve this goal in five year’s time.

“I’m curious. Paulo Avelino has started producing films, while Bella (Padilla) has already written several scripts. Eventually, I want to be able to direct. Just like a framed painting, I want something that’s credited to me.”

However, this is not to say that JC feels lacking. On the other hand, the actor said he has a lot to be thankful for. “I’m not as popular as the other stars, but there are people who believe in the projects I do. I know I’m not the conventional guy, the heartthrob, but they still chose to support me. I’m grateful for that. I also know that there are a lot of guys who could be in my position right now, but I am here,” he pointed out.



BING MARIANO photography

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Dimples Romana’s friendship with Bea Alonzo is not affected by network war

Dimples Romana does not judge artists who change networks. If it’s for their family, she understands.

“Para sa akin, if the opportunity and the growth for you will be there, and, you know, you’ll be able to provide for your family, why not?”

Isa sa pinakamaingay na network transfer ay ang pagpirma ng kaibigan niyang si Bea Alonzo sa GMA-7 noong July 1.

Magkasama ang dalawa sa grupo nilang Thursday Barkada, na nabuo noong ginawa nila ang pelikulang One More Chance noong 2007. Kagrupo rin nila sina Bea Saw at Janus del Prado.

Natatawa na lang daw si Dimples sa mga netizens na nagko-comment ng, “Wow, friends pa rin kayo,” noong nag-post siya ng photos from the barkada’s pottery session.

“Ang weird talaga, sabi ko, ‘Bakit ganoon? Hindi ko nga alam kung bakit ganoon. Basta para sa akin po at ang aking pamilya, we will never lose respect and love for anyone who chooses to do what they feel is right for their families.”

She chose to be happy for Bea and other Kapamilya stars who transferred.

“At the end of the day, ang tagumpay po ng isang Kapamilya ay tagumpay ng lahat. Kaya nga po ako, marami akong mga kakilala na kung hindi man sila nabiyayaan ng panahon at parehong oportunidad, gaya ng iba nilang pamilya ay sadya pong ipinagmamalaki nila kapag ang ibang family members nila ay nagsa-succeed.”

Friendship does not end just because they transferred.

Sa pagpapatuloy ng 36-year-old star, “Kagaya po ng pagyakap



namin at pagtanggap sa mga Kapuso or Kapatid coming in to the Kapamilya network. I have faith that my Kapamilyas who are also going to the

Kapuso or the Kapatid networks are also embraced the same way, di po ba?

“Bago pa po ang pandemya at shutdown, may mga Kapamilya na po kaming lumipat sa ibang networks and also the same din po na may mga Kapuso at Kapatid din pong lumipat sa amin naman sa Kapamilya network.

“I have thankfully remained very good friends with many of our co-actors, staff, crew and directors who used to be with us naman po in ABS. I have the same respect and love for them.

“And I can’t help but be proud of their achievements as well.”

Jessy Mendiola defends Angel Locsin

Jessy Mendiola was quick to call out a fan for bodyshaming Angel Locsin.

It all started with Jessy posting a selfie on social media. An online user commented: “Love you queen, mas maganda ka ng di hamak kay tabachoy na angel Locsin yuckie.”



Jessy replied: “Please tama na yung ganyan. We are all happy na. (heart emoji) peace and love lang please. (person with folded hands emoji) ingat ngayong ECQ. (smiling face emoji).”

Some years ago, Jessy was tagged as the third party that caused the split of Angel and Luis Manzano. Jessy and Luis have denied the allegations. They tied the knot early this year. Meanwhile, Angel exchanged “I dos” with longtime boyfriend Neil Arce some days ago.

Vilma Santos-Recto suffers from depression, anxiety during pandemic

She may have everything but Star for All Seasons Rep. Vilma Santos-Recto of Lipa City revealed for the first time that she suffered from depression and anxiety during the pandemic.

“I would wake up so sad because I know the pandemic is still around. And then I would ask myself ‘how many people would die today?’” said Ate Vi during a talk with entertainment broadcaster Cristy Fermin.

Ate Vi added: “I have many friends who died because of COVID-19. It’s just so depressing.” These days, Vilma said that she’s currently staying with her son Lucky Manzano and daughter-in-law Jessy Mendiola. “We’re complete now. Our family bonding is complete.”

In fighting depression, Vilma said she turns to God for guidance.

“I just pray. I turn to God when I am depressed,” she said.

Aside from that, Ate Vi keeps herself busy to fight depression.

“I talk to my family, I talk to my



constituents. I keep my mind busy. I exercise. I feel alive when I am in a Zoom meeting because I get to talk to people,” she revealed.

Vilma and Cristy have been good friends for quite some time now, saying they have been with each other’s company through ups and downs.

Ate Vi said that she will never forget Cristy when she went to the wake of her mom two years ago.

“It meant so much to me when friends went to the wake of my mother. I will never forget them until the end.”

Cristy also recalled that moment when Ate Vi was in a hurry to go to the wake of her mother. “Ate Vi asked me to wait for her. She really made an effort to pay respects to my mother.”

Vilma also said that she’s in close contact with her siblings, who are based abroad. “We would call almost every day and remind one another to keep safe during the pandemic,” she said.

Asked how she managed to stay beautiful despite the age, Ate Vi said: “I don’t do anything special. I also have problems, I am not perfect. I just exercise. I just try to be happy.”

Vilma said that she’s also busy with the vaccination program in her district, adding that she wanted her constituents to get vaccinated.

“So far, only 40 percent of my constituents have received the vaccine. I am thankful that vaccines are coming in. So hopefully, they will all be vaccinated.”

Candid SPOOF

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



Filipino Centre Toronto board of director member Philip Beloso reads the notes before the awarding of the Rosalinda C. Javier Outstanding Students Awards.



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Iza Calzado is new Darna

Producers of "Mars Ravelo's Darna: The TV Series" pulled a surprise move recently, announcing their casting of Iza Calzado as Darna. No, she's not replacing Jane de Leon.

Iza will be portraying the role of another Darna — the one who will pass on the power to Jane's character. Iza is happy with the announcement 'coz it coincided with her 39th birthday.

"Naiyak ako! It's one of the best birthday gifts! On different levels, nakaka-lift lang ng puso at spirits," said Iza.

"Finally, I can claim to be part of the Pinoy superhero history! I almost had the chance in the past, but God had other plans. I was not meant to be that Darna but He surely prepared me



to play this Darna. Everything always happens in His perfect time. I call it Divine Timing," she continued.

"Being a hero during these challenging times is exciting and female one at that just means so much more. Of course I do recognize that with great power comes great responsibility. As cliché as it sounds, there is truth to this."

It was in 2014 when Angel Locsin was announced to star in a "Darna" flick. Then, it transferred to Liza Soberano who also backed out of the project eventually.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, it was announced that the film will no longer push through.

ABS-CBN later revealed that "Darna" will be airing as TV series.

The taping was said to be starting this September.

ARIELLE from page 13

Quinto and K Brosas at their concert in Toronto, "Angeline K'to Concert Namin 'To!" which had almost a thousand people in the crowd.

In late 2019, Arielle was chosen to walk the runway of Canadian Asian Fashion Week and model for some of the biggest designers in Asia. She was also awarded as the youngest entrepreneur as one of the designers of K&A

"DREAM BIG!"

Handbags Collections for pre-teens and teens. Arielle's love for modelling got her to be the front cover model of Canadian Kids Magazine in 2020.

Arielle is a talent and certified modelling coach of MH Productions. She was awarded Rookie of the Year, Famous Award and Facebook Ambassador on their Magic Ball Awards Night which was held few months ago. Recently, she was one of the judges of Photogenic of The World 2020 and Quarantine Star 2020.

Her passion in singing made her start to write her own original songs. Her first single titled "Without



You" was released on platforms last year "Best Original Song of After a few months, another single titled Way" that talks advocacy for an-Arielle released her Album titled

of 5 songs available on all platforms. It has 15k streams in Arielle be-own quote that is possible if hard and give up on dreams.

all streaming and won the the Year". she wrote "Find The about her ti-bullying. Debut EP/ "Fourteen" which consists of her original and it is now streaming gained almost only 4 days! lieves in her "Anything you work never your

FCT STUDENTS from page 16

FCT will start receiving applications for the 2020-2021 outstanding students competition in October 2021.

The FCT-RCJOSA Committee is composed of Chairman Tony A. San Juan(founding chair of Filipino Heritage Council of Canada); Co-chair Mary Ann S. San Juan(president & CEO of Filipino Centre Toronto); and Members Jodelyn Huang (community relations officer-TCDSB), Steve Pagao (president of Philippine Chamber of Commerce-Toronto); and Fermer Santos (vice-principal of Agincourt Collegiate Institute-TDSB), and Rose Tijam(president of Philippine Press Club of Ontario)

Among the distinguished guests were His Worship,

Toronto Mayor John Tory, who was the event guest speaker and presenter of the awards. Likewise, Ms. Salma Zahid, a reelection candidate for Liberal MP for Scarborough Centre gave an inspirational address. FCT president & CEO Mary Ann S. San Juan and FCT Board of Directors Chairman Efren De Villa made the welcome and closing remarks, respectively. FCT treasurer Wendy Arena gave the invocation. University graduate awardee Kathryn Chermaine Carandang provided the response and FCT Vice president Tess Lumanlan ably hosted the program. Also in attendance were the FCT directors & officers, the awardees' parents, relatives & friends, donors, community & media leaders & volunteers. (Tony A. San Juan-OCT-Rel.)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Anabelle and Tony Mohan, with their daughter Katelyn (BELOW) took a road trip to celebrate their anniversary.



1. John Lennard Dulin, FCT-OSA Outstanding Secondary School Graduate-Honouree
2. Kathryn Carandang, FCT-OSA Outstanding Post-Secondary School Graduate-Honouree
3. Angelica Kaylee D. Tait FCT-OSA Outstanding Secondary School Graduate-Honouree
4. Chloe Eunice Panganiban FCT-OSA Outstanding Secondary School Graduate-Honouree
5. The 4 Honourees with Mayor John Tory, FCT President Mary Ann San Juan, and RCJ-OSA Committee Chair Tony A. San Juan

6. FCT President Mary Ann San Juan
7. Fermer Santos (vice-principal of Agincourt Collegiate Institute-TDSB)
8. Toronto Mayor John Tory
9. Liberal MP Salma Zahid
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