

Merry Christmas sa inyong lahat!

‘REVENGE SPENDING’ BOOSTS ECONOMY

OFW (overseas Filipino workers) increased remittance also helped

MANILA -The growth of gross domestic product (GDP) beat expectations of 6.3 percent as

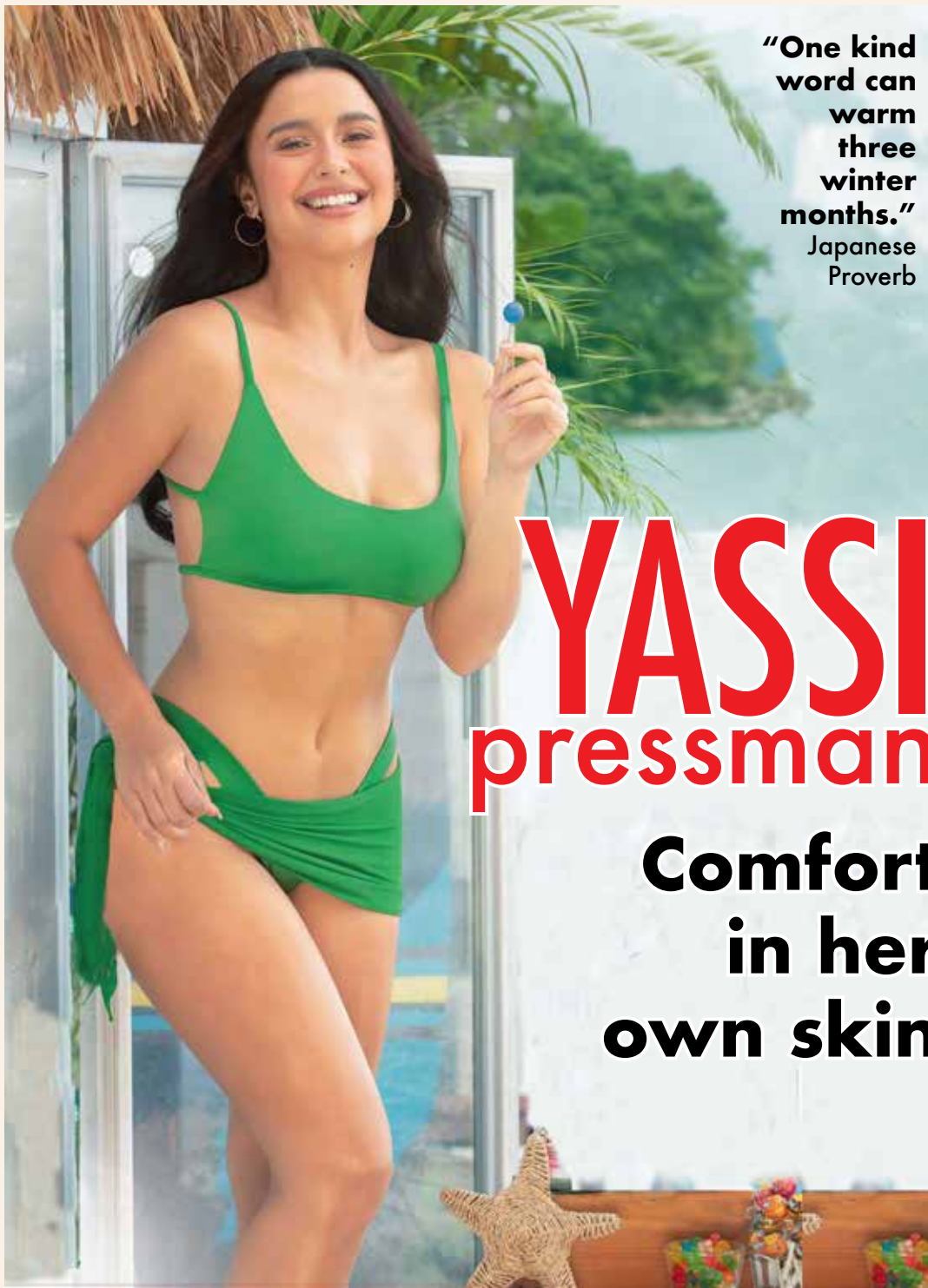
well as the 7 percent growth posted in the same quarter last year, Socioeconomic

Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said. The country’s third-quarter performance

meant the Philippines had the second-highest growth in the region next to Vietnam’s 13.7

percent and ahead of Indonesia’s 5.7 percent.

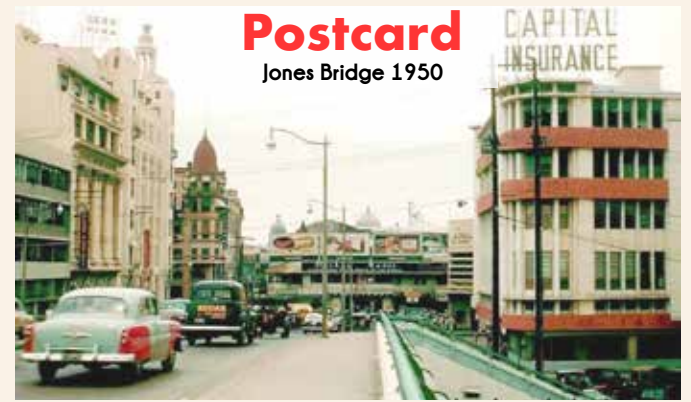
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“One kind word can warm three winter months.”
Japanese Proverb

YASSI pressman

Comfort
in her
own skin



Postcard
Jones Bridge 1950

It will be an an Expensive Christmas for Filipinos



MANILA - Filipinos are feeling the effects of inflation, and it’s most likely going to make Christmas 2022

one of the most expensive family celebrations in years. According to Packworks Sari
CHRISTMAS p21

Heterosexual Rights Bill Filed

MANILA - Completely ignoring the fact that most countries’ current constitutions and longest-standing laws were designed to uphold heteronormative, patriarchal norms, one Philippine lawmaker apparently thinks that heterosexual rights and privileges are in such danger that he filed a bill that seeks to protect straight folks’ rights and their freedom to discriminate against the LGBTQIA+ community.

Manila 6th District Rep. Bienvenido Abante Jr., who is also a Bible Baptist pastor, introduced a bill called the

“Heterosexual Act” that, among other things, aims to “protect” the non-queer majority’s right to “... adhere to, practice, proclaim, promote, propagate, defend and protect their religion and religious beliefs, convictions and standards without interference and/or abridgment”. It would also make it illegal to prevent, prohibit or interfere “... with the free exercise and enjoyment by heterosexuals of any of their rights.”

Maybe someone ought to tell Abante that freedom of
HETEROSEXUAL p3

MARICAR REYES: Mom worry no man will marry me after my sex video scandal

Maricar Reyes has opened up on her journey toward healing after the scandal that she got involved in years ago and which made her mother feel afraid that no man would ever



want to marry her.

The actress, who recently released her self-titled book, recalled the exact moment she learned about the controversy.

MARICAR p7

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With a Little Help from her "Family"



"We are family, not just friends and co-workers," said Cely Tutay. So, when they found out that Mirachelle Capulong's mother was sick in the Philippines, her "family" rallied around to help. And this explains the pictures of Mirachelle (with crown), Felina Tutay (in black) and Dr. Victoria Santiago (in red) teary-eyed during their Family Dentistry Office Christmas party.

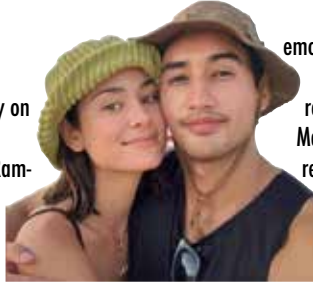
Celebrities congratulate Mari Jasmine on pregnancy

Several stars were quick to congratulate Filipina-British model-blogger-TV host Mari Jasmine after she announced her pregnancy on social media.

Among her well-wishers: Rachel Peters, Rambo Nuñez, Alyssa Lozaga Gibbs, Jericho Rosales, Leila Alcasid, and Dani Barretto.

Pregnant Iza Calzado even commented: "So so happy for you guys!!! (heart emojis)."

Also an expecting mom Bianca King added: "Baby (heart



emojis) so happy."

Her exes Sam Milby and Samantha Lee, haven't reacted yet.

Mari described her pregnancy, courtesy of fashion retailer Michael Concepcion, her "greatest adventure" yet.

"I spent years not knowing where life would take me but I've never been so sure that this is the path I was meant to be on," she related.

"Can't wait for the 3 of us to walk down the aisle!" she added. Mari and Michael announced their engagement early this year.

'Bayad ako': Xander Ford wants to personally apologize to Kathryn Bernardo

Social media personality Xander Ford wanted to meet Kathryn Bernardo to ask for her forgiveness personally years after the leaked recording of him saying she's "sakang."

In his recent interview with Ogie Diaz, Xander admitted that the recording was a paid content.

"Actually du'n sa content na 'yun, labag po sa



kalooban ko 'yun. Sabihin na natin na content, pang-content lang talaga, bayad ako," he said.

"Actually po, nanghingi po ako ng sorry sa mga fans. Pero 'yung isang pangarap ko po tala-na makaharap si Ate Kathryn ng personal, na makapaghingi ako ng sorry," he added.

Happy 10th Birthday to Madison Torreno



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Pia Wurtzbach to join London '23 marathon

Pia Wurtzbach completed the 2022 New York City (NYC) Marathon, finishing strong with a time of around six hours and 40 minutes.

"The NYC Marathon wasn't a race, it was an experience. A life lesson. Probably the best run of my life," she wrote, alongside photos of her holding a medal and those who cheered for her during the race.

Pia said that she felt "happy, grateful, inspired, humbled, and emotional" finishing her first 42-kilometer run.

"I'm grateful for all the support and cheering on [the] ground and online. I saw your signages, your messages, and posts – kahit sobra yung kaba ko and yung pagod five hours in, lumalakas loob ko (even if I was so nervous and tired five hours in, I kept getting energized)."

Pia shared that running a marathon has been a "secret dream" of hers.

Fellow celebrities such as Bianca Gonzalez, Iya Villania, Angelica Panganiban, and Jessy Mendiola congratulated Pia.



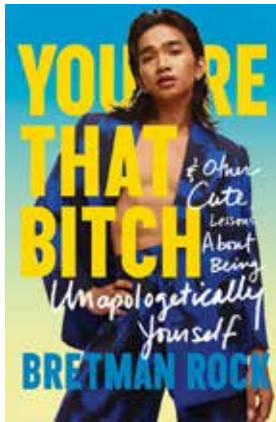
Her fiancé, Jeremy Jauncey, also expressed how proud he is of Pia's latest achievement. "SHE DID IT! [COVID-19], crazy work [and] travel schedule couldn't stop her. I'm so proud," he said.

Pia first announced her participation in the marathon in July, saying that she had been training for it since February.

After successfully completing her first ever marathon in New York City, Pia Wurtzbach will be taking on her "next phase of training" as she is set to join the London Marathon in April 2023.

So Bretman Rock Is Apparently Releasing a Memoir

At this point, the real question is what Bretman Rock hasn't done yet. He's a model, activist, fitness guru, pole dancer, and all-around baddie, among other superlatives and hyphens. Now we get to add Bretman Rock, the author, to the list, as well. The internet star recently announced the launch of his memoir, *You're That Bitch & Other Cute Lessons About Being Unapologetically Yourself*. And it's dropping very soon.



According to a report, the book is said to be a collection of essays, how-tos, recipes, and more, speaking in his signature Bretman voice. It was so funny that Chelsea Handler said of the book: "Bretman Rock is one of the most original, influential voices on social media. This book is hilarious and that bitch made me laugh out loud." Quite the stamp of approval.

We can expect to read about Rock's childhood in the Philippines, his family life, and his experiences of being an immigrant. It will also be revealing some other sides to the star, like his days on the varsity team or his honor student era. The book will also be touching on his bouts with cancel culture, heartache, and, of course,

his identity. In an interview with Esquire US back in 2021, the icon opened up about his youth.

"I honestly think my upbringing and everything that makes me, me is this big orchestra. Everything just makes sense for a reason. The fact that I grew up in the Philippines, which is a very Catholic faith country, [means] my parents are not supposed to be accepting of gay," he said. "I literally would go to church with blush on my face because my grandma put blush on my face, and that's how I grew up. And you would think growing up very Filipino, I wouldn't grow up with the accepting family that I do, but I did.

He added: "And then when I moved to America, that was when I also met more of my mom's side of the family and they were exactly the same. They were just very accepting. Never once did they ever like make me feel any less of myself. If anything, they've always encouraged me to be gay. If anything they encouraged me to be even gay-er."

You're That Bitch & Other Cute Lessons About Being Unapologetically Yourself is set to be released on Valentine's Day 2023.

Jaclyn Jose, Andi Eigenmann no longer follow each other on Instagram

Jaclyn Jose and Andi Eigenmann appeared to have unfollowed each other on Instagram, further fueling speculations that all is not well between the veteran actress and her daughter.

This came after Jose disclosed that Eigenmann and her fiancé, celebrity surfer Philmar Alipayo, did not greet the veteran actress on her birthday.

While both actors have not yet address the matter, Eigenmann further stirred rift speculations after she shared a video about a "narcissistic parent," through her Instagram Stories on Thursday, Nov. 3. The said post has since expired but screenshots of it have been re-uploaded on social media.

In the said video, a psychologist explains what "narcissistic parents" do and describes them as "very emotionally immature." It was also stated that such parents "struggle with lots of unresolved shame," which



result in them having two personas: "opinionated, critical and harsh" in private, and "kind and warm" in public.

Eigenmann and Alipayo have been busy with their surfing activities in Siargao as seen in their respective Instagram pages. Jose, meanwhile, announced her retirement from showbiz last September but she later retracted this, explaining she cannot retire yet as she still has a two-year contract with GMA.



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Life's brighter under the sun



'May nagsarado ba?': Aljur Abrenica still loves Kylie Padilla, open to reunite with wife

Actor Aljur Abrenica is not closing his doors on the possibility of rekindling his romance with wife Kylie Padilla.

In his recent interview with veteran showbiz columnist Aster Amoyo, Aljur was asked: "But you're not closing your doors to the possibility [of reconciliation]?" "May nagsarado ba?" Aljur answered.

"Yung iba nga sinasabi nila wala na talaga pero meron pa, 'di ba? Wala namang nakakaalam kung anong mangyayari. Hindi ko nga alam na maghiwalay kami e. Hindi ko nga alam na magka-kanak kami, 'di ba?" he added.

Aljur said that he and Kylie always talk because of their co-parenting setup. "Sa co-parenting kami nagfo-focus ngayon kasi iisipin

niyo na 'yung mga bata e. Almost every day nag-uusap kami. Kahit hiwalay kami, we're still learning from each other how to be good parents," he said.

Aljur said Kylie will never leave his heart because of their connections.

"Hindi naman siya mawawala [sa puso ko]. Isang dekada kami magkasama, part of myself is siya na e. Hindi ko alam kung paano ko mapu-put into words pero hindi siya mawawala do'n," Aljur said.



"Naa-appreciate ko ang lahat, thank you. Even though 'yung iba nagagalit and may sinasabi sa aking masama, I appreciate that kasi naramdaman ko 'yung sakit nila. Nasaktan din naman ako, nasaktan kaming dalawa," he added.

Aljur and Kylie broke up in 2021. Kylie's dad Robin Padilla revealed that the reason of the split was a third party. Aljur denied that AJ Raval was the reason of the

breakup, but admitted that he and the VivaMax star were in a "getting to know each other" stage.

Kylie and Aljur have sons, Alas and Axl.

HETEROSEXUAL from page 1

religious expression is already protected by a little thing called the 1987 Constitution?

In his explanatory note, Abante argues that members of the LGBTQIA+ community "are clamoring for 'legislated rights' and 'state protection' tailored for their specific kind and class, all in contravention to God's law of creation and procreation and in utter defiance to His statutes and commandments, and the principles and standards of proper conduct and righteous living that He set for an orderly and morally upright society."

LGBTQIA+ community and its allies were dismayed, especially amid the languishing of the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) anti-discrimination bill in Congress, which was refiled this year.

TV personality KaladKaren, a trans-woman, wrote on Twitter: "Again, giving equal rights to the LGBTQIA+ communi-

ty does not mean fewer rights for others. It's not a pie. How can they grant this 'Heterosexual Act' when heteros aren't really oppressed? Ang galeng."

Drag Race Philippines runner-up Marina Summers said, "Equal rights for everyone doesn't mean less rights for your so-called 'direct creations of God.' Oppressed ka teh? At kung ganyan din lang ang hulma ng "direct creations of God", buti nalang bakla ako."

Human rights lawyer Chel Diokno also chimed in. "The proposed Heterosexual Act only serves to legitimize the very real oppression experienced by LGBTQIA Filipinos now. This bill plays blind to the every-day-experiences of those denied services or opportunities in education and employment simply because of their sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. This legalizes the denial of dignity of another human. Whatever we believe in, surely we can all agree this is wrong. The SOGIE Law should be passed instead of this bill."

Against Trucker Convoy, who you gonna call? 😊

Well, it's hard to call the police. If the informations coming out on the inquiry on the Prime Minister's use of emergency powers is to be believed, the police or somebody within the Ottawa police is giving information to the truckers what they are about to do. So, if you are one of the residents of Ottawa, how can you rely on the police? As for Trudeau appearing in this inquiry, it can only go one way for him, an increase in public opinion. Even if the chair of the inquiry rules that Trudeau did not meet the minimum criteria to invoke the emergency act, people will disagree. Let's get real. It's been three weeks. The police said they presented him with a plan. Would you believe it? After three weeks, they have a plan? They should have had a plan three days before the convoy arrived. The Toronto police had a plan. They rerouted all traffic away from the Ontario legislature. The Ottawa police

plan was to let the truckers in with the expectation that they will leave after one weekend. That would be like Ukraine letting Russia march into Kyiv and hope that they leave after one weekend.

Then, Ottawa police chief Sloly suddenly quit in the middle of the "occupation." What was happening within the Ottawa police bureaucracy? On the face of it, you'd think he cannot handle the job. But with all the information coming our now, maybe, the reason the truckers were not being handled by the police was that somebody within was supporting the truckers. Maybe, Sloly gave the order to move in on the truckers. But maybe, somebody in the chain of command was not giving the order. Or maybe, the police rank and file are sympathetic to the truckers.

Let's put this in perspective. Trudeau used the emergency powers after three weeks. Ford

declares state of emergency (SOE) in less than a week to remove the truckers blocking the border with the United States.

Ford said the SOE will be used to levy stiffer fines and penalties on protesters, including a maximum penalty of \$100,000 and up to a year imprisonment for non-compliance and also revoke the personal and commercial licenses of anyone who doesn't comply with the new orders.

Ironically, despite publicly declaring that he is with Trudeau, he never sent the Ontario police to Ottawa to clear the truckers harassing citizens there. Yet, he acted quickly at the Windsor-Michigan border blockade.

In fact, Trudeau said that Ford was hiding during the "Ottawa Occupation"

After Trudeau's appearance at the inquiry, almost everyone agreed, he came out a lot better than everyone else.

Piolo Pascual on His Teen Years in the U.S.: 'I Worked as Security for the Oscars'

Before "Papa P" was a thing.

Before he became the leading matinee idol of the 90s, Piolo Pascual had to leave his acting career behind when he flew abroad to join his mother in the U.S. He stayed in the States for two years—an experience that the actor reveals to have "shaped" him into the man he is today.

"I was working odd jobs because in the states you have to do everything," the 45-year-old reveals in his interview with Korina Sanchez. He used to work as an ER representative in a hospital while working as a security guard for the Oscars.

"Una akong pinasok sa hospital, I was doing midnight shifts sa [emergency room], admitting patients. Kumukuha ako ng information [nila]," he shares. "On the side, I was working as



a security guard for the Oscars. It was a good experience for me because I saw all the Hollywood stars."

Piolo returned to the Philippines to continue his acting career when he turned 21, and he has his mom to thank for the hardworking actor he is today.

He adds, "[My mom] was very practical, she had to raise all of us. I really saw that hard work is important. I learned it from my mom, nothing comes easy, nothing happens overnight, so you have to work for it."

From working as a security guard on the red carpet, to walking the red carpet himself. You have truly come a long way, Piolo!



Aljur Abrenica on AJ Raval: 'Gusto ko lang maging masaya siya'

He didn't admit directly the status of their relationship but if there's one thing that Aljur Abrenica wants for AJ Raval, it's happiness.

He said, "Ang gusto ko lang e maging masaya siya, na

lahat ng wish niya, lahat nang makakabuti para sa kanya, mangyari."

"Di ko alam kung maibibigay ko 'yon para maging buo at maging isa kayo..."



he added.

Of course, this doesn't mean he has totally forgotten about his kids as with ex-wife Kylie Padilla.

Asked what he aims to give them as gift this Christmas, Aljur shared, "Yung panganay ko

(si Alas) nanghihingi ng motor. Sabi ko, 'Pag-six years old ka na.' Si Axl naman, (toy) excavator, 'yong sa lupa."

"Commitment kay Kylie," he added. "Commitment na I'll always be there for her and for our kids. My attention, my time...lagi akong nand'yan sa kanila whenever they need me. And love."

'She went against all odds for me' Matteo Guidicelli on Sarah Geronimo

Matteo Guidicelli recently paid tribute to his wife, actress-singer Sarah Geronimo.

He did so during a recent episode of the variety show "Tropang LOL," where he's one of the hosts.

In the show's "H.O.P.E." segment, Matteo was able to relate to the story of ex-couple of 10 years, Lionel and Maricar, who both fought for their relationship despite the disapproval of Lionel's family.

Matteo commented: "That's the beauty

of love. Sa pag-ibig, mari-realize talaga natin na hindi tayo perfect as an individual. Pero kapag dumating ang tao na talagang swak sa 'yo — parang puzzle lang yang pag-ibig, eh — dapat magtulungan kayo para maging buo at maging isa kayo..."

He then noted how he really put so much respect for people that goes against all odds.

"Can I add something also — very, very nice to that? I really put so much respect

on people like you; people like you also, brother, that goes against all odds. This is a true example of people, like you, that are so brave," he said.

Then added: "And I'd like to also give it up to my wife, that she went against all odds for me."

According to him, at the end of the day, love is a decision between two individuals. "Not about the people in the family and the people around them anymore, but it's about you and

your partner," he reiterated.

He advised the former couple to always put God at the center of their relationship and always respect each other.

"Kung meant to be yan, darating ang panahon na maging kayo ulit."

Recall that in February 2020 when the 32-year-old Matteo and 34-year-old Sarah tied the knot in a "secret wedding."

More than two years after the controversial event, Sarah extended her apology to her family via social media.



6 GTA FIL-CANS RECEIVE QUEEN ELIZABETH II PLATINUM JUBILEE PINS By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

On the occasion marking the 70th anniversary of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne, several Canadians including six Filipino-Canadians in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), Ontario, were awarded the "Platinum Jubilee Pin of Queen Elizabeth II" in 2022. The Queen, before her death on September 8, 2022, is Canada's longest-reigning Sovereign and the first to celebrate a platinum jubilee. She was Queen of the United Kingdom and 14 other Commonwealth realms.

Among the Filipino Canadian leaders and advocates

who received the Platinum Jubilee Pins is Norma Carpio of Mabuhay Philippines-PIDC, Maria Guiiao of Filipino Canadian Community House, Melinda Manlapaz of the Philippine Independence Day Council, Agnes Miranda of the Philippine Independence Day Council, Tony A. San Juan of the Filipino Heritage Council of Canada, and Teresa Torralba of the Filipinos Making Waves Newspaper and Fun Philippines Festival. The recipients were cited and commended "for contributions and dedication to the community of Eglinton-Lawrence, extraordinary leadership,

altruism, and strong dedication to helping others in the community".

The Honourable Minister of Public Safety and Member of Parliament for Eglinton-Lawrence Marco Mendicino, who aptly presided over the ceremonies, presented the Platinum Jubilee Pins and the MP's Recognition Certificates to each of the honourees on November 20, 2022, at the Columbus Centre, Lawrence Avenue West, North York, Toronto, Ontario. He was ably assisted by his constituency staff.

In his address, Honorable M. Mendicino proudly expressed his congratulations and appreciation to the honourees and their families for "contributing so much" to helping the members of the community and for their extraordinary service in building a progressive community through their exemplary professional responsibilities, business activities, and volunteer work. MP M. Mendicino cited these "qualities of service as values and beliefs" for which Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II lovingly "desired and advocated for" in Her lifetime.

The awardees were accompanied by their respective

JUBILEE on page 12

Maricar Reyes: Mom feared no man would want to marry me after sex scandal

MARICAR from p1

Reyes noted that prior to finding out about the scandal, she felt like she was on “top of the world.”

“I had a serye na part ako ng main cast. ‘Lovers in Paris’ ‘yun, nagte-tape na kami, hindi pa sila umeere. I just came from taping. I went straight to the race (triathlon),” she narrated. “Everything was looking good tapos biglang nawala.”

Reyes initially laughed it off when a friend called her about an item on a tabloid, but she started feeling in denial and disbelief when her agent was the one who contacted her.

She confessed that she had contemplated taking her own life because of the sex scandal, and the only time she stopped thinking

about it was when she realized the effect it would have on her family, if she decided to push through



with it. Given this, Reyes decided to pour herself into her work instead.

In her book, Reyes also talked about her marriage to singer Richard Poon, and the emotional moment she shared with her mother when she was fitting her wedding gown.

“My mom’s eyes suddenly filled with tears. Though we never directly talked about it, I knew my mother had feared that I might never find someone who wanted to marry me,” Reyes wrote. She

worried that no man would ever see beyond what happened to me.”

Reyes confessed that this reaction from her mother was unexpected, especially since she felt like she was on cloud nine at the time.

“Nakita ko from the corner of my eye, gumaganun sya. I rushed to her. I tried to comfort her,” she recounted. “Na-feel ko naman sa kanya na hindi sad tears. It was siguro for her, it was a moment na, ‘Totoo na. Ikakasal na talaga siya.’”

Despite the controversy, Reyes realized she learned some lessons in her journey toward healing and building a relationship with God.

“I’m not thankful for the scandal nor would I want to relive it all over again, but I would never trade the lessons I learned. Never,” she stated.

Reyes and Poon got married in June 2013.

After getting married, several women wrote to her and shared what they were going through. She says, “They told heartbreaking stories, nag-o-open up sila sa akin... questions nila, ‘How do I forgive?’ How do I get over my own crisis?” Reyes wishes that her book helps people experiencing a personal crisis. “There’s really a process, and don’t be too hard on yourself,” she says.

Reyes said: “I hope my story will help or inspire you to find a way out of your dark situation, whatever that may be.” she adds, “Remember, you are not alone and there is always a way out. Laging may SOLUSYON.”

Cristine Reyes, David Chua spotted at concert

Actress Cristine Reyes was seen with actor and director David Chua on the first night of the LANY concert in Manila.

Cristine and David arrived at the VIP section of the MOA Arena at the same time to enjoy the concert.



A source close to David told Philstar.com that they are in getting to know each other stage.

When asked if they are already in a relationship, the source said “Well, hindi pa.”

TikTok users said that Cristine and David look good as a couple.

Cristine and David were both ABS-CBN talents although they haven’t really worked together.

Coleen Garcia shares three-month experience of living in France with family

Coleen Garcia and her family will be back in the country early December after spending time in France for three months. They went to France because of the actress’ husband Billy Crawford’s stint in the 12th season of *Danse avec le stars*, the French edition of the reality dance show *Dancing With The Stars*. Billy won the competition with dance partner and celebrity choreographer Fauve Hautot.

“Actually, sobrang hindi siya bakasyon. Out of the three months that we’ve been here, one day lang kami sa hotel and then the rest of the time, (in) the apartment. So,



of course, iba siya sa buhay Pinas na may mga katulong na may nag-aalalay sa amin. Here, we had to do everything ourselves. So, ibang experience talaga siya,” the actress shared during a virtual media conference for *Kaluskos*, a Cinemalaya film.

Since her role in the film is a working mom, she was asked how she is as a mother to her two-year-old son Amari and what was the main lesson she gleaned from her character.

“I’m speaking from a point of privilege ‘di ba kasi pareho kaming nagwo-work ni Billy. So, we’re able to manage (both career and parenthood). What I’m doing right now is a choice but many people in the world and especially in our country don’t have a choice,” she pointed out.

“Kung kailangan talaga, syempre survival has to come first ‘di ba kasi anong papakainin ko sa kanya, how will I send him to school kung wala kaming kinikita na pera so if push comes to shove, of course. But since I’m given the choice and we’re privileged enough to have the choice, talagang pipiliin ko naman siya. “And iba-iba din naman yun kasi may mga kilala din naman ako na they don’t have to work but, you know, because it is a priority for them (and) because they have certain dreams and goals, they’ll chase after

it (career) kahit meron silang sapat na pera. Kakayod pa rin sila and they’ll still work hard for their careers. Because that’s what they want to achieve in their lives. So, kanya-kanya naman talaga yun,” she added.

Coleen stressed that it is important for her to be with Amari during his formative years. “I guess, where I’m coming from, I know that I’m not gonna have these years forever, I know that I’m not gonna be young forever also. So, I really am sacrificing right now in my career. May nawawala naman talaga sa akin by staying at home but at the same time, I guess it’s deciding what matters more kung ano yung ayaw mong mawala.”

When queried if she and Billy have plans of having a second baby, she just laughed and said, “It’s a good time naman but it’s up to God pa rin at the end of the day.”

Moreover, the 30-year-old mom and actress is not closing doors on doing a “sexier” role again. She said, “I wouldn’t say never because never say never. What if may dumating na napakagandang role and napakagandang opportunity, di ba? It really depends.

“The reason why I’m avoiding it at this point, it’s not because I have a family, it’s not because I got married, a lot of people think that it’s my reason. Pero ayoko lang na magsawa, hindi yung tao, pero ako. Ayoko na magsawa ako sa ginagawa ko kasi parepareho na yung ginagawa ko. I want to try various roles. I feel there’s no growth in sticking to that one theme or that one stereotype.”

The most “daring” role she did was with Derek Ramsay in *Ex with Benefits* in 2015.



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PH resumes deployment of OFWs to Saudi Arabia

MANILA - The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) resumed on Nov. 7 the processing of new employment contracts for Saudi Arabia-bound overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) after the suspension of deployment due to the pandemic and welfare concerns.

The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) will resume on Nov. 7 the processing of new employment contracts for Saudi Arabia-bound overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) after the suspension of deployment due to the pandemic and welfare concerns.

Migrant Workers Secretary Susan Ople said the OFWs to be deployed to Saudi Arabia, especially domestic workers, would benefit from the negotiated new employment contract "that ensures greater workers' protection."

Migrant Workers Undersecretary Patricia Yvonne Caunan said the new employment contracts include insurance coverage for domestic workers and skilled workers covering unpaid salaries, airfare and refund of recruitment costs in case of unfinished contracts and other contingencies.

Insurance coverage

The Saudi government will shoulder the insurance cost for skilled workers while Saudi employers are mandated to pay for the insurance coverage of Filipino domestic workers.

Ople said a delegation from the Saudi Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development will arrive next week to discuss among others, a review of OFW salaries and automa-



Department of Migrant Workers Secretary Susan Ople.

tion of recruitment processes.

The Saudi officials will also discuss with the DMW the status of cases involving the unpaid salaries of thousands of Filipino construction workers dating back to 2016.

Former Labor Secretary and now Manila Economic and Cultural Office chair in Taiwan Silvestre Bello III ordered a ban on the deployment of newly hired domestic workers to Saudi Arabia in November 2021, after the Saudi government continued to fail to settle the unpaid wages of around 10,000 OFWs.

Ruffa on Herbert: A private life is a happy life, what you see is what you get...



Ruffa Gutierrez, Kathryn Bernardo at Herbert Bautista

AYAW pa ring umamin nang diretsahan ang actress-TV host na si Ruffa Gutierrez hinggil sa tunay na estado ng relasyon nila ni Herbert Bautista.

Naniniwala raw kasi si Ruffa na mas magiging tahimik ang pribadong bahagi ng kanyang buhay at iwas-intriga na rin kung hindi na siya magdedetalye about her lovelife kung meron man.

Kasunod naman nito, mariin niyang pinabulaanan na kasama niya ang kanyang dating asawang si Yilmaz Bektas nang magbakasyon siya sa Italy. Wala ring katotohanan na nagkabalikan na raw sila.

Nakachikahan namin si Ruffa, kasama ang ilan pang miyembro ng entertainment media, sa grand launch ng kanilang kumpanya na Gutz and Glow na ginanap sa Hilton Manila last Thursday, October 27.

At dito nga niya nilinaw ang tungkol sa kanila ni Yilmaz, ang tatay ng mga anak niyang sina Lorin at Venice.

"Akala ng mga tao, magkasama kami sa Italy. Siyempre ikukuwento ko naman yun. Marami kasing mga websites ngayon na parang Ruffa-Yilmaz loveteam.

"Ano ba ito? Kung kailan naman kami naghiwalay, parang...bakit ganyan ang mga Filipino, di ba? Kapag together kayo, gusto nilang maghiwalay. And then when you guys are hiwalay, they wanna put you back together.

"So, feeling ko wala na talagang ano, balikan na mangyayari. I'm sorry to disappoint the fans, but I don't wanna play any games, di ba?"

"Siguro the only balikan na mangyayari, is talagang as co-parents to the kids, and have a healthy relationship. But in terms of romantic or magpapakasal ako ulit sa kanya, wala na," paglilinaw pa ng actress-entrepreneur.

Sey pa ni Ruffa, super happy siya ngayon dahil okay na okay ang relasyon ng dalawang anak sa kanilang tatay after almost 15 years.

"I thought that was the beginning of a lot of great things na magko-co-parent kami, and biglang ang daming fans.

"Akala ko it's gonna be the start of a lot of beautiful things to come. Pero maybe what happened in Istanbul is also a closure sa pain na, 'Sino ba talaga yung tatay ko. Hindi ko pa siya nakikita. It's been 15 years. What does he look like, how does it feel?'

"You know, para sa isang bata, there's always the curiousness na, 'I wanna get to know my Dad.' So, baka iyon ang naging closure dun sa pain na iyon.

"Nag-thank you naman si Yilmaz. So, nag-usap kami for a while. But if it doesn't continue, then okay lang. At least, nagkita na sila finally, di ba?" pahayag pa ng aktres.

Samantala, nang mapag-usapan na nga si Herbert, sinabi ni Ruffa na isa ang actor-politician sa mga influences niya para tapusin ang kanyang pag-aaral. Nagma-Masters na raw siya ngayon sa Mass Communications.

Super supportive rin daw si Bistek sa bago niyang negosyo, sa katunayan bago pa siya nagtungo sa grand launch ng Gutz and Glow ay nakausap pa niya ang rumored boyfriend.

"He just said break a leg kanina, and you know he's very supportive and excited siya.

"Ang maganda naman kasi kay Herbert, he's very mature. He supports me in my dreams and goals. Hindi siya nakikialam sa mga gusto kong gawin sa buhay," aniya pa.

Dagdag pa niya, "I read an article, I forgot who wrote about it. Sabi, because natalo siya sa eleksyon, hindi na kami nagpapansinan and hindi ko na siya kinakausap.

"So, I think that's wrong because they don't really know what happens behind closed doors. Tuluy-tuloy yung communication. I believe kasi that a private life is a happy life, di ba?"

"What you see is what you get. So, ano ba yung nakita niyo kagabi?" aniya pa na ang tinutukoy ay ang birthday party ni Tita Annabelle Rama kamakailan.

"Hindi naman kami magka-loveteam, 'no? Hayaan mo, sa next project, puwede!" hirit pa niya.

Samantala, super excited na si Ruffa at ang business partner niyang si Maricor Flores para sa kanilang Gutz and Glow na ni-launch last month.

"Gutz and Glow is the newest lifestyle brand made of the finest functional ingredients and best antioxidants to provide complete skin and body care," ani Ruffa.

Ilan sa mga ipinagmamalaki nilang produkto ay ang Butt and Body Scrub, Disinfectant Hand Soap, Feminine Lightening Spray Mist, Luminous Hand Cream, Lustrous Hand Sanitizer, Blazing Hand Sanitizer, Makeup Remover Wipes, at Intimate Feminine Wipes.

"These products will surely help empower everyone who has the guts to conquer the odds, and exude the glow that will put everyone in awe," sabi naman ni Maricor.

Eva Le Queen, fans laud Michael V LGBTQ parody

Comedy genius Michael V has yet again made the headlines with his parody of Morissette's hit "Gusto Ko Nang Bumitaw" uploaded last month.

The multi-hyphenate artist wrote and sang "Gusto Ko Nang Bumigay" as part of the 27th anniversary of "Bubble Gang."

The parody begins with Michael V left by his wife, played by Chariz Solomon, who told him to prepare for her live-selling session. When she's out of the picture, he begins to sing the familiar novelty song with lyrics that tells the struggles of a 50-year-old closeted man who has been tempted to reveal his gender.

"Gusto ko nang bumigay / Pero too late na siguro / Tagal ko nang pinigil / Pero lalong nanggigil / Kelan pa ako

pwedeng bumitaw," Michael V sings in the middle with the spotlight on him as he does multiple costume changes, usually of colorful dresses and gowns.

When he ends singing, his wife comes back: "Anong ginagawa mo?" she shrieked, which he tries to cover up by saying that he was just sorting out the dresses.

She spoils him by saying that he had been seen singing his heart out to their live audience. It ends with him panicking about what had just happened.

The parody has been viewed almost half a million times since its upload last Saturday, a day after "Bubble Gang" aired on its usual Friday slot.

Comments on social media, particularly on YouTube and Twitter, were generally positive. Some known personalities even commended it.

"Drag Race Philippines" contestant Eva Le Queen retweeted and lauded Michael V.

"Story of a gay man who wanted to come out late in life surely is a redemption from that old, problematic song 'Hindi ako Bakla.' The words 'hindi naman nagpabaya. Kung gusto kong magpabaya mas madali' hits too close to home. Thank you for this," Eva wrote on Twitter.



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Richard Gutierrez topbills ABS-CBN's new action series 'Iron Heart'

Richard Gutierrez takes on his biggest role in an ABS-CBN teleserye as plays the lead character in the exciting action-packed series "Iron Heart."

The story revolves around Apollo (Richard), who is known for his super strength, and how his mission leads him in finding out his identity and his deeper connection with enemies.

Richard took part in the creative process of the and emphasized his desire showcase a modern action series. "We wanted to do more hand-to-hand combat. A more modern approach in terms of cinematography. We wanted to show something different in of action. Matagal na akong napapanood gumawa ng na ganito," he shared.



Maja Salvador did not hesitate to be part of the show after it was pitched to her. "Hindi siya bago sakin pero sobrang importanteng ito because it's ABS-CBN. Ang ABS-CBN ay ang ganda gumawa ng isang teleserye. Na-miss ko gumawa ng isang love story. Madali lang ako napapayag," she explained. Sue Ramirez, who will play Apollo's other love interest named Venus, promises viewers that they will see another version of her after earning praises for her portrayal as Lexy Lucero "The Broken Marriage Vow."

"I think masu-surpass nito ang pagiging daring ko sa last role ko. Not only the outfits as seen in the trailer but ibang iba yung character. Iba yung upbringing," she shared.

Viewers can also look forward to the beauty of Cebu as the creative head, Jay Fernando, said that they will utilize every part of the province.

"If they are the best characters or players of this game, Cebu is the best playground to do this show. You have the pristine beaches, the longest bridge, and high-rise buildings in one town," he said.

Roxanne Barcelo shares update on second pregnancy

Actress Roxanne Barcelo and her non-showbiz husband are ready to welcome their second child anytime soon.

On social media, Roxanne shared updates with her fans.

"We are getting into the 3rd trimester of this pregnancy! Every morning, Cinco and Jiggs kiss my growing belly. I've had some nights of waking up to 2 babies kicking my tummy, one from the outside and one from the inside. It is an experience I absolutely love and will keep in my heart forever," she wrote.

Roxanne also said that these days,



her joy revolves around her family and that has truly become

the "most fulfilling feeling ever."

"The heavens have granted what I have longed for all my life, all in His perfect time," she said.

Last September when Roxanne revealed that she's expecting another baby with Jiggs. It was in 2020 when she surprised fans with the announcement that she got married.

The following year Roxanne gave birth to their first child.

Currently, the former "Pinoy Big Brother" housemate and her family have migrated to Taiwan.

King of Talk Boy Abunda breaks silence on rumors leaving Kapamilya Network

King of Talk Boy Abunda has revealed meeting people from other networks, saying he misses television so much.

"Wala pang confirmation. Hindi ko itinatatwa na may paguusap sa iba't ibang station pero I have not signed a contract. I am in conversation with various groups. But that will be for another presscon. Hindi biro yun," said Abunda, when asked if he was leaving ABS-CBN, during the launch of his latest endorsement for Sendwave, a money transfer app with a mission to make sending funds to loved ones as easy and affordable as sending a text, held in Quezon City on Nov. 14.

"I keep on moving. I just wanna move. Isa lang. I have not much to say. Sabi ko nga that's for another presscon. But I wanna go back to television. That much can say. I really wanna go back to television.

"Ako'y napunta sa digital platform by circumstance. But as what's gonna happen in the future, a lot of things are gonna happen. A lot of movements within or without to wherever I am but I wanna go back to television," Abunda added.

At the same press event, Abunda recalled his life during the pandemic.

"Katulad ng iba, I was so afraid. 2020 I was so afraid because hindi natin alam ang susunod na mangyayari.

"Pero habang tumatagal and July came nagsara na ang ABS-CBN, lalo naging doble na ang takot. Ang uncertainties are not just about life,.

"Ang naging concern ko is yung kalusugan ko so tago ako ng tago. I was spending my time doon sa mga lugar na walang masyadong tao. Hirap na hirap.

"Pero mabait ang Diyos. Natuto akong mag digital. Wag lang tatanggalin sa akin yung gusto kong makapag-interview. Magkaroon ng pagkakataong gawin yung ginagawa ko sa television.

"Pero noong COVID I really

became very busy. Sabi ko nga kung merong 100 na conventions ang mga pharmaceuticals, I probably hosted 90 of them. Financially it was not as much we would be paid during live television or live gigs pero binuhay ako ng Panginoon.

"I was teaching online. I was hosting conventions. I was hosting awards virtually. I hosted TOFA twice digitally. Yun ang naging buhay ko. Nag-adjust din pero nakuha sa dasal. Mahirap pero kinaya," Abunda added.

May maagap na sagot si Boy nang tanungin tungkol sa puwedeng ialok o ibigay sa kanya ng mga TV network management para makumbinsi siyang pumirma ng kontrata.

"Yung nauunawaan kung nasaan ako kasi hindi naman ako 20 years old. I'm not starting a career in television.

"I've been doing this for like kasing-tagal niyo rin. Magkakaibigan tayo.

"Malapit na akong malaos, let's be very honest... I mean, for lack of the better word.

"All of us will go. If there's one immutable law in the business, it is that nothing lasts forever.

"So, I'm at that stage where I wanna go back to where... I wanna be able to do what I do best."

Charo Santos wants more acting work

After winning Best Actress for her excellent performance in the film "Kun Maupay It Panahon" at the just concluded 5th EDDYS, Charo Santos expressed eagerness to do more acting work.

She told us, "Gusto kong gumawa ng pelikula. At saka sana ay may serye na dumating, hindi ba?"

The drama anthology series she is hosting on ABS-CBN, "Maalaala Mo Kaya" is soon to end.

How does she feel about it?

"Well, nakakalungkot, of course but all things must come to an end. Ganong buhay," she said.

"I'm just so grateful for the 31 years that the viewers supported 'Maalaala Mo Kaya.' Nakakataba ng puso na we're on our last two episodes at talagang lungkot at panghihinayang ang naririnig mo sa avid fans ng programa."

Fil-Canadian Manny Jacinto joins new 'Star Wars' series

Streaming service Disney+ has announced that Filipino Canadian Hollywood actor Manny Jacinto is tapped to join the cast of its upcoming Star Wars series, "The Acolyte."

"Production has begun on The Acolyte, an upcoming Original series from Star Wars coming to #DisneyPlus," posted the platform on their social media pages.

Jacinto shared the announcement on his Instagram account @mannyjacinto by posting the cast omnibus but did not make any comment.

According to Variety.com sources, the 35-year-old will be one of the three main characters in the series which includes Stenberg and Lee — best known in film "Hunger Games" and multi-awarded series "Squid Game," respectively.

Born in Manila, Jacinto — now 35-year-old — entered the entertainment industry with small roles in series including "Once Upon a Time," "Supernatural" and "iZombie."

His breaking role came starring as Jason Mendoza on the NBC sitcom "The Good Place" (2016 to 2020). He also appeared

as Waring "Wade" Espiritu in the neo-noir thriller film "Bad Times at the El Royale" (2018) and as Fritz in the action-drama film "Top Gun: Maverick" (2022).

Jacinto will be one of the three main characters in the upcoming series, "The Acolyte."

Set to be Jacinto's biggest project, "The Acolyte" is an eight-part series described by Disney Plus as a "mystery-thriller that will take viewers into a galaxy of shadowy secrets and emerging dark-side powers in the final days of the High Republic era. A former Padawan reunites with her Jedi Master to investigate a series of crimes, but the forces they confront are more sinister than they ever anticipated."

The High Republic era is around 50 years before the events of "The Phantom Menace."

There are many Star Wars projects for Disney+ currently in production which includes the third season of "The Mandalorian" "Ahsoka," "Skeleton Crew" and the second season of "Andor." Other recently released entries include "Obi-Wan Kenobi" and "The Book of Boba Fett."



US dismisses China objections to South China Sea mission

BEIJING -- In an unusual move, the Navy's 7th Fleet issued a rebuttal to China's objections to last month's mission, calling it "the latest in a long string of (Chinese) actions to misrepresent lawful U.S. maritime operations and assert its excessive and illegitimate maritime claims" in the South China Sea. China claims the whole area.

The Navy said that China's sweeping maritime claims pose a serious threat to the freedom of navigation and overflight, free trade and unimpeded commerce, and freedom of economic opportunity for South China Sea littoral nations.

The Navy said its guided missile cruiser

USS Chancellorsville "asserted navigational rights and freedoms in the South China Sea near the Spratly Islands, consistent with international law."

China called the action illegal and said it mobilized naval and air assets to issue warnings and drive off the ship.

"The U.S. military's actions have seriously violated China's sovereignty," said Southern Theater Command, Air Force Col. Tian Junli.

The long-seething South China Sea territorial conflicts involving China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei have long been regarded as a



delicate fault line in the U.S.-China rivalry in the region.

While the U.S. lays no claims to the strategic waterway, freedom of navigation and overflight is in America's national interest. The sea has rich fishing stocks and a potential energy and mineral resources.

In March, U.S. Indo-Pacific commander Adm. John C. Aquilino said that China

has fully militarized at least three of several islands it built in the disputed waters.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken called on China to comply with a 2016 arbitration ruling that invalidated Beijing's vast claims on historical grounds in the South China Sea.

On a visit to the area last month, U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris reaffirmed Washington's commitment to defend the Philippines under the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty. She also announced an additional aid of \$7.5 million to Philippine maritime law enforcement agencies.

That came shortly after the Philippine navy alleged a Chinese coast guard vessel had forcibly seized Chinese rocket debris as Filipino sailors were towing it to their island.

Retirement is calling, Sharon Cuneta

ONCE again, with feeling. Sharon Cuneta just announced anew her intention to retire from show business.

She did so on Instagram, sharing Joanna Gaines' new book, "The Stories We Tell."

According to her, she could relate to the part when Joanna talked about how she was "grateful beyond measure but exhausted."

"This part really resonated with me because, well, I am 56 now - and I am just undeniably EXHAUSTED," said Sharon.

Then she declared: "Retirement is calling."

Not totally, though.

She related that maybe she could pop up once in a while in a movie or two, do a concert, or a TV show, even a series.

That is, if they're not too tiring.

She's "tired," she emphasized.

"All I wish I could do is be with my family and take care of them. And do all those other things I always wish I could do but just couldn't find the time for," she said. Sharon then asked followers to pray with her.

"Thank you so much and I love you all."

Sharon already said the same thing in 2019.

She said she's planning to try semi-retirement after four decades in showbiz.



Neil Arce breaks silence

Neil Arce, the director-producer husband of actress Angel Locsin, has opened up about the numerous YouTube videos maliciously suggesting they have split due to a third party.

No, he is not intending to haul the defamatory content creators to court.

In a message shared by Ogie Diaz in his vlog, Neil said:

"Me and my wife are charitable people. Donation na po namin sa fake News peddlers yang kikitain nila sa pagpakalat ng fake News. Besides deserve naman ng followers and subscribers nila makarinig ng kasinungalingan."



Glaiza de Castro ecstatic over new award

Singer-actress Glaiza de Castro recently won Best Actress at the “oldest” Filipino film festival in the US, FACINE Film Festival.

On Instagram, Glaiza proudly shared how she found out about it.

“So I got these messages at around 2am here in Canada saying something about Liway getting awards,” she said. “Di ko naintindihan agad then @kipobanda told me that I just won another award. Huwatttt.”

She thanked the organizers of the annual Filipino-American cine festival held in San Francisco.

“It’s an honor po knowing that the



winners were selected by an esteemed panel of three jury members: Film scholar, critic, author JB Capino, Indonesian film scholar, curator Gaston Soehadi and film and theater actor, academic Sunita Mukhi,” she related. “Mahuhayang Pili.”

The 2018 Filipino independent film revolves around the story of Dakip, a little boy who lives with his parents- Day and Ric- inside Camp Delgado, a makeshift prison inside a military camp for rebels and criminals.

“On that note, sa mga hindi pa po kanood ng Liway, you can actually watch it on Youtube for free,” added Glaiza.

Paolo Contis to Yen Santos: ‘I’m soooooo proud of you’

Yen Santos was recently named Best Actress at the 45th Gawad Urian.

Of course, she’s proud of her latest milestone, sharing behind-the-scenes photos of the ceremony.

There, Yen could be seen happily holding her trophy.

Her caption read: “a moment I will treasure for a lifetime.”

Among those who congratulated Yen is rumored boyfriend Paolo Contis.



On Facebook, the actor uploaded a picture of Yen alongside John Arcilla who won Best Actor for his performance in “On The Job: The Missing 8.” Yen, on the other hand, won the plum for her work in the 2021 film “A Faraway Land” opposite Paolo. Paolo said: “Congratulations Lilien Santos. I’m soooooo proud of you!! Very well deserved! See you in awhile.”

The awards night was held in Diliman, Quezon City last Nov. 17.

Kathniel is the ‘forever’ 5th grandchild

It can be recalled that veteran actor Ronaldo Valdez was moved into tears upon reading Kathryn’s appreciation post to him.

In his Instagram account on Wednesday, Ronaldo said that Kathryn is now his forever 5th grandchild.

“Gracious, Kathie! Anu ba yan? Aga-aga pinaiyak mo ko, kainis ka! Everything u said, ryt back at ya!” he said.

“All those feelings, I feel for you as well. I think dis is

a mutual admiration society. You will now n forever be my very much luvd 5th apo. Know that u will always be in my heart coz ur special to me. Hugz and 1M kisses, Mwa mwa Tsup tsups,” he added.

Kathryn penned a heartfelt open letter to Ronaldo, revealing that it was her dream to work with the veteran actor since she saw the film “Cedie.”

“Fast forward to 2021, it seemed like God answered my prayer because you agreed to do this project with



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Life’s brighter under the sun



us. You probably have no idea how much it meant to me and how excited I was,” she said.

“I tried to get to know you day by day, cycle by cycle, then whoosh! We just clicked. I had no idea you were as matakaw and into sweets just like me! And ooops, pareho din tayo iyakin. Hahaha! God knows how much I enjoyed doing every scene with such brilliant and genuine actor like you, Tito Ron,” she added.

Kathryn said that Ronaldo is such an inspiration in the industry.

“You show us who you really are behind the ‘veteran actor’ people know you as, and we just loved you even more. I didn’t expect to be so close



to you. Thank you, thank you.... I’m crying again (again) as I compose this message because I realize this is it..it’s finally over,” she said.

“As they always say, no goodbyes. The memories we shared for a year will always be in my heart. You know that I will always be here for you right? Kung makulit si Ali, mas makulit si Kath. I will always protect you and check on you (bec we always want what’s best for you). Seeing you happy make us all happy (I’m saying these on behalf of your ‘trusted circle’),” she added.



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“Kindness is like snow— it beautifies everything it covers.” Kahlil Gibran

Save the Last Dance for Me MP Rechie Valdez

Event Emcee Jerome Perlata invited me to the 1st Yr Anniversary celebration of Caregiver Action Samaritan Movement Inc (CaSaMaMo Inc) last November 6.

Of course, what Filipino party would be complete without special performances. One notable singer was a young man, Cian Cabang.

“I’d like to dedicate this song to MP Rechie Valdez,” said the young man. The honorable

Liberal MP Rechie Valdez, a special guest of CaSaMaMo, is the first Filipino female MP.

“Ehem, naku ha, Bata ka pa, si MP Rechie na gusto mo,” teased Jerome after his number.

The party ended with the picking of special prizes for the ticket buyers which was notable for a policy that founder Leila Elcano announced.

Leila Elcano of CaSaMaMo put some common sense and fair policy on prizes during

parties.

“Even if the person is not here, they will get the prize. After all, they bought the ticket,” she said. “They helped us raise funds already just by buying the ticket. Now, they might not be here because they left because of another appointment or they did not come because they cannot find a babysitter.”

Often, the only reason to give away prizes during parties is to make sure a lot of people stay until closing time. If the ticket has the name of the person, I



CaSaMaMo founder Leila Elcano and emcee Jerome Perlata raffie the prizes.

believe that it is just fair the person gets the prize even if they are not there.

SOCIALLIST p14

Toni Gonzaga is ‘at her best’ as talk show host

Toni Gonzaga is no stranger to being on top trending lists.

Recently, the TV host-actress trended anew because of her interview with actress-entrepreneur Maricar Reyes on her eponymous ALLTV show about “the controversy that changed her life,” which was the latter’s first time to address that video scandal that rocked her showbiz career years back.

“I appreciate Toni Gonzaga so much here. Niche niya talaga ito. She listened so well and when she spoke, it was only to give further clarity and value to my story,” Maricar later wrote on Facebook.

“Napansin ko sa mga tao, when you really listen to them, when you listen to them without any judgment, without any agenda, you just listen... they will warm and open up to you because they will feel it. Mararamdaman mo yung energy ng mga tao,” Toni said about her interviewing style.

For a year now, Toni hosts a popular sitdown series, Toni Talks, on YouTube. Last month, she officially returned to free TV for her first solo talk show, the “more interactive” Toni, on the network backed by business tycoon and former Senate President Manny Villar. Both are produced by Toni’s husband, direk Paul Soriano.

“One of the favorite books that I’ve read is The

Seat of the Soul by Gary Zukav, (it says there) when your personality comes to serve the energy of your soul, that is your authentic power... that’s when you become powerful. That’s why I’m at my best when I do Toni Talks kasi wala siyang effort sa akin. Even yung Toni wala siyang effort, uupo ka lang, makikinig ka lang, ‘yun lang gagawin mo. Wala kang intention na sapawan yung guest mo or bumida ka sa episode na yun, basta ang intention lang lagi is to talk to your guest,” she further reflected.

According to Toni, how she is as a host now has been shaped by her past experiences. “Siguro what I learned from the shows I did before, especially talk shows and live shows, if I were to be completely honest, I learned what not to do.”

For Toni Talks as well as Toni, she has since featured a mixed bag of artists, vloggers, politicians and ordinary folks with some truly extraordinary stories to tell. On choosing guests, Toni admitted, “I see it that the people I really wanna talk to, I really wanna talk to. I don’t want to talk to people who demean others or destroys others. Gusto kung kausapin talaga yung mga taong may stories talaga, yung may pinagdaanan talaga pero wala silang intention na makasakit sa iba. I don’t want to be a part of that.

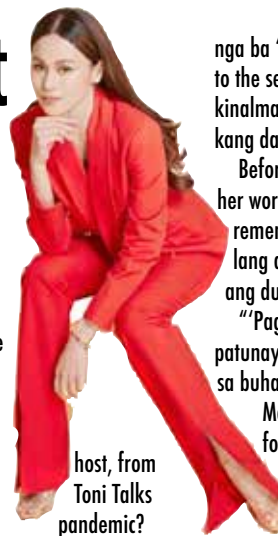
“You want to be part of something that can uplift...

because true power is when you uplift others, nabasa ko yan sa A Promised Land by (former US president Barack) Obama... You don’t try to be the tallest building by tearing other buildings down. And I live with that. That’s one conscious effort I try to do with our program.”

How has she changed as a host, from pre-COVID times to since doing and Toni, both born over the pandemic?

“I’ve become more in tune with myself,” she noted. Toni remembered how this served her well in her interviews with people in high places, including Ferdinand “Bongbong or BBM” Marcos Jr. before and after he got elected as 17th President of the Philippines.

She said, “I remember sinasabi ni Ka Tunying (Taberna) sa akin, ‘di ka ba kinabahan? Siempre iba na yung dati, si BBM nung ano lang siya, private citizen, tapos biglang na-interview mo siya, nasa Malacanang na kayo, ang daming (Presidential Security Guard) nanonood at nanduon yung buong Press Secretary (office) niya, nakabantay sa lahat ng tanungin mo, ‘di ka na-intimidate? Tapos naisip ko, oo nga no, bakit



nga ba ‘di ako na-intimidate? “What I remember is that before I went to the set, I talked to myself in the mirror, I encouraged myself and kinalamhan ko lang na parang wala kang dapat patunayan, wala kang dapat i-impress, dito ka lang mag-interview.”

Before, she’d do interviews to make an impression or prove her worth. “Naalala ko dati, napapagalitan ako ‘pag The Buzz. I remember na-text ako ni Ma’am Charo (Santos) kasi nagpapasikat lang ako, kasi gusto kong magpatunay na I’m a host, parang yun ang dumating na nagpasikat lang,” she shared.

“Pag tinanggal mo yan na wala kang gagawin or wala kang patunayan dito, makikipag-usap ka lang, wala kang gustong gawin sa buhay mo, makikinig ka lang, mas OK.”

Meanwhile, Toni is utilizing both traditional and digital platforms with Toni and ToniTalks. Not that she’s not used to doing multiple things in one day, as she said she was busier at her former network ABS-CBN. But having to focus solely on the talk format, her shows have her “undivided attention.” And when Toni premiered on ALLTV, she couldn’t help but cry on air.

“Na-realize ko lahat ng effort and pagod ng whole team, ginagawa ang Toni Talks tapos naging programa siya na Toni, nagkaroon kami ng sarili naming studio and home. I became emotional because I didn’t expect something like this would happen (that) as long as you do your passion, yung provision, yung next step, magiging malinaw nalang sayo.”

“So I cried because, Lord, ‘di ko akalain na dadalhin mo ako sa ganito kasi OK na ako sa Toni Talks, masayang-masaya na ako nun. OK na ako sa Google AdSense ko na ganito pala ‘pag YouTube. I was content with that. You know, you can always dream for yourself. But I realized that God has a bigger dream for you than you have for yourself.”

‘I love you, too’: Julie Anne feelings for Rayver Cruz

Rayver Cruz heard the words he has been longing to hear from Julie Anne San Jose since his confession last May during the singer-actress’ birthday concert.

“I love you, too,” replied the “Maria Clara at Ibarra” star to the delight of their fans and supporters who attended their first-ever concert together.

Julie Anne and Rayver headlined “JulieVerse,” their first major concert, which gives nod to the name of their fan base.

“Naalala mo nu’ng birthday mo, ‘di ba? Sinabi ko sa’yo kung anong nararamdaman ko, ‘di ba? ‘Yung nandito tayo sa Newport, sa concert. Gusto ko lang din iparinig sa kanila. Julie Anne San Jose, I love you. I love you so much,”



Rayver said.

A smiling yet visibly tensed Julie Anne initially remarked about the sudden confession.

“Ray, ano ba ito?” she said.

After a few moments, Julie Anne

San Jose reveals true feelings at JulieVerse concert

shared her feelings for the actor.

“Hindi. Gusto ko lang sabihin na sobrang grateful ako sa’yo, na dumating ka sa buhay ko. And ang dami nang nagbago sa buhay ko simula ng dumating ka. Kaya gusto kong sabihin... I love you, too,” Julie Anne replied.

Shrieks and cheers erupted from the audience, while the two stars were laughing. They then hugged on stage.

“Pinawisan ako,” Julie Anne quipped, before they segued to the next production number.

Rayver has been vocal about his feelings for the singer-actress who is his “The Clash” co-host and “All-Out Sundays” co-star. Although there was a confession that took place last month, the two has yet to confirm their dating status.

Filipinos are making fewer babies as fertility rate drops

MANILA- Filipinos aren’t so quick to jump on the baby train anymore as the country’s fertility rate plummets to less than two children per woman, the Commission on Population and Development (PopCom) said.

The revelation comes just as the United Nations marked Nov. 15 as the day the world’s population officially reached 8 billion – with a baby girl born in Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital in Manila chosen to symbolize this historical milestone.

“Despite expected increase in the fertility of Filipino women because of impeded access to family planning services during lockdowns and quarantine protocols, as well as the world’s total headcount projected to hit 8 billion on November 15, the Philippines was able to register recent population statistics unheard of in years, with fertility numbers plummeting to less than two offspring per woman,” the commission wrote in a social media post.

The commission cited the Philippine Statistics Authority’s data from this year’s National Health



Demographic Survey that said the total fertility rate of women aged 15 to 49 stands at 1.9 children this year, a sharp decline from 2.7 children in 2017.

The statistics bureau’s survey also showed that the country is already within the replacement fertility level of 2.1 children, or the fertility rate at which women give birth to enough babies to sustain population levels.

The survey also revealed that one in two married women said they no longer desire more children, while 17 percent want to delay their next childbirths for two or more years.

POPCOM Officer In Charge-Executive Director Lolito R. Tacardon said the new development could be considered “a breakthrough” in the country’s population and development programs.



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CAMILINEOS ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO, CANADA



1. Nenita Lora Guarin and Marilou Dato assist Santa Claus; 2. Camilineos President Harold Guarin of RoadSport Honda poses with wife Nenita Lora Guarin; 3. Camilineos officers and members



END OF AN ERA: 'MMK' bids goodbye

After 31 years, "Maalaala Mo Kaya," Asia's longest-running drama anthology, will end its run this year as announced by actress Charo Santos, the program's executive producer and host of the special message.



"Kami po ay tagapaghatid lang ng mga kuwento. Kung mauulit man ang lahat, hindi po ako magdadalawang isip na piliin muli ang role na ito. Kulang po ang tatumpu't isang taon para magpasalamat sa inyo.

"Hindi na po mabilang ang nasalaysay na kuwento dito sa 'MMK' — mga kuwentong totoo, mga salamin ng sarili ninyong buhay na nagbigay ng aral at ng panibagong pag-asa," said Charo.

Debuting on ABS-CBN in 1991, the program dramatizes real-life stories of letters senders as read by Charo on air.

Charo thanked the letter senders, writers, directors, production staff and stars for being part of the program's journey.

"Sa mga artistang gumanap, maraming, maraming salamat. Sa management ng ABS-CBN, sa aming mga sponsors at higit sa lahat sa inyong mga tagapanood, kayo po ang nagsabing makahulugan sa inyo ang aming ginagawa.

"Salamat po sa lahat ng nakaraan at sa anumang paraan na maaaring pa tayong muling magkita. Ito po si Charo Santos, ang inyong tagahanga at tagapag-kuwento," ended Charo.

December 10, 2022 is the last episode.

Kung good deal ang hinahanap ninyo, Harold Guarin ang tawagan n'yo...

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Is Sam Milby leaving ABS?

Sam Milby was asked if there was any truth to the rumor that he would be transferring to GMA-7. According to the grapevine he was being considered for the role of Herlene Budol's love interest in her launching soap *Magandang Dilag*.

"I don't want to talk about offers from other networks," he averred. "As much as possible, I don't want to leave ABS-CBN because they're the one who made me and is instrumental in where I am today in the industry."

"ABS-CBN changed my life remarkably. As long as I can stay with them, as long as they need me, I will stay," he carried on.

Sam still considers that the Kapamilya is undergoing major adjustment after losing its franchise, he wanted the media company to know that he's on its side.

"ABS-CBN is still in a difficult stage right now. After the franchise was denied and then the supposed partnership with TV 5 also didn't push through, it needs us. But the Kapamilya is surviving. It continues to come up with great projects. That's one good thing about them: you can be assured that no matter what, the quality of their projects is always high."

Sam understands the decision of those who transferred to different networks. He believes the management understands them, too, considering permission to "jump ship was sought."

"One good example is Rayver Cruz. Remember, he transferred to GMA even before the pandemic, right? He asked permission and everything turned out fine. He didn't burn bridges, so to speak. I guess, that's the important thing. Make sure that you show appreciation to the station that has given you so much love and so much work and blessings. I think if you keep that relationship and you obtained

permission, things will be alright," he explained.

The actor-singer is also open to collaborations, especially since there are talks that GMA and ABS will merge forces to do a project in the coming days.

"It's a welcome idea for me. That will be nice. It will be good to the industry unlike 10 or 15 years ago when the network war was at its peak. Now, it's a different scenario. Of course, competition will always be there but I think now, they're more open to working together. It's definitely a nice development. So for me, if it's a good role and project, yes... I will do it," Sam ended.

Jericho Rosales rightfully sets boundaries



IF Jericho Rosales was not the chatty-type who'd open up about his past relationships, how much more about his marriage?

A reporter who asked him about the real score between him and wife Kim Jones. Despite his celebrity status, Jericho Rosales keeps his private affairs. There are talks that the couple was going through some rough patch until they decided to end their marriage.

But before he could shed light on the issue, Jericho told the reporter that his wife is doing great.

So what about their reported breakup?

Jericho dodged the question. In fairness, Jericho has never shared his personal what-nots even with close reporter-friends.

If anyone remembers, he also wasn't too comfortable about talking his then-relationship with Heart Evangelista, and how intense it was to the point of getting married. But now when

Heart appears to be a troubled wife to Senator Chiz Escudero, maybe Jericho might speak his mind, yes, and heart for what it's worth.

How excited he is to be doing a film with Piolo Pascual following their jam-packed US-Canada shows together early part of November.

So if Jericho cannot be squeezed to spill the beans about his allegedly stormy marriage, to set the record straight — is he transferring to GMA as reports have it?

JDL Center Stage Singing Contest



YOUTH DIVISION WINNERS: AJ Manuel 2nd; Annalea Marithea Asedillo 1st; Catherine Tiongson 3rd;



PRIME DIVISION WINNERS: Margaret Williams 1st; Precious Hernandez 2nd; Camille Orate 3rd;



SENIORS DIVISION WINNERS: Richel Dangulos 1st; Lulu Crawford 3rd; Dong Dee Sabanal 2nd;

Pinay honor student crowned Miss Supranational Canada 2022

The 21 year old Filipina Scottish-Canadian was crowned among 50 competitors during the Miss World Canada national pageant on Sunday, November 13, 2022 at Richmond Hill, Ontario.

The Miss World Canada pageant is held annually to select Canada's representatives for 5 major international competitions: Miss World Canada, Miss Supranational, Miss Earth, Miss Intercontinental and Miss Grand International.

Alexa Marie Grant, is an honor student at the Schulich School of Business and will be representing Canada for Miss Supranational in Poland in Summer 2023. Pursuing a bachelor's degree in International business, Alexa has centered her professional background on her advocacy for sustainability. She has founded "Beyond Our Now", a youth-led initiative promoting environmental, social and economic sustainability, while empowering youth. She is an Ambassador for several organizations including Tree Planted and ANCOF, and a leader within local youth communities.

Alexa won the Miss Teen Philippines Canada 2018 and Binibining Ipen Canada 2022. She has been the recipient of multiple awards both in academic and extracurricular activities.

Along with Alexa are the winners, Emma Morrison as Miss World Canada, Layanna Robinson as Miss Earth Canada, Patricia Seward as Miss Intercontinental and Yuliya Scherban as Miss Grand International.

Congratulations to all winners.

PHOTO BY STEPHEN NAVALES



1. Juris Encarnacion (RIGHT) helps out at the Lemery Club Christmas dinner raffle. 2. Oliver Encarnacion and Dorie Cabello pose at the Lemery Club Christmas party.



JUBILEE from page 4 spouses, partners, relatives, and friends who

were equally happy and delighted during the 2-hour early afternoon recognition rites. (Tony A. San Juan, OCT).



Filipino- Canadian Honourees posed with Honourable MP Marco Mendicino. Front, L-R: Ella Miranda (on behalf of Agnes Miranda, Tony A. San Juan & Norma Carpio. Back, L-R: Tess Torralba, Melinda Manlapaz, Maria Guiao & Hon. Marco Mendicino.

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Seated from left, board members Lolita Tablang, Wendy Arena, Dr. Nenette De Villa, Nitz Rejdik, Mary Ann San Juan, Flor Marasigan, Priscilla Tumalak, Jeanette Rosales

Standing from left, Acting as Comelec Rose Tijam, board members Philip Beloso, Leo Mascariñas, Theresa Lumanlan, Frank Cruzet, Faye Ronsavelles Eduave, Joy D'Aoust, Efen De Villa, Mel Galeon, Pepito Torralba, Jerome Peralta





Warm greetings on Christmas to you. May you celebrate this day with high spirits and lots of smiles.

Merry Christmas

Dr. Vicky Santiago & Associates Christmas 2022
FAMILY DENTISTRY





RETIRING AT CHRISTMAS

What would Christmas be without gifts? Pictures 1-4 shows gifts being given at Dr. Victoria Santiago & Associates Family Dentistry Christmas celebration. Surprisingly, somebody retired at their office during the pandemic. Pictures 5-6 shows Cely Tutay giving a parting gift to the retiring employee.

'I'm cozy with who I am': Yassi Pressman on her weight gain

Yassi Pressman fired back at a news article that pointed out her apparent weight gain, saying that she has no issues with her figure.

Pressman shared a screenshot of an article titled "Yassi lumobo tiyan, lumapad balakang (Yassi's stomach grows bigger, hips get wider)," which claimed that the actress would have to worry about slimming down again right after a successful weight loss journey in 2021.

The show business tabloid proceeded to say that Pressman had been so preoccupied with her newly Instagram-official relationship with entrepreneur



Jon Semira that she forgot to maintain her physique in the process.

In an Instagram post, the actress reacted to the article. With Beyoncé's "COZY" playing in the background, Pressman then danced in front of a screenshot of the malicious article to signify that comments about her weight will no longer faze her.

"I'm comfortable in my skin, I'm cozy with who I am," she captioned her Instagram post, quoting the Beyoncé track. "[Girl], just do you. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise."

"Women (and men) can be whatever size they wanna be. But thanks for the compliment," she added.

Pressman, 27, is best known for her roles in the ABS-CBN prime time television series FPJ's Ang Probinsyano and the films More Than Blue, Camp Sawi, and Diary ng Panget, among others.

Herlene Budol gets slammed posing on grandma's grave

Herlene Budol is making noise on social media anew.

The actress-beauty queen is being attacked by netizens for posting a photo of her seemingly sleeping on her grandmother's grave.

She did not exactly explain why she did so.

Her caption is cryptic at best.

It read, "Nasumbong konang lahat kay nanay."

Is it her way of saying she is hurting following the Miss Planet International fiasco?

Who knows really?

In any case, a huge number of observers didn't appreciate it.

Some of their comments:

"OA na!"

"In bad taste. Ginamit pa ang patay

para lang magpapansin." "Kaartehan to the max!"



"Herlene, bakit? Pedo naman walang camera na involved. Lahat na lang for content?"

There are a few who were ready to defend her though.

Said one, "Paki nyo ba sa trip niya?"

Note the Miss Planet International pageant was postponed after several candidates, including Herlene, withdrew from the competition.

Herlene has since hinted that it might just be her first and last international pageant.

SOCIALLIST from p12

I think the only time you should give prizes to those who are present are those tickets which just have numbers, like those that are just one big roll.

Singer Cian Cabang dedicates song to MP Rechie Valdez.



1



2

In that case, you have no choice unless they left their tickets to someone who stayed behind.

1. MP Ya'ara Saks presents a letter of congratulations to CaSaMaMo Inc.
2. Marky Hugh tells the struggles of his mother as an OFW to Canada and their story of success.
3. Leila Elcano helps serve food to the guests.



3

Miss Earth Australia does a Mang Inasal mukbang

Miss Earth Australia 2022 Sheridan Mortlock did a mukbang* challenge, trying different items from Filipino popular fast food Mang Inasal. In one of her recent posts on her Instagram



Story, Sheridan shared with fans her excitement over getting to try Mang Inasal for the first time.

"We're eating good

tonight," she said in one post, where she can be seen holding the fast food's latest offering, the Family Fiesta.

She invited fans to join her on Kumu, where she lives-streamed her mukbang.

"I was so excited to try such an iconic local foodery and I was not disappointed. Definitely going back for round 2," she shared on her Facebook post.

The Family Fiesta is the fast food chain's latest offering. The Family Fiesta comes in four different bundles, complete with a platter of Java Rice. The bundles are good for 4 to 6 people.

* Mukbang or meokbang, also known as an eating show, is an online audiovisual broadcast in which a host consumes various quantities of food while interacting with the audience.



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Historic deal between ABS-CBN, GMA-7

A landmark deal, a first in Philippine TV, is the recent agreement between ABS-CBN and GMA-7 in the production of a new tele-series to combine artists and creative talents from their respective camps.

"Unbreak My Heart" reunites the beloved loveteam between Jodi Santa Maria and Richard Yap, the couple who scored a major daytime, long-running hit out of an ABS-CBN series, Be Careful with My Heart. Joining them are Joshua Garcia and Gabbi Garcia, and other cast members coming from both sides of what used to be a network war.

Dreamscape, represented by its head, Deo Endrinal, is producing the series.

This recent tie-up between GMA-7 and

ABS-CBN speaks well of growing cooperation in our television industry. It can result in improved quality in programming and fresh casting requirements that can eventually raise the bar for excellence, excitement and entertainment among viewers and advertisers alike.

Some might say said collaboration between the two giant networks couldn't have occurred had not the pandemic happened, or had not ABS-CBN lost its franchise to operate. But, what's important is the end-result such collaboration can bring to the table of our consumers. "Unbreak" isn't the first collab between the two major networks. Earlier, ABS-CBN assigned airing of Star Cinema movies to GMA. Network also airs some of its programs on TV5 and on its various digital platforms.



Christian Bables opens up on gender identity

Being able to successfully portray different gay characters, many are assuming Bables is actually gay in real life.

But is he?

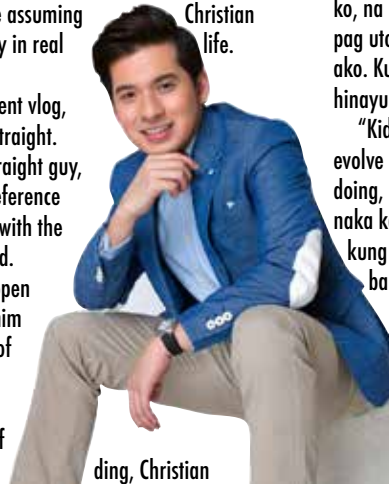
In Ogie Diaz's recent vlog, Christian set things straight.

"I identify as a straight guy, straight man. My preference and my attraction is with the opposite sex," he said.

Not that he isn't open to the possibility of him falling for someone of the same gender as he is.

Seemingly tired of the continued prod-

Christian life.



ding, Christian

took to Twitter to further discuss the matter.

He wrote: "Nakatawag interesadong interesado kayong malaman kung ano ba ang 'tunay na gender' ko, na para bang parte yun ng bawat pag hinga at pag utot niyo. Ok to set the record straight, TOMBOY po ako. Kung hindi pa kayo maniwala, ewan ko nIngg mga hinayupak kayo. Good night mga vuhkla."

"Kidding aside, mami naman! 2023 na! Sana mag evolve kasama ng panahon ang brains natin. What you're doing, my friends, is GENDER STEREOTYPING. Ibig sabihin naka kahon parin kayo sa nakaugaliang standards ng kung ano 'lang' dapat ang kilos at itsura ng lalaki at babae. Salot yan."

He continued, "This will be the LAST time na papatulan ko ang kamangmangan na ito... Don't ask for an explanation coz the world doesn't revolve around you and your ego. Basta wag kakalimutang rumespeto. Piliing umunawa kesa sa makapanakit. Oki?"

Filipinos say gov't must strengthen anti-corruption laws

MANILA - Filipinos agree that the government should strengthen anti-corruption laws, representatives, agencies, and collective mechanisms to implement and fulfill its international commitment to fight corruption, according to a Pulse Asia survey.

Respondents said 36 percent of Filipinos believe that controlling corruption will benefit the recovery and development of the country's economy, while 22 percent believe it will improve the condition of ordinary citizens.

Stratbase CEO and Democracy Watch

Philippines lead convenor Prof. Dindo Manhit said concerns about transparency and accountability in government cannot be addressed unless it is prioritized by the government.

"Considering that majority of our people are poor, imagine the responsive governance system—they can basically uplift the lives of our people because resources after resources are placed in the bureaucracy. That's money spent coming from people's taxes," he added.

With the Marcos government's proposed

P5.268 trillion budget for 2023, Manhit emphasized the need to ensure efficient and proper spending of public funds.

Corruption top concern for businesses

Survey showed that 91 percent of Filipinos believe that in order to effectively control corruption, the government should cooperate with various forces and groups in society, such as civil society, academia, private sector, mass media, and ordinary citizens.

He also noted that a recent survey conducted by the Management Association of the Philippines among business leaders showed that 67 percent believe that cor-

ruption is the leading factor delaying the country's economic recovery.

"We just have to work together, continue pushing it and making it a top agenda of government and society as a whole group in the Philippines," Manhit explained.

"It's good to have the private sector—to listen to them, to engage with them, instead of vilifying them because that's what President Duterte did. Data shows that the public knows the role that the private sector plays and they have played it through the years: job creation and investments, which uplifts the lives of people," he added.

ECONOMY from p1

The surprising performance was driven by increased spending on restaurants, hotels, and travel, as well as investment, as schools restarted face-to-face classes and COVID-19 restrictions were lifted.

"This turnout signifies that Filipino families are close to returning to pre-pandemic life," Balisacan said. But he warned the country faced a "considerable burden" from high inflation and the impact of recent tropical storms.

"The economy could have been stronger (in the third quarter) if not for this inflation," said Balisacan.

The country was on track to meet the government's annual growth target of 6.5 to 7.5 percent for the entire year, he added.

But London-based Capital Economics expects Philippine growth to slow in the coming months as the higher cost of living and weaker global demand bite.

"We think economic growth will slow from 7 percent this year to just 5 percent in 2023," said Gareth Leather, senior Asia economist.

National statistician and civil registrar general Dennis Mapa said

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the economy gained strength from the agriculture, industry, and services sectors. Mapa said the last time the economy grew by 7.7% in the 1st 3 quarters was in 2010.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said the economy was headed in the right direction, but external forces posed a challenge.

Albay Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, highlighted

the signs of strong economic growth so far.

"OFW (overseas Filipino workers) remittance figures also jumped in August, near the end of the quarter. Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) showed cash remittances sent through banks stood at \$2.72 billion in August, higher than the \$2.60 billion a year earlier," Salceda said.

The growth rate was also due in large part to faster growth in wholesale and retail services, financial and insurance activities, and the construction industry.

"The positive growth is consistent with the overall goal of the current administration to reinvigorate job creation and poverty reduction," she said.

How Ogie Diaz handles bashing

Would you like to know about hot showbiz issues and laugh out loud at the same time?

The Ogie Diaz Showbiz Update on YouTube of veteran talent manager Ogie with co-hosts Loi Villarama (a.k.a. Mama Loi) and Dyosa Pockoh (alternating with Tita Jegs and Ate Mrena) is a combination of fun and juicy showbiz chika for their over half a million subscribers.

Ogie said the idea of creating showbiz-related content came to mind after his and Mama Loi's casual conversation about a celebrity, who became a trending topic two years ago, gained a huge number of views.

It was November 2020, when Ogie and Mama Loi thought of setting up a camera while they were relaxing in the pool and talking about everything under the sun, including that trending topic about a celebrity. The random livestream became a hit.

Mama Loi said they try to avoid making offensive comments. "We don't resort to that just for the sake of views, aside from the fact that we have respect for each and everyone."

Ogie also stressed they don't want anyone to end up feeling depressed while watching their online show.

What is beyond their control are



Talent manager Ogie Diaz (center) is joined by Loi Villarama (a.k.a. Mama Loi, left) and Dyosa Pockoh in presenting fun showbiz-related topics on the Ogie Diaz Showbiz Update on YouTube. The online show is recipient of Gawad Amerika's 2022 Most Influential Online Award.

the bashers having a field day and sending them harsh comments. Some have gone to the extent of posting below-the-belt remarks.

"It would be a shame if we don't have any (basher). It's better if there's many," Ogie quipped.

Mama Loi said never did they answer back those who left nasty comments on their channel, although it's a different story if the verbal beating is directed at their loved ones.

Ogie went on to share that he received a message from a guy warning him not to dare go to Europe for a show or else, he will put him in a shameful situation in front of the audience. "Pag sa personal page namin, p'wede kaming mag-comment kaya 'yung nagsabi nun sinagot ko, 'Wow, masabi lang na nasa

Europe.'"

The harshest message Ogie received was from a man who dissed his looks and worse, even wished bad things to happen to his daughters.

"I screen-captured the message of that father who has two daughters and I sent him a message, 'Ang ganda ng pamilya mo. Alam mo hindi ko iwi-wish 'yung winish mo sa akin na mangyari sa mga anak mo. Kawawa naman kasi sila at walang kamalay-malay na ganito ang tatay nila. Gusto mo ba i-message ko sila na ganito ang tatay nila?' He replied by saying sorry to me," Ogie recalled.

"Sa akin naman, 'pag nag-sorry na okay na ako. I will not report them. Unless, (they do it again)."

They also make sure to be fair to celebrities they feature. Dyosa said Ogie always tries to reach out either to the artist or the manager if there is an issue that needs clarification or follow-up.

Asked if there's a "right formula" for creating content that clicks with viewers, Mama Loi said there isn't one. "What is important is how you present your content to the audience and as long as you are enjoying what you do, it will reflect on your videos."

DOES AGE MATTER?

TO some, 15-year difference between two people madly in love with each other can be a yawning chasm. But not for Edu Manzano, 67 and Cherry Pie Picache, 52.

Theirs is a sequel to a quiet yet decent romance some 20 years ago.

Little did Cherry Pie think she'd end up with Edu again when a lot of things got in between. I can't help but have these giddy moments



(yes, at my age!) every time I see this couple together – whether in pictures or on vlogs.

There's something about this meant-to-be pair which makes you want to fall in love again.

Oh, I just love the casual stroking as if reliving their teenage years.

"Hon" (short for honey) is what Edu and Pie address each other as though they were husband and wife.

Edu turned 67 last September 14. In her text, Pie called her "my good-looking man, but most importantly, a good human being."

She ended her greeting with "Hon ko" as if someone out there would snatch Edu from her.

Prior to that, some naysayer wished that Pie would be Edu's last girl "kasi ang tanda mo na!"

For sure, such comment didn't come as a pebble in Edu's shoe.

Seeing Edu and Pie (at their age) both happy, fulfilled and ecstatic, who wouldn't want to be married?

But is wedding on the horizon? Hopefully.

'Oh My Korona' star Pooh feels blessed with showbiz projects despite the pandemic

Known for his iconic punch lines and hilarious acting skits, it's no wonder that Pooh has become one of the most successful stand-up comedians in the industry.

At the recent media conference with Cignal Entertainment, stars from Oh My Korona, Sing Galing Regular, Sing Galing Kids, and Sun-tok Sa Buwan gathered to celebrate the grand finale of their respective shows.

Becoming one of the main characters in the comedy sitcom "Oh My Korona," Pooh shares how thankful he is to be part of the first season of the show and its upcoming second season.

"Yung sa season 2 kasi parang hindi pa namin alam kung kailan mag-iistart kung meron bang kasunod, pero kinakasaya namin is maganda yung kinalabasan ng season 1 at nagustuhan ng mga tao," he says.

Joining him is his co-star Jessie Salvador who plays CJ on the show. Since getting back on several projects, Pooh also shared that he misses doing live shows.

"Yun ang sobra kong namimiss, sa katanuyan meron akong sing-along bar sa karuhatan, valenzuela. Pero hindi muna ako sumasampa kasi hi-



nahayaan ko muna yung mga bago, hinahayaan ko muna sila ang magshine," he adds.

Aside from his projects, the comedian is also thankful for all his close friends who helped and checked on him during the pandemic, although he got a little emotional when talking about another iconic comedian and one of his close friends Chokoleit.

"Namimiss ko si Chokoleit, sobrang namimiss ko pero hindi para sumunod ako ha! Kasi si Chowky yung huhubugin ka niya maging strong," he also says.

PHILIPPINES

For the Ninth Consecutive Year, the Philippines Is the Deadliest in Asia for Land Defenders

The country is said to be the fourth-deadliest in the world.

The Philippines has been named the deadliest country in Asia for land and environmental defenders yet again.



Global Witness, an international organization that tracks the killings of land and environmental defenders since 2012,

had put the Philippines at the top spot in Asia for the ninth year in a row. It said that 19 environmentalists were killed here during the past year.

"Each and every death of a defender is a sign that our economic system is broken. Fueled by the pursuit of profit and power, there is a war over nature and the frontlines are the Earth's remaining biodiverse regions," the report read.

Land conflicts were said to be the main culprit in these attacks. A quarter of the killings in 2021 were associated with mining, as well. What's worse is that about 40 percent of the fatal attacks in the organization's findings had targeted indigenous communities, specifically in countries like Mexico, Colombia, Nicaragua, Peru, and the Philippines.

When compared to killings in 2020, the Philippines' numbers nevertheless had a slight dip. The group had recorded 30 killings in 2020. As of its official tally, there has now been 270 land defenders who've been killed between 2012 and 2021. Global Witness also claimed that roughly 80 percent of killings in the Philippines over the past decade were defenders protesting against company operations.

"Steaming ahead with development projects without any consideration for human rights raises serious concerns about the future of land and environmental defenders in a country with one of the highest levels of killings of defenders in the world," it added.

The Philippines ranks as the fourth deadliest in the world. It only trails Brazil at third with 26, Colombia at second with 33, and Mexico at first with 54.

France offers free submarine, in exchange for something big.

Submarines have long been on the wishlist of the Philippines when it comes to creating a credible minimum defense posture in the West Philippine Sea. Back in September 2022, France expressed its willingness to help the Philippines acquire its very first submarines.

In exchange, France wants to explore the Philippines' waters in search of precious resources.

Faustino says the Philippines cannot just allow that.

"It has to go through a constitutional process. We cannot just do that," Faustino said.

According to Naval Group Vice President for India and Asia-Pacific Nicolas de la Villamarque, if the Philippines purchased submarines from France, it could take up to 10 years for the navy to train its personnel in navigating and operating the submarine.

"It's much more about what we can provide [as] a global partnership in terms of education, training, in terms of transfer of technology," de la Villamarque was quoted by PhilStar.

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Neil Arce denies breakup with Angel Locsin, impregnating Maxene Magalona

Producer Neil Arce shut down speculations that he and wife Angel Locsin are now separated and he impregnated Maxene Magalona.

In Ogie Diaz's latest video blog on his YouTube channel, Ogie showed that Neil sent a text message to the host and talent manager, shutting down rumors.

"Me and my wife are charitable people. Donation na po namin sa fake news peddlers 'yang kikitain nila sa pagpakalat ng fake news," Neil said.

"Besides, deserve naman ng followers and subscribers nila makarinig ng kasinungalingan," he added.

Ogie said he hopes that the issue will now subside now that Neil broke his silence.

"Sana naman matahimik na 'yung mga gumagawa ng pekeng balita. Utang na loob," Ogie said.

The host assured the public that Angel and Neil are still together and just making a social media detox.

"Sila pa rin po. Very very much together pa rin

sila. Ako na po ang nagsasabi," Ogie said.

He also quashed rumors that Neil impregnated Maxene.

"Isa pa no, 'yung nabuntis si Maxene Magalona, kawawa naman 'yung bata. Ang daming fake. Dapat 'yan ang dina-down," he said.

Meanwhile, Maxene posted on her Instagram account a photo of her showing her body as proof that the pregnancy

rumors are false.

"When you're truly at peace and in touch with yourself, nothing anyone says or does bothers you and no negativity can touch you," she captioned the post.

Rumors of Angel and Neil's separation began when social media users noticed that the couple haven't posted on their social media accounts since August. Different YouTube channels with clickbait titles and thumbnails, meanwhile, claimed that Neil impregnated Maxene.



Manila-born baby symbolizes 8 billionth in the world



MANILA - There are officially eight billion people in the world — and a baby girl born in Manila symbolizes this fact.

Baby Vinice Mabansag, who was born at Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital in Tondo, Manila on Nov. 15, was chosen to mark the eight billionth person in the world.

Representatives from the Commission on Population and Development were there to welcome Vinice's birth, who was delivered by her mother at 1:29am, November 15.

"We just witnessed the world's eight billionth baby in the Philippines. So we waited around two hours starting 11 pm last night and

the baby was delivered at around 1:29 am, normal spontaneous delivery," SAID Dr. Romeo Bituin, the hospital's chief medical professional staff.

Vinice's birth comes as the United Nations predicts the global population would reach eight billion on Tuesday, the day she was born.

"This unprecedented growth is due to the gradual increase in human lifespan owing to improvements in public health, nutrition, personal hygiene and medicine. It is also the result of high and persistent levels of fertility in some countries," the UN wrote.

The UN said that while the world's population took 12 years to grow from 7 to 8 billion, it will take until 2037 or 15 years for it to reach 9 billion — "a sign that the overall growth rate of the global population is slowing."

The government-run Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital is designated as the country's national maternity hospital and is known as the world's busiest maternity facility, with 60 to 80 babies born each day.

Rangel's 'DIKA' brings all the kilig

Rangel opens her heart to the warmth of love with her latest single "DIKA."

While love is a topic all too familiar, the singer-songwriter focuses on the brighter side of being in a loving relationship through lyrics that are sure to bring a smile to your face. As the chorus goes: "oras ng kalungkutan / 'di ka bibitawan/hahawakan ang iyong mga kamay".

"As a pessimist, it's easy to look at these words as an illusion, kasi di ba may 'walang forever' na notion non-stop," Rangel shares. "But it's just unfair to those who are really down for the long run. So I thought it'll be nice to look at the bright side sometimes and come from a hope for the best/I'll always be there for you point of view, because who knows? Maybe it will work out," she adds.

Love songs in the Philippines are abundant, but Ran-

gela's optimistic and bubbly perspective on love focuses on hoping for the best, which comes as a reassuring and sobering truth without being too twee. Pop-friendly melodies and Rangel's soothing voice bring "DIKA" towards effervescent heights. As Rangel opens her heart, listeners might end up opening theirs at least add to their kilig

Rangel Fernandez, better known under the mononym Rangel, is a



and songwriter. Rangel's love for music began at the tender age of three and has not slowed down since.

Despite being shy, she frequently joined talent competitions in her childhood, supported by her family and friends.

At the age of 13 Rangel began to write her own music. Later on, she made her foray into the music industry playing at the Filipino-favorite noontime show

Eat Bulaga! with the now disbanded pop-rock group Music Hero.

The last few years have been proven rewarding for

Rangel, as a dedicated group of fans follow her and her talents. It is also during this time when she released her most popular single "Hanggang Saan". Her live performance of this hit at Wish 107.5 garnered almost 1 million views as of writing.

The sincerity in her songwriting and the emotions in her voice make her stand out from the rest of emerging Filipino acts. She has worked closely with famed local rock band Mayonnaise, among others, and continues to establish a direct connection with her fans through her YouTube channel and social media accounts. Rangel is signed under Warner Music Philippines.

"DIKA" is out now on various digital music platforms.



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'Pandemic baby' brings Piolo and Kathryn together

"It was a very brave thing to do," said Piolo Pascual of the decision of Kathryn Bernardo to partner with him on a project. The project, however, is neither for the big nor small screen. The two Kapamilya artists got together to open a new boutique resort called Isla Amara on Lio Beach, Palawan.



Piolo Pascual (left) and Kathryn Bernardo collaborate on a project, but it's neither for the big nor small screen.

that I start investing for the future."

El Nido, Palawan, is the one and only choice for Piolo. "I like the island vibe. I like the fact that the area is not as busy, not as urbanized as the others," he added. "I've always loved El Nido. If I

would be asked to name the first place in the Philippines I'd go to in order to relax and bond with my family, I'd say here," declared Kathryn.

Enjoying the grind

For her, Isla Amara is a manifestation of a long-time dream.

"Whenever I get asked about what I want to have or accomplish 10 to 20 years from now, I would always say, 'I want to have my own boutique hotel in El Nido.'

I'm so grateful that it finally happened." Kathryn said she would also offer her input in creating the resort.

Meanwhile, Piolo said he is building a similar establishment near his farm in Batangas.

Piolo is currently on a monthlong tour of Canada and the United States for a series of concerts with Jericho Rosales. In December, he will start shooting an action-drama film with young actor Kyle Echarri. He will then shoot alongside Sam Milby, "and a surprise leading lady," for a series that will be streamed on Netflix. In March, he will begin rehearsing for a play that will be staged at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

On the other hand, Kathryn and Daniel will sit down with ABS-CBN executives for a movie that they will shoot and release in 2023.

Alex Gonzaga to netizens joking about her miscarriage: 'Go lang!'

"The urge to make Alex Gonzaga miscarriage jokes is irresistible S."



This is the tweet that actress Alex Gonzaga recently reacted to.

She even reposted it, writing: "Pssst! Go lang if that will satisfy you i won't mind i'll be the first one to laugh pa. You're welcome."

Not a few were triggered. One said, "Masyado

ka kasing pa relevant..."

Alex answered: "Day madali lang yan problema mo e di wag mo ko pansinin."

When someone interjected: "Dose of your own medicine."

Alex said: "Yes and it's FUNNY!"

Anyway, some expressed support for her.

A netizen wrote: "Hope you'll feel better Ate Alex, this kind of topic is not joke at all. They'll think na porket comedian ka, lahat ng nangyayari sa buhay mo nakakatawa na. Mga nakakaawang nilalang! Napag mahalataang walang nag mamahal sa kanila at puro inggit at laman ng katawan. We love you."

Of course, Alex appreciated the sweet words.

"Aaaaw thank you but i'm really okay. Wala talagang dating sakin yun..."

Meanwhile, on Facebook, Alex shared the screenshot of the tweet.

She captioned it with: "OKAY LANG talaga kung san kayo masaya."

Sharon Cuneta reveals near split with husband Kiko Pangilinan

The veteran singer-actress assured fans that they have already made up with a series of adorable snaps with her hubby.

In one caption she wrote: "Bati na kami today after



pagkahabit habang LQ mula pa nung nasa U.S. kami ni Nana @reginevalcasid!!! Kaya sa lahat ng Korea vlogs ko sa YouTube di kami halos magkatabi!"

On another Instagram post, the Megastar

joked about how she thought she would be single after their lovers' quarrel.

"Kala ko single na ako uli next year. Ayan buti bati na," she said.

Over the weekend, Sharon and her family attended the birthday party of Judy Ann Santos' daughter Yohan.

Isabel Santos shares photo of her and John Lloyd Cruz holding hands

It seems like John Lloyd Cruz and Isabel Santos are slowly opening up about their relationship.



Just recently, Isabel shared behind-the-scenes photos of them

attending an event.

The last picture shows the two holding each other's hands.

Many netizens bombarded the comment section with heart emojis.

A few months ago, Isabel posted a photo of her and John Lloyd on a tricycle date.

Talk about Isabel making sweet music with John Lloyd has been making the rounds for some time now.

Isabel is the daughter of contemporary Filipino artists Soler and Mona Santos and the granddaughter of late award-winning painter and cartoonist Mauro Malang Santos.

Vice Ganda gives more cash to 'Karding' survivors and rescuers in 'Everybody Sing!'

Viewers witnessed Vice Ganda's kindness again as she personally gave an additional P40,000 to the songbayanan of typhoon Karding survivors and rescuers in "Everybody, Sing!"

In the jackpot round, the songbayanan only got six correct answers that led them to earn P60,000. But Vice surprised them when she announced she'll be adding P40,000 to their cash prize so they can take home P100,000.

"Nawa po ay makasama ang programang ito at munti ninyong napanalunan sa muli ninyong pagbangon. Mabuhay po kayo, mga Kapamilya," Vice told the contestants.

She also thanked the songbayanan for sharing their stories of hope as they bounce back from a challenging



Vice Ganda dresses up as relief pack in 'Everybody Sing!'

year. "Maraming salamat po sa pagshare-share ninyo sa amin ng kwento ninyo. Hindi man maganda ang pangyayari na naibahagi niyo sa amin, may mga aral po kaming natututunan sa mga ibinahagi ninyong kwento at patuloy kaming sasaludo sa mga bayani na nagbuwis ng kanilang mga buhay," Vice added. Since the first season

of "Everybody, Sing," Vice has been personally extending financial assistance to some contestants of the show.

Meanwhile, Isst Nov. 13, the songbayanan of fisher-folks took home P40,000 after they answered four song



Songbayanan of typhoon Karding survivors and rescuers

titles correctly in the jackpot round.

The community singing also became extra special on Sunday when Klarisse de Guzman visited and participated as a singer in one of the rounds.

An original concept of ABS-CBN, "Everybody, Sing!" is a unique Filipino game show that aims to underscore the importance of bayanihan and teamwork in communities especially during this pandemic. The show has been nominated in the Venice TV Awards and Asian Academy Creative Awards in 2021.

Bea Alonzo now legal resident of Spain

Kapuso actress Bea Alonzo happily announced yesterday that she is now a legal resident of Spain after making a real estate investment of at least 500,000 euros (approximately P30 million) in an apartment in Madrid.

Bea looked radiant and refreshed as she and Alden Richards arrived in Cebu City to promote Start-Up PH which will have its last few episodes in December.

The actress said she just came from long vacation in Europe and the highlight is her getting the Golden Visa, a loose term for the Spanish Government's Residency by Investment (RBI) program.

"Galing ako sa isang mahabang bakasyon. 26 days, almost a month. Kakauwi ko lang this week from Europe. The reason why I went there was because I wanted to get my Golden Visa to Spain, so am now a resident of Spain," Bea revealed.

As a Spain resident, Bea is not required to stay in Spain but she can travel visa-free through the Schengen area of the European Union. This benefit can extend to her mom, Mary Anne.

Bea can also work in the continent and apply for citizenship after two years.

"Yung Spanish government kasi, if you have a



certain amount to invest sa real property nila, you will be granted a Golden Visa which means you are automatically a resident. After two years, you can apply for citizenship which am not gonna of course, but, at least, there is that option," Bea narrated.

Alden and Bea, who play Tristan and Dani in Start-Up PH, promoted their hit series in Cebu via Kapuso Mall Shows at Gaisano Grand Mall in Mactan and Ayala Center Cebu

"I've always been fascinated with the idea of living abroad. But not because I already have a place there doesn't mean doon ako titira. Of course, am gonna live here (Philippines). It just so happened that I love Madrid, I love Spain and I have a lot of friends there," the actress added.

We asked Bea if she is interested to work in Europe as an actress and she said she can consider it "but it's not something I'll be actively pursuing."

"Parang ilan lang ang oras. 365 days lang sa isang taon. Wala na akong oras," the busy actress replied, laughing

Bea admitted that travelling is her "guilty pleasure," it is how she unwinds.

"You're working on yourself because you're always a work in progress. So when you travel, you expand your horizons, you discover so many things about the world and, therefore, you can see the world from a different perspective. It's also about working on myself and my mental health," she noted.

Is there hope for a Jason-Moira reconciliation?

IS singer-songwriter Jason Marvin Hernandez wooing back his estranged wife Moira de la Torre through his latest song?

Consider the lyrics of his newly released ditty "Ako Na Lang."

"Tanggap ko nang ayaw mo na sa akin/ Patawad at nasaktan ka/ Tanggap ko nang di mo na kaya na manatili pa/ Hanggang saan ko pa ilalaban 'to?/ Hanggang kailan maniniwala na dapat tayo?"

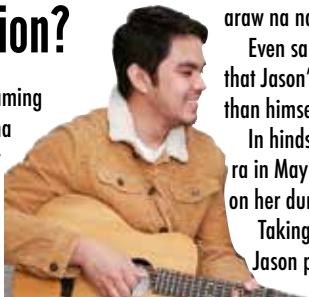
While the first stanza speaks of hope — albeit too little — the next lines are one of acceptance and resignation over the end of a relationship. Here goes:

"Hindi ko ipipilit ang sarili ko sa 'yo/ Dito pala

natatapos ang ikaw at ako Maraming salamat sa mga alaala mo/ Sana ang aking kasunod ay maibigay lahat ng pagkukulang ko/ Patawad, paalam sa iyo."

The day before this was released on YouTube and Spotify, Jason shared the inspiration behind his composition "in a hopeless romantic way."

He wrote, "Ito ang mga salita, linya at nota na nagligtas sa akin noong mga gabing nakakalunod ang lungkot at nakakabingi ang pagsisisi. Ito ang mga tanong na umiikot sa isip ko noong mga madaling



araw na nawawala ako."

Even sans further explanation, it's pretty obvious that Jason's first person reference in the song is no less than himself.

In hindsight, Jason confirmed the breakup with Moira in May this year after he confessed to have cheated on her during their three-year marriage.

Taking full responsibility for the stupid mistake, Jason promised to "try my best to be better."

While the lyrics are "swak na swak," I believe that Jason could have given it a more apt title.

Anyway, will Moira take this song to mean her estranged husband's subtle way of saying "Let's give our marriage another chance?"

Is it Jason's intention in the first place?

Heart Evangelista snubs Vicki Belo, Alex Gonzaga?

Alex Gonzaga and celebrity doctor Vicki Belo made clear that they were just joking when they said that Heart Evangelista snubbed them at a fashion event.

Vicki earlier shared a Youtube vlog with Alex where they talked about their Milan Fashion Week experience.

In the said vlog, the two mentioned seeing Heart in the fashion show, saying that the fashion icon supposedly gave them the cold shoulder.

"Heart, ano 'to mars? Sa Manila magkakaibigan tayo. Mars, nanood ako ng 'Luna Mystika,' mars," Alex said while referring to Heart's former TV series. "Mars we're in the same fashion show, hindi ka man lang nag-hi!," Vicki said as she told Alex, 'Di ba nandun kami sa Gucci, front row tayo 'di ba?'"

'Hoy Heart!': Alex Gonzaga, Vicki Belo snubbed by Heart Evangelista in Milan Fashion Week?

After the supposed snubbing incident was picked up by local media outlets, both Alex and Vicki turned to their respective social media pages to clarify that it was nothing but a joke.



"Ay. Hindi po kami nagkita sa Milan biruan lang po namin yan ni Dra if you watch the whole vlog," said Alex in a Facebook post.

"Heart is nice since 'Pangarap na Bituin' circa 2007 pa po sakin at magkaibigan kami. Hindi na dapat ginagawang news mga ganito," added the actress-vlogger, referring to the TV series they co-starred in the past.

Vicki, meanwhile, explained through a video on her Instagram story that the snubbing incident did not happen at all since they never met and that Heart was not aware of their presence in the fashion event.

"I just want to set the record straight, it's not true that Heart snubbed Alex and me. How could she snub us when she didn't even know we were there. And we never ever saw each other. Kasi naman, if you watch the vlog, you will see that Alex and I were just kidding and joking around," said Vicki.

She furthered: "I was so thrilled because Alex mentioned Heart and me in one sentence and we all know who the fashion powerhouse Heart is. Kaya naman you should watch my vlog para alam niyo ang truth."

Bianca Gonzalez recalls being in 'emotionally,' 'physically abusive' relationship

Actress-TV host Bianca Gonzalez has called for an end to violence against women (VAW).

On Instagram Nov. 25, Bianca wrote: "Today is day one of #16Days of Activism to raise awareness on how REAL gender based violence is."

According to her, in her teen years, she was in an "emotionally" and "physically abusive" relationship and it was only when she mustered up the courage to tell a friend about it that they helped her "wake up" and realized she had to get out of that situation.

Bianca then declared: "I pledge to listen, and do what I can to help others who may be in the same situation, to encourage them to voice it out and share even to just one person, because that is when empowerment to get out of the cycle of violence begins."



She pointed out: "Ending the culture of violence and inequality will take all of us working together. Together, we can #EndVAW."

Bianca has encouraged others to share their stories.

"Share your story or state your pledge on your social accounts, and tag #OrangeTheWorld and #UNITEPhtoEndVAW to help spread the word. #16DaysOfActivism starts today until December 10, and every day I will be sharing your posts to reach more people, so please do tag me as well."



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ABOVE, Caregiver Action Samaritan Movement Inc (CaSaMaMo Inc) officers and members pose with Congen Orontes Castro. RIGHT, CaSaMaMo Inc officers and members pose with MP Rechie Valdez.



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Kim Chiu ticks hosting off her bucket list

Since her victory in the first edition of Pinoy Big Brother Teens, Kim Chiu has been living the dream in the entertainment business. She starred in several projects on the big and small screens, sang several hit songs, performed in shows and concerts, and has even joined other celebrities in hosting stints.

It seems that Kim has done it all. But she still has some dreams in showbiz that she would like to fulfill. Before the year ends, it'll all come true as ABS-CBN tapped Kim to host Dream Maker, ABS-CBN's reality talent search in partnership with South Korea's MLD Entertainment and Kamp Korea.

Although Kim is no stranger to hosting, thanks to her experience on It's Showtime, her new venture is different and warrants a place in her books.

"Sobrang iba, aside from first time ko na ako lang mag-isa ang nakatayo doon sa gitna. First time ko kasi mabigyan ng opportunity for the longest time na ako mag-isa ang mag-host para sa Dream Maker. I'm very grateful and I'm very honored to be part of the show. Grabe, sobrang malaking bagay ito para sa akin, para sa career ko. Kaya I'm very happy and thankful," Kim said during the media conference for Dream Maker.

Kim is ready to take on the role of host for the new reality talent search show. Unlike others who undergo some preparation before going under the spotlight, Kim teased that the only thing different about her that viewers should expect is her wardrobe, as it will feature a more South



Korean vibe.

Her latest hosting stint also adds to her list of projects, aside from appearing on Asap Natin 'To, It's Showtime, and returning to the small screen. It's lucky that Kim is well-versed in time management and can fit everything into her schedule, even having some time for her personal life.

Since Dream Maker is a collaboration between ABS-CBN, MLD Entertainment, and Kamp Korea, several personalities from South Korea, including directors, producers, writers, and mentors, are present on set. Ryan Bang joins Kim in interacting with them as he helps translate Filipino to Korean and vice versa.

During the media conference, Ryan gushed about Kim's hosting skills and how these impressed the network's South Korean guests. Like Kim, Ryan is ecstatic to be part of the show and help the contestants achieve their dreams.

"Gusto ko lang makatulong sa show. Natutuwa ako. Talagang itong Dream Maker, tama yung pangalan kasi matutupad yung mga pangarap ng Pilipino na gusto nila maging global icon. Hindi ito biro," Ryan said.

Dream Maker will hone the talent of aspiring pop idols aged 13 to 22. They will receive mentorship from an international panel of Korean mentors and trainers, together with Filipino mentors Darren Espanto, Bailey May, and Angeline Quinto.

The top seven participants will travel to South Korea and undergo rigorous training on the craft before debuting on the world stage.

Kuh Ledesma focuses on life as singer, single mom, and follower of Christ

Known for her songs "Til I met You", "One More Try," and "I think I'm In Love," Kuh Ledesma became the "Pop Diva" in the Philippines.

Despite all the fame and success, she has had in her career, the singer was never new to the challenges and heart-breaks she experienced throughout her journey.

During an interview for Aster Amoyo's "TicTalk" on YouTube recently, Kuh got serious about her relationship and how opening to the Lord became her way of moving on.

"Everything I believe is according to God's plan. He developed in me a stronger faith. Marami din kaming pagkakamali, both of us not just my husband but even I. Marami akong narealize when my husband is not around anymore," she said.

Going through her second separation, Kuh became more focused on herself and her daughter Isabella.

"We manage because we have Christ in the center of our lives," she added.

Aside from doing concerts outside the country, Kuh is currently living at Hacienda Isabella in Tagaytay, where the venue also holds events like weddings and team-building.

According to Kuh, she opened her doors to more than 200 OFWs during the pandemic.

"Very grateful sila that time, pagkalockdown walang nagbukas na hotels because everybody was too scared. We were very happy to have them here, and then nagba-Bible study kami dito, and nage-share ako sa kanila," Kuh mentioned.



Zeinab Harake bonds with Ivana Alawi after Wilbert Tolentino controversy

There's clearly no bad blood between Zeinab Harake and Ivana Alawi even after the former's controversial remark against the actress-vlogger, as revealed on Wilbert Tolentino's vlog.



The two were seen getting along and enjoying a night out with some company, as seen in the photos shared by Zeinab on social media on Tuesday.

"Laughtrip night with my fav spot and fav pips i love you guy's so so much," Zeinab captioned in a tweet.

In an Instagram story, Zeinab shared a photo featuring Ivana's back facing the camera, writing as caption, "my beautiful view".

Ivana also took to her Instagram stories a photo of her with Zeinab where the latter wrote, "I love you."

To recall, Zeinab figured in a controversy after Wilbert Tolentino released a "revelation vlog" where he exposed Zeinab's messages allegedly badmouthing celebrity YouTubers including Ivana, Robi Domingo and Alex Gonzaga.

In the said conversation, Zeinab described Ivana as "mataas ang ihi." She has since aired apologies to the persons involved in the revelation vlog.

Zeinab and Ivana previously collaborated for vlogs in their respective YouTube channels.

What made Pops rethink her retirement plan

Retirement was something Pops Fernandez had already considered.

But after two successful concert series in the United States this year, Pops—who had been "semiretired" for the past couple of these days.

"I have been away [from the live music scene] for a long time. I haven't sung in a while... So In my mind, I'm ready to retire. But when you're on stage again and feel the energy of the audience, you can't help but feel drawn back in," she said at a recent video conference. "And lately, I have been getting opportunities to do shows."

Pops couldn't be more thankful about the "unexpected blessings" she has been receiving. "I feel grateful that I'm being given chances to perform, and not just perform — I get to still, with the best of the best," she said.

Due to the "overwhelming response" to "3 Divas," the producer VP Entertainment, is now planning to bring the show on tour in the United States and in the Philippines. "We're looking forward to a possible tour and making the shows even bigger," Pops said. "God has been so good." On the subject of longevity, Pops cited three things that she believes has helped her stay and thrive in show biz for as long as she has: passion, honesty and adaptability.



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CHRISTMAS from p1

IQ, the prices of staple Christmas recipe ingredients are increasing even in sari-sari stores, which could put a damper on your noche buena and media noche plans.

Sari IQ, the intelligence arm of B2B startup Packworks, has found that the prices of culinary milk, cream, canned fruits, and cooking oils have all experienced spikes in recent weeks, which will make fruit salads, leche flans, and halo-halo a little more expensive this year. With the cost

of living on the rise, inflation is the last thing we need with Christmas around the corner, but there's no avoiding the increase in holiday food prices.

The price of milk and cream went up by 11.84 percent, with milk packs and containers costing approximately P10 to P15 more expensive than previous prices. According to Andres Montiel, Chief Data Officer of Packworks, attributes this increase to the fact that most culinary milk and creams are imported at a time when

the dollar has the upper hand over the peso.

Meanwhile, prices of palm, vegetable, and canola oils soared by 5.95 percent and are now being sold for approximately P80 more per liter. Even mayonnaise and peanut butter increased by 5.77 percent, costing about P40 more expensive per kilo. Dairy products like cheese and ice cream are also pricier, up by about 5.28 percent. Canned goods are also more expensive with a 5.26 percent increase, while canned

fruits and vegetables are also up by P20.

"These prices could go up further through 'ber' months, and the demand will definitely be higher. Our local households may be able to skimp on other items, such as clothing or gas, but they have to eat," said Montiel.

One increase might be forgivable for the budget, but when the price of almost every staple Christmas ingredient is getting higher and higher, the only solution might be to revamp your menu into something more affordable in 2022.

DonBelle ushers big screen comeback

DonBelle — Donny Pangilinan and Belle Mariano — is the loveteam to beat these days and for all the right reasons.

The loveteam made a debut in 2019 but became a household name in 2021 via the hit iWantTFC original series, "He's Into Her." That same year, they starred in the highest-grossing Filipino film for 2021, "Love is Color Blind." Truly, the onscreen partners have been making waves among the Filipino audience.

As Pangilinan and Mariano displayed their acting prowess, they became the "New Gen Phenomenal Loveteam." As such they were fittingly chosen to headline Star Cinema's big screen comeback via "An Inconvenient Love."

Through this movie, the audience and DonBelle fans can expect the two to step into more mature and relatable roles that depict the sentiments of this age.

Sharing how different this is from all

of the projects they've done, Mariano said in a press conference, "I can say this is really far from the others because most of the projects we did, you'll see how adulting is, but here, we're all grown up. We have experienced the struggles in life, the inconveniences in life so it's far from before."

Pangilinan seconded, saying they have done many firsts for this movie.

"I think maturity-wise, even the way we attack the scenes, it's different now because we now know how both of us work especially coming from a series that has the same cast and director for a long time. But now, it's all different. We get to experience working with other actors as well — very talented and amazing crew. It really worked well hand and hand."

"I feel like whenever we're put in a different scenario, different environment, we also learn more from each other and from those around us. It's nice that I get to learn more with her



and to see how different she'll do her character here. It's really the journey we go through with the characters," Pangilinan detailed.

With their undeniable success on screen, DonBelle admitted that there is indeed pressure surrounding their rise to fame. But according to the two, the most important thing is that they always give their all in everything they do especially in this movie dubbed as "the romcom of this generation."

"I think what's important is that in everything that we do, we really give our best. We're really serious about the craft, the material. When this was presented to us — and we talked to direkt [Petersen Vargas] about how we would attack it — our only motivation is to give back as much as we can to those watching

us, those who will go to the cinemas for the first time again. I think saka na namin iisipin yung expectations basta dito, we did our best and we will continue to do that. If we can put a smile on their face, have them enjoy this material, it will be worth it because everyone worked hard for it," Pangilinan said.

Mariano continued, "The pressure is always there but what is important is that we always give our best and put our hearts into whatever we do so we can give our supporters what they deserve. We're very grateful that we were given this opportunity to star in this movie. This is the first one in a while, sobrang nakaka humble. I'm proud of what we created because I know we did our best."

In Star Cinema's comeback movie, Ayef (Mariano) and Manny (Pangilinan) reflect the view of this generation — a need for a convenient love.

Ayef works in the 24-Ever convenience store, while striving to have an anima-

tion career in Singapore. On the other hand, Manny runs HalaManny, a plant boutique shop and is also a secret social activist. After an unexpected meeting, they get along because of their shared belief towards love — it is just another inconvenience. With the many sacrifices they already have on their plates, they agree to a contractual relationship but can they truly love with an expiration date?

"So many things that makes this special. Our inspiration really is to be able to showcase something during all these things that are happening in the world that will hopefully bring back to how things used to be. But for me what makes this special is that I can really feel that the team is really genuine, and their heart is in it. We really want to show that it's time to go back to cinemas and it's time to see a movie that we can enjoy together outdoors and have an amazing time, cherish it with family," Pangilinan proudly noted.

AJ Raval gives birth to baby with Aljur Abrenica

Sexy actress AJ Raval gave birth to her child with Aljur Abrenica, talent manager Ogie Diaz reported.

In his YouTube channel, Ogie revealed that he has a reliable source claiming that AJ gave birth to her child in a simple hospital in Pasig City last November 18 or 19.

"Nanganak na si AJ Raval noong November 18 or 19 diyan sa isang payak na hospital sa Pasig," Ogie said.

The veteran showbiz reporter added that Aljur was waiting outside while AJ was giving birth to their child in her own hospital room.

"Sinabi na nanganak sa isang payak na ospital sa Pasig itong si AJ na noong idinating doon ay nakatakip ang mukha. Pero hindi siya do'n sa delivery room nag-deliver at ni-room-in na lang. Ibig sabihin kung saan siyang room doon na lang ginawa ang delivery," Ogie said.

"Habang si Aljur Abrenica daw ay nandoon sa labas ng madaling araw noong November 19, nasa loob siya ng sasakyan hanggang sa eventually nalaman ng ating source na si Aljur nga kasi tinanggal ang facemask," he added.



The source said that AJ's face was covered but she was identified because of the tattoo in her chest.

"Kaya na-identify na si AJ 'yon kasi may tattoo sa dibdib," Ogie said.

"Hanggang sa ma-prove nila na AJ Raval daw iyon bukod sa tattoo sa dibdib," he added.

AJ, meanwhile, posted a photo of her with a Christmas tree. She, however, didn't show her tummy in the photo.

Last August, AJ's father Jeric denied that AJ is pregnant.

"Hindi (s'ya buntis). E bakit siya nag-shu-shooting? Saka kung buntis, e, 'di mabuti, at least hindi pala siya baog," Jeric said, laughing.

AJ was a no-show at the recent special screening of her Vivamax movie "Us X Her" with Kiko Estrada and Angeli Khang.

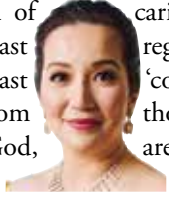
Kris Aquino throws shade at new Darryl Yap movie in birthday tribute for Ninoy Aquino

Amid reports that controversial director Darryl Yap is directing a new movie about

Ninoy titled "Martyr or Murderer," Kris said that they can't rewrite history that her father is a hero.

"Subukan mang baguhin ang kwento ng kahapon, it's from you i learned to NEVER show anger, NEVER reveal your

weakness. The child of Ninoy & Cory, the last still carrying their last names, learned from both: Faith in God, Patience, protect-




ing your Integrity, standing firm w/ your God sees all & that's what matters," she said.

Candid SPOOF

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



Philippine Consul General Orontes Castro inducts the new officers of the CASaMaMo Inc. at the 2nd anniversary Christmas party.




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MH Productions students pose around Pinoy HipHop festival producer Yana Alvaro which featured JROA, SkustaClee, and FlowG.

'Isang bangungot': Wilbert Tolentino reveals Hipon Girl's 'traumatic' Miss Planet International experience 2022 pageant

Wilbert Tolentino, manager of Herlene Budol, revealed circumstances that led him to withdraw the beauty queen out from the Miss Planet International pageant.

Tolentino uploaded on YouTube a video titled where he told all the events that led up to the competition's tumultuous postponement to 2023.

The vlog began with clips briefly explaining the Miss Planet International pageant, followed by images of the beauty queens who would be participating at this year's edition, which was going to be in Uganda, including Budol.

After the intro, Tolentino showed videos of the participants rehearsing, and of Budol showering praises for her fellow beauty queens.

Tolentino then said that the contestants were not given food during their break, and later on doubled down on accommodation issues that stemmed from a lack of coordination and budget restraints.

Social media posts from the representatives of Jamaica and the Czech Republic expressing grievances prompted Tolentino to officially withdraw Budol from the competition.

The vlog ended with clips of the remaining contestants gathering together, and with Budol visibly crying she begged for her and her companions to depart the venue.

"I am very hurt. Not only did we lose a lot of money and lots of effort, but the loss of time. But we will never lose hope because we have a bright future awaiting back home. This is indeed a traumatic experience for all of us but we fought for it until the end," said Tolentino following Budol's withdrawal.

Herlene shared Tolentino's vlog on Instagram, calling the experience "isang bangungot" (a nightmare) and "masalimuot" (difficult).

Miss Planet International 2022 will no longer be held in Uganda, and instead will be held in Cambodia in January 2023.



Celing Guevarra celebrates her 83rd birthday.



BABY TALK

Everybody loves a baby as these pictures prove when everybody goes "coohicoo" around Dr. Myra Caballero's baby during picture-taking at Dr. Victoria Santiago & Associates' Family Dentistry Christmas celebration at the Old Mill Toronto restaurant.

Yassi Pressman is GSM 2023 calendar girl

Yassi Pressman confidently flaunted her curves as Ginebra's 2023 calendar girl.

"Proud to be your Ginebra San Miguel Calendar Girl 2023," Yassi said on Tuesday, November 8, alongside a 30-second clip of her dancing to Meghan Trainor's "Made You Look."

In the video, the 27-year-old actress donned five outfits that showed off her physique – including a white crop top paired with a beige bikini bottom, and a white flowing skirt with only a huge straw hat covering

her upper torso.

During the launch, Yassi said that she's "surprised and shocked and honored" to be the brand's chosen endorser. "At the end of the day, being a part of such a great legacy is something that's gonna be a milestone in my life," she said, according to ABS-CBN News.

Yassi followed in the footsteps of other stars who've been Ginebra calendar girls – Pia Wurtzbach, Ellen Adarna, Kim Domingo, San-ya Lopez, and Christelle Abello, to name a few.

Yassi is best known for her roles in the ABS-CBN prime time television series FPJ's Ang Probinsyano and the films More Than Blue, Camp Sawi, and Diary ng Panget, among others

KAINAN NA

I was curious and went to see Kainan Na meet-up, or pop-up, a group of Filipino cooking and baking artisans. I ended up with a few goodies. I shared the puto with my brother in law Kuya Wally and did he happily said that "it's good." He also finished Pocket Bites' Chicken empanada by Janet Lim and he was also impressed. Then, I had the Kalamay from Nueva Ecija

by Maria-Maria which comes in a jar for dessert. I like that it comes with its non-too-sweet syrupy broth. I also liked the Kalamansi squares and Food for the Gods by Janet Lim's Pocket Bites. My sister and Kuya Wally were actually very impressed with the packaging. Of course, they would not be impressed if the food wasn't good at all. Oh, I took a bite of the Janet Lim's sansrival already and I like that I did not find it cloyingly sweet.

I had a chat with Janet Lim who said

that they got their start at Fun Philippines festival.

"So, we decided we should form a group so we can support each other," said Janet. "We're actually looking for a place, like a food hall, she said.

I think that's a good idea to have a permanent retail space so people will know where they can go when they want to buy food from one of your members.

Congratulations to all the Kainan Na food artisans.



Heaven Peralejo ditches bra in b-day post

Actress Heaven Peralejo celebrated her birthday Friday, Nov. 25.

To the occasion, she posted an Instagram photo of herself sans bra.

No, she didn't actually show her breasts.

She had them covered with her arms.

Heaven wrote, "Level 23 in this game of life."

Fans were wowed, allowing the post over 66,000 likes.

Several celebrities commented on the post, too.

These include Darren Espanto, Gab Lagman and Mark Anthony Rosales.



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This Filipino Writer Won a Harlequin Book Deal After Pitching Her Idea on Social Media

It could happen to you.

Paulia Belgado became a romance novelist by posting 280 characters on Twitter and less than 500 characters on Facebook. The global publishing company Harlequin was holding a pitch event on social media, and so Belgado decided to try her luck. Her story pitch caught the attention of the editors, who initially asked for a partial draft manuscript.

That was in December 2020. Exactly one year later, the writer got the call that her submitted manuscript had been selected for publication, and signed a two-book deal with Harlequin/Mills & Boon.

Belgado's debut novel, *May the Best Duke Win* was released in August 2022, with an Italian version published in September 2022. She is the first self-identifying Filipino to write for Harlequin Historical—published in both print and digital formats—and only the second Filipino romance author to be supported by the publishing company (the other is a contemporary romance author published under their digital-first imprint). Since then, Paulia has completed her second book, due to be released in March 2023, and her growing fanbase will be pleased to know that she recently signed another two-book deal with Harlequin Historical to extend the series.

Accidentally in romance

Love may be universal, but it's no mean feat for a fledgling romance

author—and a person of color, to boot—to get the attention of an international publishing giant. It helps that Harlequin is intentional and innovative in its approach to authorship. Besides providing mentorship and scholarship programs targeting diverse voices, Harlequin also runs the #RomanceIncludesYou pitch events twice a year to bring in story pitches from authors in underrepresented communities. Typically, editors receive around 140 to 150 story pitches, and request 30 to 40 completed manuscripts from select authors, per event.

Belgado has worn many professional hats: singer, PR assistant, flyer distributor, nanny, farm worker and ghostwriter. She is an avid reader who has always loved the world-building in romance and how it transports readers to a different time and place. Writing romantic fiction under her own name, however, seemed an unattainable dream. But in the midst of the pandemic, when she saw Harlequin's #RomanceIncludesYou call-out, she figured: why not just go for it?

"Most people probably have a completed manuscript, but I didn't because I wasn't even sure it was going to get picked," she tells *Esquire Philippines* in an email interview. "I decided to enter at the very last minute, actually. I had a lot of self-doubt, like why would they pick me—a Filipina who has never even been to England—to write a historical romance? But then I thought, what have I got to lose? It's 280 characters and, if I fail, it's not

like falling flat on my face in the middle of a crowded room (or worse—onstage!). The gutsy move paid off, and so she became "your friend who wrote a book during the pandemic."

Historical romance continues to be a very popular romance subgenre according to Harlequin, which has offices in 15 countries and is marking 72 years of publishing romance novels this year. The company sells more than two books per second on average.

"We select stories for publication from pitch events the same way we do for all acquisitions—we look for talented authors with strong, vibrant voices who write compelling romance stories with characters that readers will love," said Carol Dunsmore, manager of author communications and events at Harlequin (Toronto), also via email. In Belgado's case, she quotes acquiring editor Bryony Green who spoke of "being captivated by Paulia's lively writing style and her unusual characters, particularly her heroine who is a Victorian railway engineer."

Why representation matters

The distilled premise of *May the Best Duke Win* paints the portrait of a proto-feminist with a dilemma: Kate Mason, a brilliant engineer, gets caught in the machinations of her industrialist father who intends to ease his American company's expansion into the English market by brokering a ducal (or one relating to a duke) marriage. As the reluctant bride, Kate intends to seize con-

trol of her life (and take her rightful place in the family business, Mason Railroad & Locomotives' being her happy place) by choosing the optimal groom. Proper Edward Phillips, the Duke of Seagrave, seems perfectly suitable, albeit a bit of a dunce. Whereas the handsome, antisocial, and anti-marriage Sebastian Wakefield, the Duke of Mabury, threatens to derail her plans. Two rival dukes, a family scandal, a secret, a clash of temperaments, and a deadline make for good romance.

Based on a study commissioned by the Romance Writers of America in December 2017, romance is most popular among women (82%), but also enjoys patronage from men (18%). The study revealed that a significant percentage of romance readers are younger and becoming more diverse. To cater to these new audiences, historical romance is evolving to include more diverse voices. Harlequin's #RomanceIncludesYou, for one, seeks out writers who identify as Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BI-POC), biracial or multiracial; authors in LGBTQ+ communities; members of marginalized ethnic and religious cultures; writers living with disabilities; and writers who identify as neurodiverse.

As a new writer, Belgado felt compelled to create what she calls an "unconventional heroine," while staying true to the conventions of the historical romance subgenre. From the outset, she envisioned a book series about

women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).

"So, it wasn't just about clothes and titles and ballrooms, but there was a scientific aspect to it because my heroine was a train engineer," she says. "I not only had to research about how locomotives

work(ed) in 1842, but they had to be historically accurate. I couldn't describe things or processes that hadn't been invented yet." Her upcoming books, she assures, would feature even more unusual heroines.

It was also important for the erstwhile ghostwriter to use her real name and not a pseudonym. First, to honor her parents, to whom her book is dedicated. And secondly, to serve as a touchpoint for fellow Filipinos.

"When I started reading romances in the '90s, I would go to National Bookstore and browse the shelves, but I never see Filipino-sounding names on the covers. That's probably why I never thought I would ever get published, because to a teen living in Manila in the Philippines (pre-internet, mind you), an international book deal seemed like such an unachievable dream. So I thought, what if I did see last names like mine or other Filipino authors on the book shelves? Would I have decided to pursue my career earlier? Would I be a successful writer right now? I'd like to think that another young Filipino romance writer would see my name on a book cover and think to themselves, 'If she did it, so can I.'"





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Joshua Bulot's 'Lily' kind of magic

It is a no-brainer why Joshua Bulot is now Lily's lead vocalist, Bulot is the total package to lure the audiophiles to their quest of bringing cinematic rock to all.

"I am excited to sing the songs of Lily with my voice being heard by all. Yes, it cannot be denied that from time to time, I will get to perform their songs that became popular and was identified with their former frontman. I am just excited to put my vocal stamp to our latest song creation," Bulot begins.

People in the know have a familiarity with Lily's Bulot because he has graced fashion shows on ramp, shoots, and commercials. He also did a star-turning performance in the hit musical Rak of Aegis, and had his fair share of gigs as part of a pop group that made headlines in an international talent search.

Bulot reveals that he idolizes Callalily so when an audition for its new lead singer was announced, he knew that it was a now-or-never opportunity that he cannot ignore. Of course, his journey in the search is now part of Filipino pop culture history.

"I think I made it as their new lead singer because I am a passionate performer I give my all on stage. My theater background was most helpful in letting me decipher the subtexts and unspoken messages in a song. And I always give the emotional truth na required sa songs I think that is what the judges saw and appreciated," he states.

Another scintillating aspect of Bulot is his sense of fashion. He confidently dons a fishnet see-thru crop top that showcases his toned body, and tattered jeans, and boy oh boy, to say that he

loves to accessorize – rings, trinkets, and chains – is an understatement.

"My sense of fashion is like an homage to the main rockers of the '90s. They have a strong sense of what looks good on them and were never afraid of going androgynous, showing some skin, torsos n biceps. I always believe that what I wear is a form of self-expression. It is always liberating for man to be adventurous in what he wears, mix and match this and that The bottom



and lead guitarist Nathan Reyes, lead guitarist and backing vocals Alden Acosta.

On December 2, the reinvigorated and cinematic rock champions, Lily's concert Magbalik happens at the Music Museum.

"A whole lot of rocking and rolling the Lily way! Cinematic rock is a different experience. It is big, grand, and has an orchestral feel and movement to it. It is

mind-blowing and heart-wrenching at the same time. We are presenting new songs that I am sure everyone will love and I guarantee na naka-LSS siya. When you get a bite, experience and savor our Lily kind of musical magic, I am affirmative that you will not only come back for seconds, but you will want it in musical heaps and more," Bulot says of the concert.

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Allen Dizon's advice to aspiring actors: Good connection is the key

If you want to make it big in show business, you really need to have a good connection.

This was the advice of award-winning actor Allen Dizon when asked about his tips for aspiring actors, during a simple get-together with select members of the entertainment press to celebrate his 25th year in showbiz.

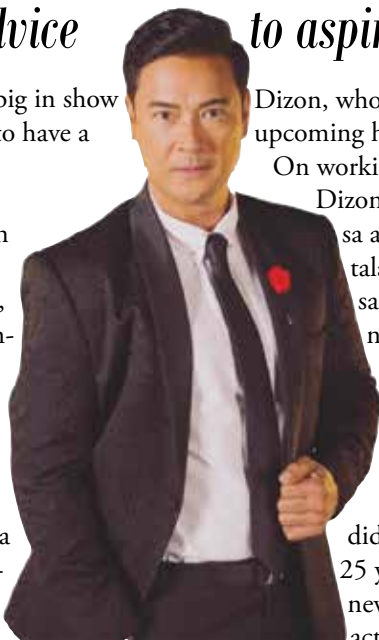
"Kung gusto mo talagang sumikat at magtagal sa showbiz, kailangan mo talaga ng good connection. Otherwise, if you are on your own, mahihirapan ka talaga, especially sa panahon ngayon," Dizon said.

With 48 acting awards and recognition, Dizon said that he starred in more than 100 films.

"Sa ngayon nasa office ko yung mga awards at trophies. Gusto ko sanang magpagawa ng isang room na paglalagyan lahat ng mga award at recognition ko. 'Yun na lang ang kulang sa bahay ko," he said.

Dizon admitted that he was disappointed when his film "Ligalig" failed to make it to the official entries of 2022 Metro Manila Film Festival.

"Disappointed kami siyempre kasi ginawa namin ang lahat para mapasama sana sa Metro Manila Film Festival. First time namin na magsama ni Ate Guy sa isang pelikula. Pero siguro may reason bakit hindi nakasama ang 'Ligalig' sa MMFF. Baka may mas magandang mangyayari sa pelikulang 'Ligalig,'" said



Dizon, who plays a policeman in the upcoming horror-suspense movie.

On working with Nora Aunor, Dizon said: "Dream come true sa akin yun kasi first time talaga namin magkasama sa isang project. I'm proud na nakasama ko talaga siya sa pelikulang lalo na hindi na siya masyadong gumagawa ng movies or series."

Dizon said that he did not expect to reach 25 years in showbiz. He never dreamt of receiving acting trophies in his career, adding that his main reason to join the entertainment industry was simply to earn money.

"Hindi ko talaga inasahan na magtagal ako sa showbiz. Tapos dumarami na rin pala ang mga award ko. Sa tutoo lang, kaya ko gustong pumasok sa showbiz ay para kumita ng pera. Gusto ko lang matulungan ang mga kapatid ko at mga magulang ko. Sa palagay ko kasi ito ang paraan para magkaroon ng easy money pero ito na pala yung career na mahalalin ko," he said. "I just realized na the more na tumatanda ako, lalo akong napapamahal dito."

Dizon also named the actors he hoped to work with in the future. "Si Ate Vi hindi ko pa nakaka-trabaho. Si Christopher de Leon din. Si Sharon (Cuneta) rin hindi ko pa nakakasama sa projects."

When not busy, Dizon said that he focuses on his restaurant business. He also loves cars. As of November 2022, he has more than 30 cars. "Umabot pa

nga noon ng mga 50 cars pero yung iba binenta ko na rin."

At this point, however, Dizon said that he does not wish for dream roles anymore.

"Sa dami ginawa kong mahihirap na projects, wala na siguro akong dream roles. Kung ano na lang ang dumating sa akin," he said.

When accepting projects, Dizon said that he turns down sexy roles.

"May mga anak rin kasi ako at ayoko na rin magkaroon ng mga body exposures," he said.

Asked if he would consider gay roles, Dizon said: "Basta wala lang halikan sa kapwa lalaki. At saka hindi na sa akin bagay yun. Ibigay na lang natin sa mga bata yun."

Dizon also said that he has been invited to join politics.

"Siguro kung sasabak ako sa politics, gusto ko vice mayor muna. Pero hindi pa rin talaga ako decided. Mnsan kasi kapag pinasok mo ang pulitika, hindi mo alam sino ang kakampi mo or sino ang kaaway mo. Baka mga pinsan or kamag-anak mo maging kaaway mo rin," he also said.

Dizon also sent out his personal wish to his fans on his 25th year in the industry.

"Wish ko sana humaba pa ang buhay ko para sa industriya. Yung projects andyan lang yan pero importante talaga ngayon ang health kaya dapat maging fit mentally and physically. Dapat wala kang stress. I play tennis kapag stressed ako. Araw-araw umiinom ako ng beer. Kapag wala akong shooting, nasa bahay lang talaga ako. Sabay-sabay kami kumakain ng family ko."

PH, Vietnam agree to boost intel sharing amid sea row with China

PRESIDENT Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. and Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh agreed to boost intelligence and strategies cooperation between the Philippines and Vietnam amid Beijing's growing control of the South China Sea.

Marcos and Chinh held bilateral talks on the sidelines of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit in Cambodia to further enhance their countries' partnership across several areas such as defense, trade, investment, agriculture and maritime security.

Given the two nations' shared maritime interests, the continued dialogues would be beneficial, including intelligence and strategies exchanges in dealing with maritime concerns, Marcos told Chinh.

The Philippines and China have been in a long-standing maritime dispute as Beijing claims almost the entire South China Sea, which overlaps with the West Philippine Sea.

Apart from the Philippines and China, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Brunei have also territorial claims in the disputed waters.

The Philippines scored a victory against China in the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, Netherlands in 2016. The arbitration court declared Beijing's claim over nearly the entire South China Sea as illegal.

China has refused to acknowledge the ruling and continues to claim nearly the entire South China Sea.

Marcos has asserted the country's sovereignty in the South China Sea as he said that the Philippines and China have no "territorial conflict," but only Beijing is claiming what is part of its territory.

"The position that the Philippines takes is that we have no territorial conflict with China. What we have [is] China claiming territory that belongs to the Philippines," Marcos said in an interview in New York City in September.

"This is the position we take, and with our American partners, we have promoted that position. We have also made it clear to our friends in Beijing that this is the way we feel about it," he added.



PRESIDENT Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. and Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh.

'Omicron worst is over'

(UPDATE) THE Philippines has "passed" the worst of the surge in Covid-19 cases due to the BA.5 and the BA.4 subvariants of Omicron, an infectious disease expert said.

"We have passed the worst of the BA.5 and BA.4 subvariants, we have passed the wave of cases, and because of this decrease, there has been immunity against BA.5," Dr. Rontgene Solante said.

He added that cases are now stabilizing and have decreased in

select areas in the country, including in the National Capital Region, Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod, and Davao, which had a "drastic" decrease in cases.

Dr. Rontgene Solante urged the public to continue wearing masks despite the lifting of the masking mandate in indoor and outdoor settings, as well as getting the necessary booster doses, to prevent a surge of cases during the holiday season. File Photo

Despite this, Solante warned that a possible uptick in the num-



Dr. Rontgene Solante urged the public to continue wearing masks despite the lifting of the masking mandate in indoor and outdoor settings, as well as getting the necessary booster doses, to prevent a surge of cases during the holiday season.

ber of cases may be expected within the second to third week of November after the All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day long weekend.

He added that while case trends are stabilizing, is still "difficult" to predict if case decreases will continue until December primarily

because of the low booster vaccination rate among Filipinos and the possibility of newer Omicron subvariants entering the country, such as the BQ1.1 subvariant.

He said that the new subvariants should be monitored continuously and urged continued testing and surveillance against these subvariants.

Solante also said that the government is carefully crafting plans to make Covid-19 manageable until next year, such as the procurement of antiviral drugs.

He urged the public to continue wearing masks despite the lifting of the masking mandate in indoor and outdoor settings, as well as getting the necessary booster doses, to prevent a surge of cases during the holiday season where many people are gathering.

"We want to be normal next year, we will only be normal if we continually follow health protocols," Solante said.

The country reported 1,241 cases on Wednesday, November 9, pushing the total number of active cases to 15,989, while 20.7 million have received their first booster shot.



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Drag Race PH runner-up Marina Summers brings the heat in sultry single 'Divine'

Internationally-renowned Filipina drag artist and "Drag Race Philippines" first runner-up Marina Summers brings the heat this



November with her debut single under Tarsier Records entitled "Divine."

The dance-pop anthem celebrates the queer community and promotes taking ownership of one's individuality while playing around with the summer theme and heavenly references. It's a mix of dancehall and pop sounds with splashes of Latin guitar.

Tarsier Records label head Moophs produced the track while Marina wrote the lyrics and melody. Lines such as, "Gotta leave your fear behind. Kill the demons in your mind. Get baptized and keep it tight," are sure to deliver a confidence boost to listeners.

Within three days of its release, "Divine" racked up over 23,000 views on YouTube and more than 20,000 streams on Spotify. Shortly after the song's release, Drag Race US superstar Alaska Thunderf*ck featured Marina's likeness in a backdrop during a performance; Marina reposted saying, "thanks wifey."

Marina performed her newest single live at the Divine Official Launch Party to a raving crowd in Empty Stomach, Bonifacio Global City (BGC) last Sunday (Nov. 6). The event featured performances from fellow Tarsier artist Zion Aguirre and fellow Drag Playhouse PH queens Eva Le Queen, PRINCE, and ØV CÜNT.

Marina is one of the newest additions to Tarsier Records' roster of artists. She performs regularly at Nectar Nightclub and is one of the founders of Drag Playhouse PH.

Dance to the latest club anthem "Divine" by streaming it on various digital platforms and watching its music video on YouTube. For more updates, follow Tarsier Records on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tiktok, and YouTube.