



MARCH 2022

confidential



PHL back to normal this year

Debt brought by COVID-19 will face the incoming administration

MANILA - With an impending return to normalcy this year, the next administration will have to focus on how it will repay the debt that piled up throughout the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic, President Duterte's chief economic manager said.

"We are very confident that 2022 will be the year that we will return to normalcy," Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III said.

The sustained mass vaccination was expected to reopening of the economy to achieve 7-9 percent gross domestic

product (GDP) growth this year.

However, the purchase of the bulk of COVID-19 vaccines increased the Philippines' debt.

Dominguez said that the Department of Finance (DOF) was now "putting the finishing touches" on its fiscal

consolidation proposal, which will be discussed with all of the presidential aspirants.

"We will present to them ideas on how to handle the increasing debt," Dominguez said.

NORMAL 2022, page 15



P1M 'per akyat' to P100M package deal: The talent fees of some celebs endorsing candidates

MANILA - The campaign season for the Presidential elections on May 9, 2022 has officially started, and as with past elections, celebrities are expected to attend and perform during campaign rallies for candidates, all over the country.

Politicians typically call on the services of actors, singers and other popular personalities to provide entertainment during the campaign, and to attract huge crowds in the places they would visit.

There are those who say that their endorsement of candidates are for free, because they believe in what their candidates stand for.

According to one of these sources who's a political strategist, a talent fee can go as

high as P100 million for a huge celebrity. The source explained that this amount already represents the total which the celebrity would receive for the entire campaign period. This already covers out-of-town trips and appearances in commercials in various platforms.

Another actor-singer-TV-host, asked for an P80-million package deal. It's negotiable, though, so the said rate can still go down. An award-winning actress rate is at P75 million.

TV actress can command about P60 million, while young stars ask for within the range of P25 million to P35 million.

"The '3rd class' stars rates

TALENT FEE, page 18

Politics rip showbiz families

It has been said that blood is thicker than water.

It might be true but not all the time—particularly where local politics is concerned.

A viral meme attest to this.

In it, several showbiz personalities are featured.

Notably, they all differ as to their presidential bet.

There, actor-turned pol-

POLITICS RIP, page 16



FRANCINE DIAZ

The Future is Looking Bright

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade."

Charles Dickens, 'Great Expectations'

Soon to be Kabayan Remit, Asenso Remit welcomes community leader Philip Beloso as its new Business Development Manager for Canada



BB. Pilipinas IPEN Melissa Ventocilla poses with Philip Beloso, Kabayan Remit's Business Development Manager for Canada.

Asenso Remit, a UK based remittance company, which will soon merge with its parent company, Kabayan Remit, has Philip Beloso as a recent addition to the family as their Business Development Manager in Canada.

Mr. Beloso is married to Marites Jacinto and they are gifted together with three grown-up kids. A very active member of the Filipino community, Mr. Beloso has been in Canada for more than three decades. He is identified as the founding president of Dolores Quezon Association of Canada, 1994; founding member of Quezon Provincial Association of Canada; director of Filipino Center Toronto from 2016 to date

PHILIP BELOSO, p12

'Nobody does it like you,' Bianca Gonzalez to Toni Gonzaga as 'PBB' hosting passed on

Taking on the reins as main host of "Pinoy Big Brother" (PBB) following Toni Gonzaga's departure, Bianca Gonzalez paid tribute to her long-time friend and colleague as an irreplaceable asset of the program.

Gonzalez was among those who commented on Gonzaga's Instagram announcement about her decision to "step down" as main host of the iconic reality series.

She was replying to a comment from another former "PBB" co-host, Mariel Rodriguez, who wrote: "I love you, Toni. You are a friend and a sister forever. Welcome to the outside world, Toni."

Gonzalez responded with crying and heart emojis to Padilla's comment. She then addressed Gonzaga, tagging her account, to stay, "Nobody can ever take your place and do it like you, nag-iisa ka."

"Love you both," Gonzalez added.



Former 'Pinoy Big Brother' co-hosts Mariel Padilla, Bianca Gonzalez, and Toni Gonzaga are known to be close friends in real life. They are seen here during a shoot for the reality show in 2015.

Padilla replied: "Friendship goes beyond work, beyond religion, beyond politics... Beyond it all." She then expressed support for Gonzalez as the latter steps up as main host of "PBB." "Go make us proud, B! You got this! We believe in you!" Rodriguez wrote. Gonzaga, in her announcement, mentioned Gonzalez in particular, trusting that she and the remaining co-hosts will "continue the 'PBB' legacy."

Gonzaga and Padilla, along with Willie Revillame, were the original hosts of "PBB" when the format debuted on Philippine television in 2005.

Gonzalez was a celebrity housemate of the 2006 edition of "PBB," before becoming one of its co-hosts.

Rodriguez's last regular hosting stint for "PBB" was in 2016. At the time, she had returned from a six-year absence from the show.

Rodriguez's mention of politics in her comment on Wednesday pertains to the opposing stands of the three "sisters," which have unfolded publicly.

Gonzalez and Gonzaga are backing competing presidential candidates in the May elections: Vice President Leni Robredo and former senator Ferdinand Marcos, Jr., respectively.

Rodriguez's husband, staunch Duterte ally Robin Padilla, meanwhile, is gunning for a Senate seat under the administration ticket.



Joshua Garcia reacts to news his used utensils in 'bidding'

Kapamilya actor Joshua Garcia reacted to the news that the utensils he used in a small restaurant in Bulacan are up for "bidding".

On Twitter, Joshua shared a video clip from News 5 about the "bidding".

"Krazy," Joshua captioned the post.

Joshua's used utensils in Antonio Junior Lugaw-Pares Eatery in San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan trended online after the restaurant owner joked that he would sell it.

"Okay na po. Naka-bidding na ang kutsara at pinggan niya," he wrote.

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Why is Nadine Lustre covered in blood in comeback Viva movie 'Greed'?

Director Yam Laranas released on February 9 the teaser of the much-awaited movie comeback of actress Nadine Lustre, "Greed," under Viva Films.

In his Instagram account, Yam posted the 45-second clip which stars Nadine and Diego Loyzaga.

"GREED (Official Teaser)," Yam captioned the post, tagging Nadine and Diego.

In the video, Nadine and Diego are a couple living in a countryside. It looks like the couple tried their luck in a lottery and won.

Nadine and Diego also shared steamy scenes together in the clip.

At the end of the teaser, Nadine was covered in blood, laughing like a psycho.

"Greed" is set to premiere in April on VivaMax.

The film marks Nadine's first movie with Viva Films after she attempted to part ways with Viva Artists Agency in January 2020.



ABS-CBN still grateful to Toni Gonzaga despite PBB resignation

ABS-CBN has expressed its gratitude to "Pinoy Big Brother" host Toni Gonzaga for her 16 years of service, amid her resignation from the show.

"ABS-CBN remains grateful to Toni Gonzaga-Soriano for the 16 years of being the main host of 'Pinoy Big Brother.' We value Toni's hosting prowess and her many years of serving the Filipino with us as our Kapamilya," the network said in a statement on ABS-CBN PR's Facebook page, Feb. 10.

"We accept her resignation from



'Pinoy Big Brother' and respect her personal choices," it added.

Netizens laud Angelica Panganiban for new video against ‘scammers’

Angelica Panganiban is being applauded by many for using her popularity in a good way.

That is, educating voters in a funny, engaging manner in collaboration with Young Public Servants (YPS).

The actress trended on social media appearing in a video spewing hugot lines in an effort to dissuade voters from supporting corrupt politicians.

“Huwag magpapabudol, huwag sa magnanakaw,” she quipped.

Now, she is doing more of the same, targeting “scammers.”

“Mga sinungaling kasi naglipana,,, pan-demya na nga nakuha pang mangbudol



ng kapwa,” she intoned.

According to Angelica she has since learned not to trust these cheaters so easily.

“One strike, one rule lang talaga ako...wala ako sa mga second chance, second chance,” she maintained. “Pag may history ng pambubudol never again, never forget tayo.”

Just to drive her point further, she added, “Iwasan natin ‘yung mga nangangako ng gold, mambubudol ‘yan...’ wag na tayo magpauto at por Diyos, por santo ‘wag na tayong bomoto ng magnanakaw!”

So far, the video has already received 20,000 likes.

Some of the comments:

“Agree!”

“Nice one, Angelica!”

“For sure agad-agad may mangongo-pya. Mga magnanakaw!!”

“Yung galit, tinamaan!!”

Heart Evangelista admits maxing out cards for designer shopping

Actress Heart Evangelista joked about her two-years-to-pay designer purse, fresh from attending the Paris Couture Spring/Summer 2022.

In her Instagram account, Heart posted an IG reel wearing a print-on-print ensemble: a long-sleeved top paired with a monogram skirt, while holding her Louis Vuitton bag. “Another day another rampa. Tara! (Excuse the typo jet lag is on steroids),” she captioned the post.

In the video, Heart was heard saying “Bags? Two years to pay!”

Her followers quickly commented that her credit card must be maxed out.

“Huwag kayong maniniwala sa akin if you think I’m gonna shop a lot because na-max na ang card a long time ago,” she said. In her IG story, Heart said her husband Chiz Escudero manages her finances.

“I have a genius for a husband so he helps me manage my finances, and we set a budget every year according to how much I will be making,” she said.

‘No regrets, just love’: Ruffa Gutierrez recalls marriage with ex-husband Yilmaz Bektas

Actress Ruffa Gutierrez shared a throw-back photo of her and ex-husband Yilmaz

Bektas.

In her Twitter account, Ruffa said that their annulment was granted 10 years ago.

“On this day, ten years ago, my annulment was granted,” Ruffa wrote.

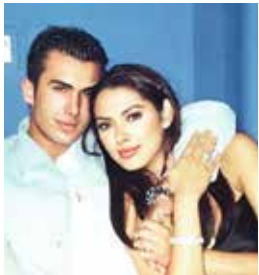
“Thank you Facebook memories for making me remember,” she added.

Ruffa also said that though their marriage did not work out, she has no regrets.

“What a bittersweet journey it has been. I now realize that not everyone is going to stay forever but I still have to keep on going and thank them for the life lessons that made me the woman I am today,” she said.

“No regrets, just love,” she added.

Ruffa and Yilmaz announced their separation in a joint statement in 2007. Ruffa revealed that she suffered domestic violence in the hands of Yilmaz.



Billy Crawford shares statement on ‘LOL’ for ‘Marites’

Billy Crawford made great effort to inform rumormongers about “Lunch Out Loud” or “LOL,” recently.

He shared a statement from Bright-light Productions CEO Albee



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Life’s brighter under the sun



Benitez relating to ongoing talks about the show ending soon.

“There is NO truth to the claim,” Albee stated.

According to Benitez, “LOL” has been “thriving well” in terms of ratings as gathered through Nielsen.

He added that it remains competitive against rival shows in Luzon and, on numerous occasions, even surpassing them in the Visayas and Mindanao areas.

“It is truly unfortunate that such malicious rumor has been made to circulate. My political pursuit has absolutely nothing to do with the show,” he reiterated. “All these speculations are unfounded assertions, aimed solely to sow unnecessary intrigue, at the expense of innocent people’s livelihood.”

“The LOL family has strongly survived more than a year on-air, despite the pandemic. The show has a lot of exciting things to offer in the coming months. I would like to reassure the public that LOL stays committed in giving fun, laughter and prizes to every household,” he ended.

“LOL,” which premiered October 2020, has Billy along with Alex Gonzaga, Bayani Agbayani, K Brosas, KC Montero, Wacky Kiray, Jeff Tam, and Laboching as presenters.

Jake Ejercito asks public to ‘be loyal to the country, not to politicians’

“Never be so loyal that you betray your country,” Ejercito said on his Twitter page.

He then mentioned political parties in the country, including his own family name.

“My tweet refers to DDS (Diehard Duterte Supporters), Marcos loyalists, Dilawans, Kakampinks, etc.

And yes, even Estrada loyalists,” he added.

“Be loyal to the country and your principles, not to politicians.” Ejercito earlier expressed his support to presidential aspirant Vice President Leni Robredo by showing a photo of himself and his daughter Ellie, where he can be seen wearing a shirt with the phrase “Laban Leni” on it. The actor stated that his decision to support her is for Ellie and for the country.

Ejercito also recently revealed that he and Ellie contracted COVID-19 but have since recovered from the virus. He added that he’s grateful they both only experienced mild symptoms.

Meanwhile, the father and daughter recently bonded over an underwater adventure which marked Ejercito’s first ever diving experience.





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Matteo shares marriage’s positive effect on mental well-being

Matteo Guidicelli recently spoke about his marriage’s positive effect on his mental well-being. On Feb. 20, the actor-athlete and TV host marked two years of wedded bliss to Sarah Geronimo, telling the pop star in a social media post: “Through thick and thin and all the ups and downs, we will be partners for life.” What the couple went through to get there is public knowledge. Looking back, it was a decision worth making for the 31-year-old. “Marrying the wife – that was a major decision in my life that one wouldn’t understand until he or she takes that route. It’s difficult to explain or to say, ‘Ah, ganito ito, ganito yan.’ I think everyone has their own story, their own unique feeling. Mine, our story, it was a risk that was all worth it. It’s only two years that we’ve been married, but I’m praying for a lifelong journey with my wife,” Matteo said. In a separate one-on-one, Matteo opened up more about his marriage, as well as its impact on his mental health. Having found a partner in life, according to Matteo, has “very much” helped his mental wellness. He said, “A lot of happiness, stress – hahaha joke lang! – it’s all part of it, all emotions, mixed emotions, up, down, curves, taas, baba, ilalim lahat!” What makes it all “exciting and beautiful is



because alam mo, you have a lifelong partnership beside you.” He further reflected: “Marriage is a beautiful thing and if you have found the right one, it’s amazing to pursue that and continue that and have a lifelong partnership with that individual. It’s not perfect but I think that is what’s beautiful about it. You go up and down in life, you get stressed, you get happy, you get confused, but I think all of this builds one and somebody’s character for a brighter future.” One of the things he has discovered over the pandemic is that it’s true what they say that marriage is a work-in-progress. “Two very different individuals coming to one home together, so you learn a lot from each other, yung gusto niya, yung ‘di gusto niya, yung gusto mo, yung ‘di mo gusto. Every day is a learning

experience. If you ask couples, mga 50 years married, sasabihin nila, ‘I’m still learning about my wife, I’m still learning about my husband.’ Two years pa lang kami, and I’m learning so much about my wife.” Meanwhile, Matteo has his 2022 goals mapped out. And the pandemic has opened a lot of opportunities,” he said. These include opening up their own production house called G Productions. He added, “Hopefully, by the mid-year, we’re going to open our own studio together that can cater not just to ourselves but also to other artists. There are other plans not just on cam but also off cam in and around the showbiz industry. So, hopefully, all that will bear fruit this year.” Growing the family is another goal. “Sana, tingnan natin, God willing. We don’t know when, we will see. Sana, dapat. Sana, sana.”

‘Magtatampo nyan si Kuya’: Celebrities hit Toni Gonzaga

Celebrities reacted on Toni Gonzaga hosting the grand proclamation rally of presidential aspirant Bongbong Marcos and running mate Sara Duterte. Toni trended after she hosted the Marcos-Duterte proclamation rally. The host introduced Representative Rodante Marcoleta as part of the UniTeam’s senatorial slate, one of the congressmen who denied the renewal of ABS-CBN franchise. Former PBB housemate Dawn Chang took to her Facebook account to show her disgust toward’s Toni’s actions.



“I am deeply insulted and disappointed by the actions of my fellow kapamilya Ms. Toni Gonzaga. Paano nyo nasikmurang suportahan at tulungan ang mga taong may malupit na nakaraan ng bansa at pagkawala ng trabaho ng mga kasama natin sa industriya? As a former PBB housemate, alam kong magtatampo nyan si Kuya,” Dawn wrote. Award-winning director Erik Matti also took to his Facebook account to criticize Toni on her “misplaced loyalty.”

“Everyone has a right to their own political stances. But when Hitler runs for office after slaughtering millions of Jews and you still support his bid, the least you can do is acknowledge all the blood he has spilled and with integrity, stick to your own crazy misplaced loyalty in private or in silence,” he said. Former Kapamilya host Gretchen Ho also posted on her Twitter account “Pretty painful to see.” Comedian Alex Caleja, meanwhile, compared Toni to fastfood crew. “Service crew nga ng Jollibee, takot makitang kumakain sa McDo! Ito, nagpasara ng kumpanya niya, siya pa ang nag-intro! Ang bait naman ni Kuya!!!” he said

Miss World finalist Tracy Perez shocked with rice supply from Pinoys in Puerto Rico

Filipinos abroad is a source of income for the country, but also serves another very important factor in international pageants - their very presence! Filipinos live in, at least, 66 countries and territories worldwide: from as far north in Nuuk, Denmark (in Greenland) to the southernmost confines of the Antarctica, where research teams are granted access. Pageant fans would readily agree that whenever a Filipina entrant makes it to the final round, especially in the “Big Five” competitions - Universe, World, International, Earth, and Supranational - the show’s host would usually remark that half of the Philippines is “in the house.” In the recent Miss Universe edition in Eilat, Israel, host Steve Harvey called the attention of Filipinos in the crowd, at least three times, to bring their cheers to a minimum when Miss Universe Philippines 2021 Beatrice Luigi Gomez was called as one of the 16 semifinalists. Pandemonium ensued when she was called in the top 5!



Pinoy cheering breaks the house down - notably in 2015 when Pia Alonzo Wurtzback was, after four-and-a-half minutes, proclaimed the rightful winner. And so were the moments when Megan Young won Miss World 2013 in Indonesia, or Catriona Gray’s victory in Bangkok as Miss Universe 2018, or even Venus Raj’s Top 5 placement in 2010 in Las Vegas. While Pinoys may seem to come in droves, they’re not actually that many. What makes them noticeable is because they stick together and really pour their hearts out. In Albania, for example, Miss Globe 2021 Maureen Montagne related that there were only about 139 Filipinos in the entire state, but they all rallied behind her.

There is a big difference between a small number actually present in the pageant venue and a populous horde who are some place else. And when the Pinoys cheer, they don’t do it quietly! So when Miss World Philippines 2021 Tracy Maureen Perez flew to San Juan, Puerto Rico the first time, she was surprised to know that a sizeable Filipino community lived and worked in the Spanish-speaking Caribbean nation. And so when their meals did not include rice, she got hungry and homesick most of the time. That’s when Pinoys would send home-cooked meals for her. And her hunger pangs and homesickness were assuaged. With San Juan having an identical climate with the Philippines, she felt at home again. So you see, Pinoys will always look out for their own - especially in a foreign land. They instantly warm up to new arrivals, most especially our beauty queens. The next time you watch an international pageant, make sure you notice the Filipinos in the crowd - and you’ll never take them for granted again.

Filipino Centre Toronto sets 2021 Filipino-Canadian Outstanding Student Awards By Tony A. San Juan, OCT-Retired

Now on its 16th year, the Filipino Centre Toronto (FCT) slates the “2021 Filipino-Canadian Outstanding Student Awards Event” on March 13, 2022, Sunday, 2:00 pm. at the FCT Social Hall, 4395 Sheppard Avenue East, Scarborough, Toronto, Ontario. Twelve Filipino-Canadian student graduates are expected to be recognized and to receive citation plaques, certificates, and cash prizes. The group of honourees is composed of 3 elementary school finishers, three secondary school graduates, and 6 post-secondary graduates from Ontario educational institutions during the schoolyear 2020-2021. The recognition program is presently known as the Rosalinda C. Javier Outstanding Student Awards(RCJOSA). Since 2005, the FCT’s yearly project has been established to encourage and challenge Filipino Canadian students in all scholastic levels to achieve academic excellence and to develop their potential to become productive members of society. For the past 15 years, the FCT-RCJOSA project has recognized and honoured 124 students in the province.

Awardees are selected on the basis of a set of criteria weighted as follows: Academic Grade Average= 50%, Extra-Curricular Participation= 15%, Community Involvement=15%, and Personal Interview Performance=20%. The Panel of Judges is composed of Jodelyn Huang, Community Relations Officer-Toronto Catholic District School Board, Steve Pagao, President-Philippine Chamber of Commerce-Toronto, Mary Ann S. San Juan, President & CEO-Filipino Centre Toronto, Former Santos-Vice-Principal-Agincourt Collegiate Institute, Toronto District School Board, Rose Tijam, President-Philippine Press Club -Ontario, and Tony A. San Juan, Founder-Filipino Heritage Council of Canada(RCJOSA Committee Chair). Invited to grace the awarding day rite are the Ontario Minister of Education, the Member of Parliament for Mississauga- Streetsville, and other special guests including parents or guardians of the honourees. Established health and safety protocols will be strictly observed during the ceremonies. A photo opportunity and a simple reception hosted by FCT will follow at the end of the brief program.(Tony A. San Juan, OCT-Retired)

Alexa Ilacad admits Nash Aguas was her first love, inspiration behind song ‘Paano’

Alexa Ilacad looked back on her past relationship with Nash Aguas, disclosing that the actor was her first love and even the inspiration behind her song “Paano.” Ilacad spoke about the heart-break she had been through, and what she did to cope, in an interview with broadcaster Karen Davila’s YouTube channel. “I tried to establish a strong persona just so people couldn’t hurt me,” she said. “I’ve been hurt so much so I thought I could maybe protect myself.” When asked how she had been hurt, and if it is a case of “first love,” Ilacad answered, “That’s part of it po.” As Davila then turned more specific and asked, “He was your first love? Nash?” Ilacad answered, “Yes.” Ilacad also would not utter Aguas’ name when asked by Davila who was the person in her heart when she wrote the song “Paano,” but as Davila asked, “Si Nash?” Ilacad answered, “Opo.” (Yes.) “We’re not friends but I have forgiven him, even if he never really said sorry or asked for forgiveness, but it’s okay. I forgave him for my own peace of mind



and the peace in my heart,” Ilacad added. Aside from her past relationship, Ilacad also opened up about her developing friendship with KD Estrada, which she described as a healthy relationship. “What I love about KD is he helps me grow and I help him grow so we’re like two plants watering each other and growing at the same time,” she added. “It feels really nice, it feels really healthy and I feel lucky that I have a person in my life that finally makes me feel calm.” Ilacad and Aguas first paired up in ABS-CBN’s TV series “Love U” in 2012. Though they had a “mutual understanding” for almost five years, Ilacad said they were not officially in a relationship then. Aguas is now in a relationship with fellow “Goin’ Bulilit” alum Mika Dela Cruz, whom he revealed to have courted after his breakup with Ilacad.

Elisse finds fulfillment as mom, shares dream wedding

Mothering takes effort – physically, mentally and emotionally. But Elisse Joson is not one to complain. Her real-life role as a mom has allowed to find her own fulfillment which, according to her, she was looking for a long time. Being a mother to her and McCoy de Leon’s first-born Felize completes her and makes her see the beauty of life in a clearer perspective. “Masarap talaga sa feeling. I think ‘yun ‘yung sense of fulfillment na hinahanap ko for a long time,” said Elisse when she recently talked to select members of the press to drumbeat iWantTFC’s six-episode original series The Goodbye Girl. Elisse stars in the episode titled The Legally Blind with Joshua Colet. According to Elisse, she and McCoy are trying their best to be hands-on parents when it comes to taking care of their child, especially when they are free from showbiz commitments.



Elisse agreed there is no formula to better perform the role of a mother. “You just do what has to be done and everything will flow naturally.” Being a mom does not limit her as an actress. In fact, it all the more boosts her confidence to portray roles that will challenge her acting ability. At present, the biggest struggle for her is dealing with the work setup. Elisse, 26, was also asked what would be the best time for her to get married, as well as her ideal wedding. “Yes, I’m 26, but you know, hindi natin dapat minamadali ang mga bagay-bagay.” Contrary to what other people think that they are planning for a grand wedding, Elisse prefers a simple one. “Dream ko lang talaga sa may dagat but at the same time, I want to be blessed in church,” she disclosed.

Gary Valenciano reveals it's his first time to vote ever this coming May

MANILA, Philippines — Kapamilya star Gary Valenciano revealed that the upcoming national elections 2022 in May will be his first time to vote ever.

In his video message during the campaign launch of Vice President Leni Robredo in Naga, Gary V said he believes in the capability of the presidential aspirant.

"Alam ko na wala kayong nakikitang mga posts... wala kayong nakikitang iba't ibang mga linalagay ko sa social media para maipakita ko kung sino ang iboboto ko sa darating na halalan," he said in the video.

"Pero sa kulay na ganito, sa kulay na 'to (gestures) ito, alam niyo na kung sino," he added.

Robredo's running mate, Francis Pangilinan, is Gary's brother-in-law through his wife Angeli.

"Ito ang magiging first time ko, first time to vote, ever. And I know I'm going to make the right vote kasi naniniwala talaga ako na si VP Leni Robredo ang dapat maging susunod na presidente ng Pilipinas. At si-bayaw ko-si Francis Kiko Pangilinan, ang dapat maging VP (vice president)," he said.

Apart from Gary, other personalities who appeared in the video at the Robredo-Pangilinan grand rally were Juan Karlos Labajo, Iza Calzado and Jolina Magdangal.

Nikki Valdez, Cherry Pie Picache, Bituin Escalante, Pinky Amador, Red Ollera, Rita Avila, Agot Isidro and The Company were physically present at the event.



Yasmien Kurdi is not a lesbian

Sa kanyang vlog, nagkaroon ng question and answer portion ang Kapuso actress na si Yasmien Kurdi kasama ang kanyang mister na piloto na si Rey Soldevilla, Jr.

Sa naturang episode, may mga nang-iintriga sa kanila kung bakit hindi raw ba nila suot ang kanilang singsing.

Ani Yasmien, kumpara sa ibang married couples, hindi raw talaga nila nakaugaliang isuot ang kanilang wedding rings.

May pagkakataon daw kasi na tumaba siya lalo na noong nanganak siya kaya sumikip ang kanyang palasinsingan.

Ang ending, tinanggal na lang daw niya ito.

Sa nasabing vlog din, binalikan ni Yasmien ang dating intrigang ibinabato sa kanya na isa



umanong nag-sauna.

Aniya, wala raw katotohanan ang bali-tang iyon dahil sa hotel na tinuluyan nila ay walang sauna.

siyang tibo. Ani Yasmien, nang-yari raw ito noong sighted sila ni Barbie Almabis na magkasamang nag-check in sa isang hotel sa Visayas para sa isang show. Natsismis nga raw noong naging lovey-dovey at sabay

Jericho Rosales, Kim Jones move to NY

Jericho Rosales revealed that he and wife Kim Jones are currently settling in their new place in New York City.

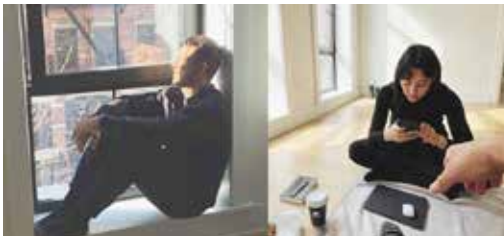
After his last ABS-CBN teleserye project "Halik" in 2019, Jericho was last seen in his short film "Basurero," which made the rounds of US film festivals in 2020.

The actor posted the update on Instagram, showing him and his wife Kim relaxing on the floor of their new apartment which has not been furnished yet.

He wrote, "Sa Bagong Haybol Sa Big Apol. Kim on google maps : saan ang palengke...? Me sa bintana : ano'ng oras dadaan ang taho?"

Their celebrity friends Bea Alonzo and Kiana Valenciano expressed their excitement, congratulating the couple on their new home.

In another post, the Kapamilya actor shared how he is enjoying the street food in New York. He shared that he first had chicken rice when he enrolled at the New York Film Academy in 2011, where he took up courses in acting, directing, and producing.



He wrote, "Have a nice chicken rice! Ritwal ko nung estudyante pa acting school. Napadpad sa isang kanto ng New York, hindi Cubao. Pero masarap din turo-turo dun. #wheninnyc #sietenasakaratalaotsosiningil"

Before the pandemic started, Echo had shared his plans to fly to the US to shoot a film in 2021. He was also set to star in a new television project last year.

When asked how he was able to reach his dreams in life, Echo shared in a previous post, "They say dreams are only dreams and wishes will remain to be wishes but not until you do something about them. So keep dreaming, keep hoping and keep moving. You are made to be something and a someone for another."

Ready to go sexy? Alexa Ilacad will only say yes if role is empowering

Breakout singer-actress Alexa Ilacad is willing to go sexy for a role or pictorial, on the condition that its message is that of women empowerment.

Ilacad, 22, was asked about whether she is willing to bare skin for a project in a recent episode of "Star Magic Inside News."

"It's something that has crossed my mind," she said. "For me, challenge to have a sexy cover girl shoot. But I'm looking forward to it as long as it's done in good taste."

Ilacad mentioned British pop star Dua Lipa as an inspiration for her type image she hopes to emulate. "She has this very empowered, strong-woman which I love," she said.

Similarly, if she were to pose for a daring magazine cover, said she would inspire others to be in their own skin.

Ilacad has in the past shared photos of her flaunting her fit figure on social media. During her "Pinoy Big Brother" stint, a conversation with reality show's resident psychologist-psychiatrist revealed the actress had struggling with body dysmorphia and depression.

The key episode, where a tearful Ilacad also told her mother about her condition, was lauded for shedding light on mental health and prompting conversation about it.





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Only 10% of target population got boosters

MANILA — The Department of Health (DOH) reported that only about 10 percent of the target population has received boosters against COVID-19.

“On boosters, I admit we are still low. Nationally, we are about 10 percent only. The discrepancy is really because of the time difference between second dose and booster shot. Three months at least,” Health Secretary Francisco Duque explained, as he hoped booster coverage would go up by the end of March.

Concerning pediatric vaccination, Duque said about 38,000 children aged five to 11 have already been vaccinated, with only four reporting adverse reactions following vaccination. Only 0.01 percent of the pediatric population recorded minor adverse events.

New vaccination venues

A train station and a branch of a popular fast-food chain hosted the government’s ongoing “National Vaccination Days 3: Bayanihan Bakunahan” COVID vaccination program.

Workers who will not be able to report for work to accompany their children in getting vaccinated against COVID may still receive their daily pay, according to the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

DOLE encourages employers to allow their workers to accompany their children for vaccination without considering them absent.

“If they present proof of vaccination of their children, the employee should not be considered absent,” Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello said.

Hindi nag-stick sa sexy roles

Cara Gonzales tries drama for the first time in ‘The Wife’



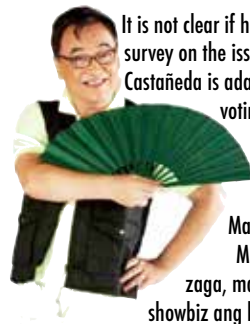
Newcomer Cara Gonzales joins another Vivamax project as part of the cast of the drama The Wife.

“Maganda naman yung pasok ng 2022 para sa akin kasi shinoot namin ito before Christmas so may panibagong project ulit. At ibang talent maipapakita ko kasi ibang character ang role ko. Natutuwa ako na hindi lang ako puro sexy roles which is wala namang masama na gumawa ng sexy scenes or sa pagiging sexy artist. Napagtutunan din naman ng pansin yung ibang talent ko tulad ng pag-arte. Plans ko sa 2022 siguro mas focus ako sa improvement tapos focus din sa health kasi minsan sa gusto natin talaga trabahuin ang pagiging artista, nakakalimutan natin yung sarili nagtin sa sobrang saya natin sa

ginagawa nating trabaho.”

As a newcomer in the industry, Cara said she was able to learn a lot from her new film. “Siguro ang na-discover ko sa sarili ko mas marami akong na-improve sa emotion at lalo na sa acting. Siguro na-train din ako ng maayos ni direkt. Yung mga kasama ko sa cast hindi sila nagsawa na suportahan ako bilang baguhan at hindi sila nagsawa din na turuan ako sa mga bagay na hindi ko alam sa pag-arte. So malaking bagay sa akin na napasama ako dito sa movie na ito dahil nakakahawa ng emosyon, nakakahawa ng galing, ganun. Alam ko rin sa sarili ko na nakikita ko rin yung improvement at yun ang malaking pasasalamat ko kay direkt at sa mga kasama ko dito sa movie,” she admitted.

Manny Castañeda: ‘Dumarami ang mga artista na umaayaw kay Leni...’



It is not clear if he actually conducted a proper survey on the issue, but director-actor Manny Castañeda is adamant many from showbiz are not voting for Vice President Leni Robredo.

He said so in a social media post commenting on Toni Gonzaga’s decision to back Bongbong Marcos and Sara Duterte. Manny wrote: “Tulad ni Toni Gonzaga, maraming mga artista at mga taga showbiz ang hindi boboto kay Leni Robredo pero tahimik lamang sila dahil sa mga Pinklawan na masyadong agresibo, palaaway, at saksakan ng bastos.”

He added, “At kapansin-pansin din na lalong dumarami ang mga artista na umaayaw kay Leni dahil sa mga masamang ugali ng mga Pinklawan.”

This didn’t sit well with Leni’s supporters.

Some of their comments:

“Mas masahal po ang kabila...”

“Excuse me po, wag nyong lahatin. pro-Leni ako pero hindi ako bastos...”

“Sino-sino po sila? May pangalan ba ang mga ito direkt?”

Manny didn’t reply to any of the comments. So far.

Rob Gomez wants to succeed on his own merit

Rising hunk actor Rob Gomez is slowly carving a name in showbiz.

He’s doing so minus the benefits given to his family’s name. To those not in the know, Rob is the son of former actress Kate Gomez, daughter of the late, great awarded actor George Estregan.

Rob could have easily gone on to use either Estregan or Estrada as screen name but he’s firm on making it big on his merit.

Last year, made his film debut under respected director Erik Matti in “A Girl and A Guy.”

Prior, the 24-year-old appeared in “Pidol’s Wonderland” on TV5.

He also co-hosted GMA7’s “Walang Tulugan with The Master Showman” for a time.

Rob related proudly that he has improved a lot since then.

And he’s more confident now.

He’s doing so believing it necessary.

“I have to up my level,” was how he put.

He’s always grateful whenever his co-workers give him compliments for his efforts.

He’s also thankful to those people who trusted him and gave him chances.

“I don’t wanna reach anyone. I don’t wanna surpass anyone. I wanna set my own bar,” he declared.

Does he feel any pressure coming from a well-known showbiz family?

Not at all, said Rob, noting how everyone in the clan is supportive of him.

He shared how his uncle Gary Estrada, even gave him acting tips.

Rob denied using his family to gain roles, pointing out he entered showbiz through “luck” and “skill.”

“It was never really about the family name. But I am happy that I give the family name a little bit pride right now,” he said, noting he is the most active of the clan at the moment.

But he teased Gary will be staging a comeback in GMA. Apparently, Gary was inspired seeing Rob in “Mano Po Legacy: The Family Fortune.”

“Hopefully I get to work with him. He’s really a good actor,” Rob quipped.

New ‘momshie’ host?

Regine Velasquez reacts to replacing Karla Estrada in ‘Magandang Buhay’



Kapamilya singer Regine Velasquez said she is only a guest host for ABS-CBN morning talk show “Magandang Buhay” and didn’t replace Karla Estrada, who is now running for a partylist seat.

During her contract renewal with ABS-CBN, she said she’s having a good time hosting the program. “Guest host pa lang ako ngayon sa ‘Magandang Buhay’ kasi nga wala si Momshie Karla so I am the one doing her part now. But I am having such a wonderful time working with Jolina and Melai,” she said.

“Yung mga nanonood sa amin tuwing umaga, napapansin siguro

na tawa lang kami nang tawa. Para lang akong naglalaro. I do hosting in ‘ASAP’ pero iba ‘yung format ng ‘Magandang Buhay’ I remember doing the same before. I kinda missed it,” she added.

She thanked ABS-CBN for giving her the morning show.

“I am so happy that I was given the opportunity to do a morning show with two other girls who I love very much,” she said.

“Hindi pa naman po ako totoong host. Nagpapanggap pa lang ako right now. But like I said, I am so happy to be given the opportunity to be a special host of ‘Magandang Buhay.’”

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'Very unhealthy': Angelina Cruz on cancel culture

MANILA, Philippines — Singer and actress Angelina Cruz shared how she feels about cancel culture which is becoming a trend in social media after disagreement over a certain issue or personality.

During the presscon of her new single “Ayoko Lang” under Universal Records, the daughter of Cesar Montano and Sunshine Cruz said she’s not in favor of the cancel culture.

“Canceling people feel like there’s no room for educating them and there’s no room for them to grow and to learn from their past mistakes,” Angelina said.

“So I feel like it’s very unhealthy and I feel like the healthy way is to maybe educate them, to gently educate them and do respectfully correct them without completely canceling them because that doesn’t give them any room for them to grow,” she added.

Angelina’s latest release “Ayoko Lang” is all about that empty feeling, those seemingly endless nights of sadness after a bad breakup. The standout ballad easily captivates in its warm string melody and vulnerable lyrics carefully sung by Angelina and was produced by a Canada-based musician.



Speaking of captivating strings, the guitar player for this track is the ever-talented Filipino-Canadian Ricky Tillo, who rose to fame as the tour guitarist of Lady Gaga.

Since her standout music scene debut in 2017 with her version of “Can’t Help Falling In Love,” Angelina Cruz has been so passionate to capture her listeners’ hearts with her soulful vocals. Her stripped-back cover of “Hanggang Kailan” by Orange & Lemons back in 2018 became a standout hit, now with over 10 million streams on Spotify and counting.

Yayo Aguila reveals the secret to lasting career in showbiz

Acting can be taught, but having a kind heart is innate,” said Yayo Aguila when asked to share what nugget of wisdom has she been living by as an actress of almost 40 years. “If you have that, then you will surely have a place in this industry.”

Yayo is seen regularly in Thop Naz-areno’s family drama “Niña Niño,” which stars Maja Salvador and Noel Comia Jr., and airs on TV5.

“It’s hard to find kindhearted people in show biz, or even in the world these days. That’s a sad fact, to think that being a good person is so easy,” she told Inquirer Entertainment.

“But it’s important that



End of the road for Donita Nose, Super Tekla?

Donita Nose and Super Tekla made noise on social media recently making public their ongoing spat.

Note that their YouTube channel, DonEkla in Tandem, has been inactive for some time prior.

In a video, the two related how it all started with Tekla not signing the lease contract for their new place.

Adding to the mess is Tekla’s statement as directed towards Donita: “Na try naman natin magsama sa isang bahay sa loob ng isang taon pero wala namang nangyari.”

Donita admitted feeling hurt hearing those words.

“Yung sabihan ka ng ganun, na binigay mo lahat, inihain mo na lahat kahit yung utak mo dumudugo na sa pag-iisip at hirap. Masakit yun sa akin kasi halos ako na nga lahat tas ‘walang nangyari?’ Unfair naman sa akin yun,” he said.

Donita reiterated he’s been doing everything needed for their channel most of the time and that Tekla’s only job is to create content.



He deemed Tekla “unprofessional,” relating “may katamaran.”

“Mahirap po kasing tawagin na tandem kung ako lang ng ako,” Donita said, admitting he’s fed up.

“Di talaga magwork kung ganyan.”

Donita also noted how bashing has taken its toll on him.

“I always want the best for DonEkla in Tandem pero parang ako pa yung nagiging mali palagi dahil sa nang-yayari, sa ginagawa ko sa kanya.”

Hearing his partners’ words, Tekla was ultimately apologetic. He requested fans to stop bashing Donita.

“Ako nagdesisyon na umalis, maghiwalay, kasi meron akong pinagdadaanan lately na ayoko na siya ma-istorbo, kaysa madagdag pa sa isipin niya, sinarili ko na lang,” he said.

Tekla didn’t provide details.

He admitted he’s not sure if their relationship could still be saved, but he promised to talk about it with Donita.

The two launched their YouTube channel in 2020. It now has almost 3.2 million subscribers.

when you try to enter this business, you’re not just someone with a beautiful face or with a knack for acting. You also have to have a good heart.”

“If you start in that premise, you will also meet good people along the way and you will benefit from them. I promise you, everything will easily fall into place for you. It’s important that you care, love and

respect the people around you,” said the actress, whose breakout project was the cult film “Bagets” in 1982.

Yayo said her love for the job has given her the necessary staying power. “I give importance to every project I make, be it for the big screen or television, and no matter how small the role may be. For me, it’s not always about the money,” she pointed out. “Also part of all these is always feeling grateful for the blessings you have been receiving.”

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Campaign gatherings worry DOH

MANILA — The Department of Health expressed concern over mass gatherings at campaign sorties, warning that those attending these events may still get infected with the coronavirus.

“This is really a cause for concern,” Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said.

Vergeire continued in Filipino, “What we should always remember, even though our cases are decreasing, is that the virus is still here. The variants are still here.”

She claimed that mass gatherings are still not allowed, despite the Commission on Elections allowing up to 70% enclosed outdoor venue capacity for caucuses, meetings, conventions, rallies and miting de avance.

Still, Vergeire appealed to local governments to monitor campaign sorties and for candidates to set examples of following anti-COVID protocols.

The campaign period for national candidates kicked off February 8 with bets appearing at sorties witnessed by

crowds that made it difficult to implement physical distancing. Some candidates insisted on having physical contact with people, even if Comelec rules discourage it.

The Comelec’s pandemic rules, however, have been criticized by some, including election lawyer Emil Marañon, who argued in an explainer for Rappler that the restrictions may be weaponized by political opponents and may even be unconstitutional.

Niagara’s Pinoy Chef is born

NIAGARA, ON. - It was a cold January day and our group, Filipinos in Niagara (Region) Ontario (FINRO) are deciding what to do for our Filipino community, in the middle of winter, plus another province-wide shutdown. We all pitched in for ideas and one suggestion is a cooking contest. The idea really locked on to all of us!

Niagara Region is home to so many talented chefs, among which are Filipinos, who were born or relocated in the region. We also have Niagara College that hosts the most incredible culinary programs. It was a no-brainer to do it. We wanted to showcase the Filipino talent and ingenuity, and Filipinos are among the best in the world in cooking!

As a group, we decided on a date (February 12, 2022), contest name (Niagara’s Pinoy Chef), contestants’ demographics (all gender, all level of skills, no age limit, and Niagara Region residents only), and the contest’s format (virtual).

Niagara’s Pinoy Chef was born! But now the mechanics of a virtual cooking contest is about to be decided. It’s never been done here or, as far as we

know, never been done in Canada. And so without precedence, the 13-strong members of FINRO hammered out every kinks of the show, from finding sponsors, community partners, and judges, to buying the ingredients, picking up the entries, and to the actual day of the LIVE event. Every stones unturned to find all scenarios and possible solutions.

Aside from the normal problems of a cooking contest production, some inherent challenges of a virtual cooking contest has to be addressed. Such as freshness of ingredients and delivery of the food to the judges, and since the province-wide lockdown is in effect, there was a imitation for gathering, and we weren’t able to shoot and interview our contestants.

As some members felt the pressure, others carried more than their share to keep the event running smoothly. Picked up and dropped off were scheduled, and we asked the contestants to do their own cooking videos from start to finish, plus plating their entries.

Our contestants did not disappoint! Using our predetermined ingredients that we purchased and dropped off to



their homes, our finalists’ talents, skills, and confidence of what they can offer is evident in their food entries and their videos. Then we delivered it to our judges for scoring. Their Filipino dishes were amazing!

A few days later, on a frigid February night, we had our virtual Live event with over 500 audiences on Facebook and YouTube Live, serenaded by several of our young and talented Filipino singers and musicians from Ontario. We showcased our three finalists’ videos and judges’ professional opinions. FINRO’s first Niagara’s Pinoy Chef is Danny Rimando of Danny’s Sushi in Niagara Falls, who emigrated to Canada in 1979. Many congratulations Danny!

This is our first formal event since we formed Filipinos in Niagara (Region) Ontario. As a group, we couldn’t be more proud of our

NIAGARA, page 11

Diego Loyzaga is a gentleman amid breakup with Barbie



They say all good things must come to an end and that is what happened to the highly-publicized relationship of the gorgeous Barbie Imperial and Diego Loyzaga.

The actor has been enjoying his trip to the US.

“I just got off the phone with Barbie actually. We’re OK, we’re on

talking terms.”

Diego’s breakup with Barbie has been feasted on online with a lot of assumptions. That is why Diego opened up to clarify the rumors, one of which is the glitch in the relationship of Diego’s family with Barbie which is not true.

“Alam mo yung pamilya ni Barbie at si Barbie naging parte ng buhay ko, buhay ng pamilya ko. I have nothing bad to say, especially kasi alam ko na kahit anong sabihin ko meron at meron masasabi ang tao.”

Diego reached out to Barbie before things got out of hand because of miscommunication and he wanted

to be realistic and mature about their situation. He said, “I don’t want to make it any more difficult. Why can’t we just be adults about it? So we’re trying. But it doesn’t help when everybody around is making kung anu-anong kwento.”

Without elaborating the exact reason for the breakup, Diego admitted that he could do better in their relationship but as sad as the chapter of his life with Barbie ended, the actress and her family will remain dear to him forever. Said he, “I am not perfect to be honest. I just wish her the best and her family the best. Minahal ko silang lahat.”

Thea Tolentino brings washing machine to lock-in tapings

Actress Thea Tolentino brings a washing machine to the set.

“Naka-ready talaga ako pag-lock in taping. May dala akong air fryer at washing machine sa set. Minsan kasi may mga biglaan na Zoom meeting kaya marami akong

dalang gamit,” said Thea, during the story conference for the upcoming rom-com film “Take Me to Banaue”.

“Nitong ‘Lolong’ nasobrahan yata ako ng dalang mga gamit. Kasi minsan hindi mo alam kung ano ang gagamitin mo.”



Thea, 25, said that she was happy that the rooms assigned to them were big enough to accommodate their stuff.

When asked if she also takes her adopted cat to the set, Thea: “Kung puwede nga lang pero hindi po. Kaninang umaga, I just arrived from a lock-in taping. Nung nakita ako ng pusa ko, deadma lang sya.”

Michelle Madrigal is now a US Citizen

Former actress Michelle Madrigal said that she has taken her oath as a US citizen.

In her vlog, the former actress could not contain her emotions as she is still in the process of divorcing her husband.

“New beginning but then at the same time hindi pa rin tapos ‘yung isang bagay,” she added.

Madrigal said she just wanted to be with her family to celebrate her new milestone.

“Gusto ko lang namang may kasama ditong family to celebrate but we did it. I am a US citizen,” she said.

“Pag may malalaking bagay na nangyayari, all you want to be surrounded with is your family and all I wanted is to hug Anika.”

Last August, Madrigal and her husband, fitness trainer Troy Woolfolk,



revealed that they are in the process of divorcing.

Michelle revealed that she and Troy are still living in the same house but staying in separate rooms as they navigate co-parenting for their daughter.

Without detailing a timeline, Madrigal said she and Woolfolk “have been separated and are going through a divorce.”

Madrigal and Woolfolk met in Texas in 2016, while the actress was taking up culinary arts. They welcomed Anika, their only child, in October 2017; and then got married in April 2019.

Carla Abellana must speak up

Let’s face it — the longer it takes for Carla Abellana to speak up about her (shaky?) marriage to Tom Rodriguez, the uglier speculations about her separation can get.

First, it was 2020 Miss Eco International first runner-up Kelly Day who was touted to be the third party in the breakup. But no, the “Marites” — the new name for rumormongers — pointed to the wrong person.

The same rumormongers took a shift this time to a man, with the implication that Carla allegedly married a gay man. But Tom wouldn’t dare talk about it, of course.

Given this, Carla has to come forward. After all, it was from her end this whole thing started. It was Carla who took down all their pictures together on Instagram, their wedding photos included.

As if she couldn’t get enough



of this, Carla had (deliberately?) shown herself sans her wedding ring in several photos splashed on social media.

Also, while Tom had expressed his love toward his wife on Instagram, sadly, Carla did not respond as amorously expected of her.

If she truly cares about Tom, Carla may want to clear the actor’s name in the gay issue as would any wife. Carla’s silence is only an invitation to more made-up stories with Tom at the receiving end.

The public deserves a clarification from Carla as much as she has involved the public in the fray. Had she not torn down their Instagram photos and worn her wedding off her finger for all to see, then Carla doesn’t owe the public anything.

Again, it was she who started it all, so she might as well end it herself.

PNR Bicol begin construction Q1 2022

MANILA – The first package of the Philippine National Railways (PNR) Bicol project will begin construction in the first quarter of the year.

PNR General Manager Junn Magno said the package would consist of the PNR Bicol’s first 380 km. from Banlic, Calamba to Daraga, Albay.

“The construction works will begin (in) the first quarter of 2022,” Magno said.





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Christian couple Doug and Chesca Kramer do talk about sex with their children

Celebrity couple Chesca Garcia-Kramer and Doug Kramer, also known among their fans as parents who uphold Christian values, revealed that they do discuss the topic of sex with their kids.



The couple's revelation came during the launch of "Instagram Parents Guide" where they participated together with their eldest daughter Kendra Kramer.

"Obviously, you need to understand the platform. There's a lot of benefit and there's also a lot of risks," Doug said about social media use.

The couple also pointed out that topics, such as sex, should be discussed by parents personally with their kids.

"For Chesca and I, we'd rather share a lot of intimate things with them personally, rather than finding out on social media. For example, we were talking about anything that has to do with sex, anything that has to do with that. As early as six years old we've actually spoken to our children about that," Doug's shared. Chesca meanwhile shared about explaining to their kids the importance of setting boundaries about sex, and the do's and don'ts that need to be observed when people are around.

But the most important tip regarding social media, according to Doug, is this: "Share positivity." "This is their outlet, this is what they use," he said, referring to the kids. "Everyday, it's part of our lives, and it is very important to show family, your hobbies. And for us, we've been a social media family for about eight years now, and we see the interaction and the platform that we have, and it's such a blessing."

For Chesca, sharing positivity on social media earns back good response, based on her experience. Both parents ultimately remind their kids that words they put out there are things they need to be responsible about. "When my husband and I post, even when Kendra posts, we always tell her, whether you like it or not, we are public figures and you have declared a lot of things about your family, your interests, most especially your faith, your walk," said Chesca.

The Kramers have three children. Aside from Kendra who is already in her preteens, they also got Scarlett and Gavin. Meanwhile, Kendra has recently been dubbed by fans as the country's next Miss Universe, as they notice her resemblance to



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Life's brighter under the sun



Miss Universe 2018 Catriona Gray, and her stylish OOTDs.

'Doble balik sa karma': Gabby Eigenmann warns scammer after Rocco Nacino almost fell for 'budol'

Actor Rocco Nacino revealed that he almost lost P10,000 to a scammer posing as fellow actor Gabby Eigenmann.

In his Instagram account, Rocco shared a screenshot of the conversation where Gabby's poser can be seen asking him to lend him P10,000.

He said he almost fell to the poser, saying he just woke up then until he realized that Gabby has more money than him. Rocco said that the poser should learn how to work and not scam others.

"Sa taong ito, sana makonsensya ka sa ginagawa mo at karma na ang bahala sa'yo.

Kung kailangan mo ng pera, gumawa ka ng tamang paraan para makaipon. Hindi lahat nasho-shortcut," he said.

"It's sad to know that may mga gumagawa talaga ng gani-to. Sana maging aral ito para



sa'tin lahat na mag-ingat palagi at magkaroon ng presence of mind lalo na 'pag pera na ang usapan." Gabby also reminded his friends and followers not to entertain messages from his poser. "Kung sino ka man, tigilan mo na ang pangloloko sa mga tao, mas doble ang balik sa karma," Gabby reminded.



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“We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.”
Martin Luther King, Jr.

It’s a painting session, and also a social food club, and it’s OK

Filipino Centre Toronto holds a weekly Wednesday painting class where Frank Cruzet, a well-known accomplished painter teaches a group of adults the art of putting shadows, of lights and every detail that makes a picture worth a thousand words. Or dollars.

I’m not sure how it started.

I guess it started with a long conference-table, that became a communal dining



table where everybody eat their lunch. Everybody ate lunch at the same time

and shared what they had. Before we knew it, everyone was bringing what they have at home, even leftovers every Wednesday. There is no amount that is too little or too much at what I will call the “Wednesday club.”

“Does anyone still want empanada,” Manila Bulletin publisher, and painting attendee, Carlos Unas asked through

SOCIALLIST, page 23

Not expecting Hollywood career for Heart Evangelista

Last year, 36-year old Heart Evangelista announced that “I Left My Heart in Sorogon” would be her last television series.



But now that it’s drawing to a close, and looking back at the experiences she has had, the actress realized that making such a career decision really is tougher than it seems.

“I said it with finality then. But after watching the show, I realized just how much I love acting ... It’s hard. And honestly, parang napaisip ako ... Parang na-miss ko bigla. I enjoy the craft and collaboration with the directors and actors and I will miss being in my element,” Heart said.

“Maybe, as of the moment, it will be my last,” she added.

But a short project, Heart said, may be more feasible.

“I’m open to doing a film,” she said.

As for her rumored participation in the American reality television show “Bling Empire,” Heart made no confirmation, but let on that she did film

something for the streaming giant Netflix.

“I can’t say if it’s ‘Bling Empire’ or something else. But I definitely filmed a show for Netflix. But, honestly, I have no idea when that will come out,” she said, adding that the prospect of having an international career isn’t really something she’s banking on right now.

“You can’t expect anything when it comes to anything [related] abroad. For me, I think achieving anything in Hollywood will be a matter of destiny,” Heart said.

Aside from acting, the 36-year-old star is also a visual artist, entrepreneur, philanthropist and a fashion influencer.

And as she turned a year older last Valentine’s day, all she could really ask for is to continue loving and empowering herself.

“I just want to embrace my flaws and the things that make me feel empowered. I would like to continue growing and working on myself,” she said. “No expectations, but celebrate the things you achieve.”

GMA CEO Gozon on Willie leaving GMA:

‘We have no rancor and we respect your decision’



TV host Willie Revillame shared a letter from GMA CEO, Atty. Felipe L. Gozon.

There, Gozon stated how he understands Revillame’s decision to join former Senator Manny Villar on his new TV station, deeming it a “rare opportunity.” Gozon characterized their relationship as “harmonious, cooperative, supportive, rewarding, successful...”

“Hence, we have no rancor in accepting and respecting your decision.”

According to Revillame, Villar’s proposal was a “dream” particularly as he started his career as a “drummer,” an

“extra.”

He maintained he’ll never forget the opportunity that GMA has given him.

“I don’t want to say goodbye dahil sa industriyang ito there’s always a welcome back.”

Revillame cleared he has not yet signed a deal with Villar but he has to end his journey with GMA out of “delicadeza.”

Revillame also thanked Gozon for “gifting” them access to their social media accounts now with 26 million followers.

He said he’ll continue streaming his show “Willie Revillame: Tutok Para Manalo” via Facebook and YouTube.

He ended with this message: “Babalik ko kayo, mga nawalan ng trabaho! I’ll see you soon.”

Celebrities paid millions to attend political events?

Ogie Diaz reacts

People were not surprised seeing not a few stars make their presence felt at different proclamation rallies held across the country recently.

It isn’t as if the idea is new.

Politicians normally call on actors, singers to add spice to their events.

More often than not, both organizer and star maintain the appearance is gratis.

Really?

A recent report belied this, relating how some of these personalities charge from P3 million to as high as P100 million for their participation in these sorties.

Talent manager Ogie Diaz was quick to react.

He wrote in a social media post, “Di naman masyadong true ito...Hindi naman lahat ng celebrities, nagpapabayad o pera-pera lang.”

He attested, “Me mga celebrities, pro bono o libre lang basta kaibigan o kamag-anak nila yung kandidato o kahit hindi nila kaanu-ano, basta naniniwala sila sa ipinaglalaban nito, hindi pinag-uusapan ang magkano. Kung minsan, dumudukot pa ang mga celebrities sa mga sarili nilang bulsa, dahil walang pondo ang kandidato nila, pero naniniwala sila sa kakayahan at sinseridad nito sa mga tao.”

As to the P100 million price tag, he said: “Wow! Jackpot ang mga artista pag ganyan. Pero paano mababawi ito?”

“Pag ganito, check nyo yung pagmukha ng endorser pag ikinakampanya niya yung kandidato niya, parang napipilitan lang.”

In the end, he maintained, “Iba pa din pag naniniwala ka sa galing ng kandidato mo, kaya bukal sa loob mo ang pagtulong nang walang kapalit.”



People are talking about...

Loisa Andalia

Since her days as a housemate in Pinoy Big Brother, Loisa continues to gain a loyal fanbase as an actress. And it seems that her career has nowhere else to go but up. The young actress recently signed a contract with Star Magic, keeping her ties with the ABS-CBN. Loisa, who walked the Star Magic with the grace and elegance of a leading lady, thrilled her supporters even further as they learned that she and her boyfriend, Ronnie Alonte, will continue to work together for more kilig-filled projects.



Wilma Doesnt

Actress and model Wilma Doesnt has posted photos of her pre-nup shoot with fiance Gerick Parin. While the photos were evident of the couple’s chemistry and

their simple elegance, netizens couldn’t help but poke some harmless fun at the headlines ‘Wilma Doesnt share pre-nup photos.’ The wordplay was creative and witty, but nothing beats the anticipation of Wilma Doesnt becoming Wilma Doesnt Parin after the wedding.



People are not talking about...

Doc. Willie Ong

After his running mate, presidential candidate Isko Moreno, went to Maguindanao for a campaign sortie, the vice-presidential aspirant admitted to feeling hurt as he was left behind from the



trip. Voters and netizens are now speculating what’s happening between the two candidates, especially about their teamwork.

Hopefully, it’s not the foreshadowing of what can be likened to a bad break-up, as Willie already experienced being left behind and replaced by someone else in a short time.

Robin Padilla

Showbiz and politics are no strangers to each other which is why we are no longer surprised when someone who is known for his backward views on societal issues guns for a public post. Now vying for a position in the Senate, Robin has raised both doubts and support from the public. He even butted heads with retired COMELEC Commissioner Rowena Gananza, who is much more knowledgeable and experienced in holding a public office. Echoing what a presidential aspirant said, someone’s desire to serve is not enough, experience should be part of the main requirements, too.



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The future is looking bright for Francine Diaz

Francine Diaz, freshly 18, is a self-proclaimed old soul. The debutante and rising star had received a vintage typewriter for her birthday last January 27. And as she gushed about the machine, her eyes glittered and her face lit up.

Francine, you see, is a writer of sorts—a devout chronicler of something that many teen girls, since time immemorial, have been known to write about: her feelings. “Mahilig po kasi akong

magsulat,” Francine reveals. For Francine, there’s a certain kind of pressure in turning 18, especially for someone growing up in the spotlight. Francine’s very first appearance on national television

came by way of 2015’s *Pasión de Amor*, where she played a young Sari Elizondo (later played by Ellen Adarna) alongside other young



actors, including a then-unknown Belle Mariano. From there, a string of other roles in more teleseryes blessed Francine. But it would be her 2018 role in *Kadenang Ginto* that would catapult her to fame. Francine, alongside her co-star Andrea Brillantes, became one of Philippine television’s newest teen drama queens, showing off her acting chops and capturing viewers’ hearts with every new episode that aired. Her success in *Kadenang Ginto* also led to the founding of the phenomenal group called the Gold Squad,

a teenage quartet made up by Francine and her co-stars in the show, including Seth Fedelin and Kyle Echarri. Altogether, they also starred in the 2021 drama series *Huwag Kang Mangamba*. Their group was so successful it even led to the formation of a sub-group called the Squad Plus. More and more rising stars had been added to the group. She treads lightly when it comes to her success and all that she’s made for herself, choosing to prioritize humility, grace, and gratitude over anything else. “Siguro po kasi dahil sa pinagdaanan din namin dati,” Francine begins. Francine, first and foremost, pursued showbiz as a way to help her family, while hopefully ensuring a

FRANCINE, page 22



NIAGARA, page 11

contestants, from a Niagara College culinary student to professional chefs, but also, our pride for each other. We each had our skills and stepped in when one needed a boost. It’s an incredible team of like-minded individuals who just want



to promote Filipino culture and bring events to our region to enjoy, whether you’re new here or been here for decades. We look forward to serving you again in our next event, FINRO’s Niagara Sports Fest 2022 starting in March. See you in Niagara!

Randy Bucao and Tony San Juan resumes the Pinoy ito livestreaming show every Sunday at 11am -12pm.



Filipina singer to reportedly debut as K-pop idol

Chantal Videla is training under MLD Entertainment, which is teasing to debut a new girl group after Momoland. The entertainment agency is posting

Chantal in its Instagram account since her debut last November. Fans also noticed that Chantal is always with “Girls Planet 999” contestant Nonaka Shana, who was confirmed to debut as a girl group member last December. Chantal and Nonaka also showed their singing skills through covering Ariana



Grande’s “Santa Tell Me.” The Filipina-Argentinian singer is also appearing on MLD Entertainment’s videos on YouTube, further fueling speculations about her debut as a K-pop idol. The singer also starred on JT&Marcus’ digital single “Dear You” and recently did a cover of Jodi Benson’s “Part of Your World.”

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



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‘We all did it the Kapamilya Way’: Kim Chiu reflects on ‘surreal’ moment hosting PBB

Kim Chiu turned to social media to talk about the “surreal experience” she had talking to housemates of the current edition of “Pinoy Big Brother” (PBB).

The live episode opened in a powerful way as all of the current hosts were present in the eviction night.

It was the first time for Bianca Gonzalez to be the official main host of the reality series, with Chiu, Robi Domingo, Melai Cantiveros, and Enchong

Dee as her co-hosts.

“Last night was memorable,” Chiu said on Instagram.

“Thank you Lord God for guiding us. Maraming salamat sa lahat ng sumusuporta at patuloy na sumusuporta sa kwento ng totoong buhay @ pbbabscbntv. We all did it THE KAPAMILYA WAY!”

Chiu said she will forever be grateful for PBB and to the team behind it, including her co-hosts who helped her every step of the way.

“I will be forever grateful to this house, to the team behind PBB, to my co-hosts salamat sa pag guide kagabi ate @iamsuperbianca @iamrobidomingo sa mga advice and miga @mrand-mrsfrancisco @mr_enchongdee sa pag practice nyo sa akin ng talk to housemates!!! Grabe surreal experience yun. First time,” she said.

Chiu hopes she made Big Brother proud for standing as one of the show’s hosts more than a decade after she ended

her stint as a housemate.

“Sa buong team ng PBB maraming salamat. #gratitude #love #respect #KAPAMILYA andito tayo para sa isa’t isa,” she ended her post.

Toni Gonzaga announced she is leaving PBB as a host for her apparent support for a lawmaker who pushed for her home network ABS-CBN’s broadcast shutdown in 2020.

ABS-CBN said it “remains grateful” to Gonzaga for the 16 years she was part of PBB.



PHILIP BELOSO, from page 1

and started the FCT Victoria Basketball Tournament; Catholic church volunteer as a lector, and also an event organizer. He recently retired from his 31 years of government service as Ontario Public Servant at Land Registry Division, which happened to coincide with his acceptance of Asenso’s job offer.

Mr. Beloso is a face that is familiar to Filipinos because he is often at the stage as emcee or game show host. Prior to the pandemic, annually, Mr. Beloso organizes and hosts the FCT-Victoria Invitational Basketball Tournament that has been running for more than a decade.

The FCT-VIBT started in 2007 in honor of Dra. Victoria Santiago by the Filipino Center Toronto (FCT). This tournament is one of the most organized and most participated competitions in the Greater Toronto Area with the full support and participation of the Toronto Raptors Basketball, Toronto Police Service, and the Mayor’s Office. The event

PHILIP BELOSO, on page 23

Angelina Cruz veers away from acoustic in her latest single ‘Ayoko Lang’

Written and produced by August Rigo, “Ayoko Lang” is an indie-pop ballad about the emptiness or sadness one feels in the seemingly endless nights that follow a breakup.

Angelina Cruz said “Most of us have been in relationships, or have experienced the need to heal and move on from something or someone. And it doesn’t have to be about romantic relationships only. But the struggle to heal from other things, too. That’s why I was able to really resonate with the song.”

“The draft was emailed to me with the lyrics and melody and I really loved it. I made my family listen to it,” she added. “I really took the time to take in the song and its lyrics. I enjoyed recording it.”

She’s no stranger to rejection, too. “Everyone has experienced it. That’s reality and life. You just have to take things day by day, and try not to stress too much about it. You have to learn to love yourself more and be open to learning from these experiences,” she said. Angelina’s earlier releases were acoustic and mellow. But while “Ayoko Lang”



isn’t too far off sound-wise, the addition of a soft backbeat gives it an indie-pop flavor. “I’m excited for people to hear it. I have been doing the acoustic sound for many years, so I wanted to try other sounds and genres. And I feel like this song is one step closer to what I want,” she said. “Acoustic will always be my first love, though.”

Next goal

The recording artist plays the ukulele and is currently learning the ropes of the keyboards. Her next goal is to start writing her own songs, and then put out an EP or an album. “I didn’t compose my singles but I’m now starting to experiment and write more,” she related. “I already have some, and hopefully, I can come up with a collection of

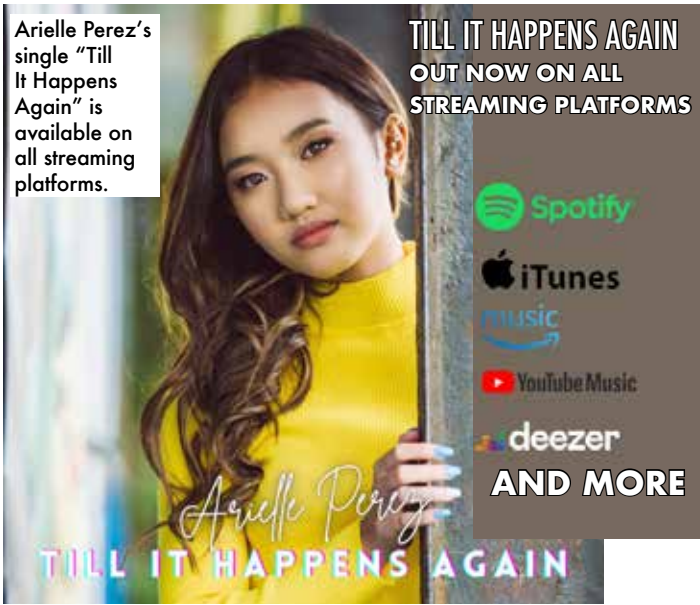
songs I have written.”

For the song’s music video, Angelina teamed up with Jeremiah Lisbo, whom she worked with in the 2021 film “Love is Color Blind.”

“We’re really close and comfortable with each other. I didn’t actually know he was going to be in my music video until he told me about it. We had fun shooting so it didn’t feel like we were working,” she said. “He also helped me in our intense or heavy scenes.”

Angelina is currently juggling music, acting and her studies. While it was challenging at first, she eventually got the hang of it. “I asked my mom for advice and she told me that I just have to manage my time better and know my priorities,” she said. “And I really put my heart into things I’m passionate about.”

“I was also timid and shy. And I used to feel pressure because I come from a family of singers. But when I signed with Universal Records when I was 15, I started to really open up and got inspired to pursue my passions and commit to them,” she added.



James Reid Hollywood or bust?

James Reid’s father Malcolm Reid stated that his son went to Los Angeles to attend to commitments regarding music, dismissing speculations that James moved there for good.

Prior to this, there was no official announcement about James’ departure which led some fans and netizens to think that the actor-musician might be leaving the country permanently. Malcolm addressed the rumors while showing a photo of them together at the day of James’ departure, on Malcolm’s Instagram page. “On his way to L.A. for recording sessions and to visit his brother Andrew,” he said. “That’s it. Anything else is basura (trash)... sorry to disappoint the fake newsmakers.”

Meanwhile, James was spotted at the party of his fellow Transparent Arts artist Dumbfounded. American singer and rapper Anderson .Paak was also at the said party.

James joined the L.A.-based label in October of 2020. Other artists handled by the company include Far East Movement



and Tiffany Young. James was sent off by his family last Thursday, Feb. 17. There’s no announcement of upcoming projects from the actor, as of writing. Netizens claim Malcolm Reid and family for over-dramatizing everything na pa-Hollywood with despedida at pa-cake may nakalagay na, “Von Voyage...Good luck James Reid.”

Netizens say, ang binibigyan lang daw ng despedida party ay ‘yung hindi na babalik pa. Here are some comments.

“Dad manages James. Sigurista si father. Para pag sumablay career sa US may babalikan pa din!”

Sabi naman ng isang netizen, “Sana pag nagbakasyon ako sa bora for 2 days, ipaa despedida rin ako ng friends ko. Lolololol.”

“Recording session lang naman pala and visit sa kapatid. Bakit may padespida na parang 5 taon ang kontrata nya sa abroad.”

Others say this is to make noise, “Hindi na kasi relevant. Napapag usapan na lang pag kinakabit sa name ni Nadine and her new bf.”

“Hala ano ba yun bakit mukhang pinalabas na dun na sya magtatagalog eh recording sessions lang pala. Lagot ka daddy Reid.”

Arci Muñoz lands cover of Los Angeles-based magazine

Arci Muñoz marked another milestone in her career after she landed the cover of Now, a Los Angeles-based fashion and beauty magazine.

Muñoz expressed her gratitude while showing herself donning a black plunging blazer paired with baggy jeans, through her IG page.

“If not now, when?! Waaahh!! Thank you [so] much [for] this feature and for granting my request to shoot at the [BTS’ “ON” music video] location,” she said.

The actress-singer also served looks in another dark ensemble of a fitting blazer, black see-through

leggings and boots.

Muñoz then treated fans to a glimpse of her other outfits and spoke about empowering women in celebration of International Women’s Month, as shown on her Instagram page. She wore a plunging red-orange coat with black sleeves, while her hair was styled in big curls. “Here’s to strong women, may we know them, may we be with them. May we raise them!” she declared.

Prior to this, Muñoz walked the runway of the fashion brand Hekka during New York Fashion Week, where she also sang her rendition of



the Guns N’ Roses hit song “Sweet Child O’ Mine.” She also made her Hollywood red carpet debut at the premiere of the comedy film “Jackass Forever.”

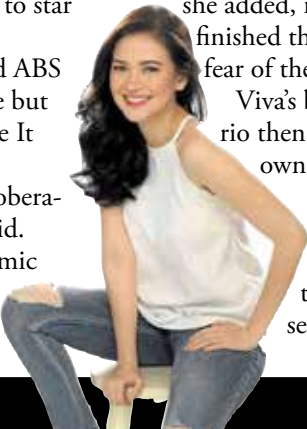
Bela Padilla’s ‘366’ film was supposed to star Liza Soberano

Kapamilya actress Bela Padilla said her directorial debut film “366” was supposed to star Liza Soberano.

Bela said she asked ABS about Liza’s schedule but she was doing “Make It With You.”

“I required Liza Soberano for this,” Bela said.

“When the pandemic started, a lot of actors didn’t want



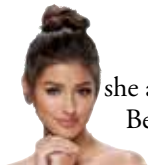
to work. Hindi ko pinilit ang original vision ko for this film,” she added, noting that Liza didn’t finished the series because of fear of the coronavirus.

Viva’s big boss Vic del Rosario then told her to star in her own fim.

“Ikaw na rin ang gumawa ng project na ‘to,’ I didn’t think twice. I guess, in a sense, hindi ko pa siya

gustong gawin noong unang sinabi sa akin. May mga pelikula pa at TV shows na ina-assign sa akin. Siyempre, more than anything, I’m still an actress before I am a writer or a director,” Bela said.

“But when the pandemic started, doon ko napag-isipan ng seryoso. Marami tayong mga kasama sa industry na walang trabaho. Naisip namin to start shooting even this pandemic,”



she added.

Bela then revised the script because Liza can’t make it.

“Originally, “‘366’ was to be shot in Hungary,” she said.

“Lumipat kami sa Turkey. It was one of the free countries that allowed visitors and filmmakers to shoot. It was just a blessing. Very cinematic ang Turkey. We shot in Cappadocia,” she added.

Bela said she wants to work with Liza in the future.

“I gave a different interpretation and performance than she would have given,” she said.

“I do believe whoever ends up with the project is the one meant to be for the project. This has happened to me so many times. This is not a secret. ‘100 Tula Para Kay Stella’ wasn’t meant for me, but now, it’s one of the films I really love. Whoever ended up doing the project, it is really meant for them,” she added.



CONGRATULATIONS

Kathryn Rodricks (LEFT & ABOVE) models for Walmart's Girls Justice Stand United clothing line. She is the proud daughter of Basil and Josie Rodricks.

Piolo Pascual is now a sustainable hotelier

Do you ever wonder how rich our local celebrities are? It's most likely that their net worth would never be public ala Forbes list, but we do know that they are wealthy and earn millions in one endorsement alone.

One of our most bankable stars here in the Philippines is no doubt Piolo Pascual, who managed to brand himself in a timeless manner. With every project he takes on – whether it is on- or off-cam, his looks in every event and hairstyle, or even cast mates or leading lady, what we can say is that Papa P, as he is fondly called in showbiz, calculates his every move.

Piolo's principle is very simple, "I never live beyond my means." He means it in every sense of the word that his success now started from that mantra.

"I remember when I was starting, I was never bothered about the nice things I saw," said he. "It did not pressure me. I knew in my heart what I wanted and I was content."

Like with his big investments, Piolo said that he is a conservative guy.

"I don't have stocks. I'm a pretty conservative guy," said he. "I make sure and study where I put my money before I put it in something and okay naman ako. I have more than enough."

Same goes when I asked him about cryptocurrencies and NFTs. "I am studying it, but it is not for me at the moment. I want to see where my money goes. I don't want to put my money where it is not certain."

What is certain though with Papa P is that his investment in Spring Films and its success here and slowly in the international film scene. With the amazing content local storytellers in the industry have been making, soon enough, Piolo does not see the need to make it in Hollywood for validation.

"We don't need to go to Hollywood anymore," said he. "We just need to tell good stories and make good films and they will notice us."

Piolo is also delving into some TV projects as he is a



co-producer of the successful and high-rating TV5 series Niña Niño, starring Maja Salvador. He will soon star in his comeback project with ABS-CBN, alongside Pia Wurtzbach, titled My Papa Pi. He is currently enjoying his status of being able to work with many channels and production houses and talents from all over the local industry.

Besides this, Piolo has been vocal about sustainability. He revealed that he is now investing in a huge resort that is environmental friendly.

"I live in the province and I love the lifestyle," concluded Piolo. "When I saw this resort opportunity, I studied it. The construction is ongoing and it is going to be big."

He is still mum where it will be in the Philippines but it will surely boost our local tourism industry.

Asenso Remit will soon merge with Kabayan Remit Toronto, Ontario, 3 February 2022

Asenso Remit is excited to announce plans to merge with its parent company, Kabayan Remit. As part of the merge, Asenso Remit will adopt the Kabayan Remit name and introduce a brand-new remittance system with a modern interface for the web & mobile app.

Founded in 2017, Asenso Remit provides a fast, affordable and convenient online money transfer service, focusing solely on remittances sent to the Philippines. It adopted its core vision and mission from its parent company, Kabayan Remit, which was founded in the UK in 2012 and is now the leading single corridor money transfer service in the country.

Commenting on the brand merger, Founder and CEO Simon Roberts explains, "This is an exciting time for us, as this brand merger will allow us to represent better what our company stands for. Our business has strong roots in the Philippines, so we actively commit to supporting and helping overseas Filipinos that work hard abroad to send money to their families and friends back in the Philippines."

"The word kabayan refers to fellow Filipinos, so adopting the Kabayan Remit name will allow us to embody who we are - a kababayan there 24/7 to help fellow Filipinos. We also believe that it will strengthen further our relationship with Filipinos, not only here in Canada, but also in the UK, and soon in the USA and Europe. Rest assured, we are still the same Asenso Remit team you've always known." Simon Roberts added.

Asenso Remit's transition is now underway and is expected to officially launch as Kabayan Remit in a few weeks. The new application and website will soon mirror Kabayan Remit's existing operations in the UK. The new user interface will provide an even better, faster and more convenient money transfer service to existing customers in Canada.



For more information,
visit asensoremit.com

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Ivana Alawi earns 15m YouTube subscribers

Ivana Alawi has gained a ping 15 million subscribers YouTube, marking another stone for the actress-vlogger on video-streaming platform.

Alawi announced the news to her fans while showing a sultry photo of herself wearing a white sleeveless shirt, on her Instagram page today, Feb. 24. Her photo was taken by celebrity photographer BJ Pascual, who she tagged on her post along with her glam team.

“Happy 15 MILLION SUBSCRIBERS on YouTube!!!” Alawi said.

Alawi started her YouTube channel in 2019 and hit 10 million subscribers in 2020, after around 14 months on platform. She has also earned spot on YouTube’s top 10 content creators in the country for two consecutive years, 2020 and 2021.

Alawi’s recent vlog is about her newly launched skincare brand, Ivana Skin, which was two years in the making. She described the brand as her “newest baby,” adding that it was inspired by her love for skincare since her teenage years.

Prior to Ivana Skin’s launch, Alawi warned the public against scammers who use her product’s name to ask for money.



whop-on mile-the

just the top



Filipino Centre Toronto held a covid19 vaccination drive last February 24. In photo, from left to right are the vaccine recipients, the health practitioners and the officers of FCT.

Sharon Cuneta tells Leila de Lima on 5th year in jail: ‘You should not be in there’

MANILA, Philippines — Megastar Sharon Cuneta joined other personalities and groups in expressing support for Sen. Leila de Lima, who is now spending her fifth year in detention.

Cuneta said she has been praying that De Lima would be released soon.

In a one-minute video shared by the senator’s office on Thursday, the megastar assured De Lima that “we haven’t forgotten about you.”

“Frankie and I adore you and pray for you, and you are so courageous and inspiring, and you should not be in there,” the actress said, referring to her daughter, singer-composer Frankie “Kakie” Pangilinan.

As for the megastar, she said that De Lima should not have been in detention as she could do “so much more” outside.

“We really miss you out here. We need you more out here,” Cuneta went on. “You can do so much more out here. And we keep praying that you be allowed out soon or that you are out, somehow by God’s grace and never-ending mercy.” “I keep praying for you, Senator Leila and I hope to give you a big hug when I see you finally. Hopefully sooner than we all expect. Frankie and I love you. God Bless you po!” the actress added.

According to the senator’s office, the



video clips the Li-

was among the played as part of program on De ma’s 5th year of “unjust deten-

tion,” which was highlighted by mes-sages of love, songs, and poems from artists, performers and various groups. De Lima has been detained since February 2017 over drug charges that she has repeatedly denied.

She is seeking another term in the upcoming elections under the tandem of Vice President Leni Robredo and Sen. Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan, who are vying for president and vice president positions, respectively.

Pangilinan is the husband of Cuneta.

CONGRATULATIONS

Miss Friendship Canada Melissa Ventocilla is 2nd runner-up.



Melissa’s reign as Binibining IPEN will soon come to an end. This will be a very emotional event for her.

Melissa’s reign as the very first Binibining IPEN is a very remarkable one. Covid did not stop her from fulfilling her duties with pride, dignity and perseverance. Throu-
gout her reign, she made a difference and many people’s live specially the youth. Her advocacy “PEP TALK BY IPEN Pass the mike please” helped young people come out of their comfort zones and were able to gain more self confidence through public speaking.

On May 7th, Melissa Ventocilla will crown her successor at the Toronto Pavilion.

Not all romance: Piolo Pascual shares tips to take care of your heart

In time for the recently concluded Hearts Month, Kapamilya actor Piolo Pascual gave tips on how to protect one’s heart.

At the recent Sun Life virtual press conference, Piolo said protecting someone’s heart is not just about being romantic.

“Be nice to yourself. It’s not all about being romantic, but feeding yourself good stuff and being nice to the people around you. That’s how you share love and take care of yourself,” he told Philstar.com at the virtual presser.

“Let out all the negativities and trade it with good thoughts so you can feel better. When you feel love around you, you feel better,” he added.

Piolo admitted that he felt anx-the pandemic because he can’t move “Parang you’re stuck. Also for of my family, especially my mom. things and worries and you know the people around you getting sick. It’s hard to deal with that,” he said.

“I realize that it’s important to pray more and worry less.”



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Anne Curtis to conquer digital stage in comeback concert

Anne Curtis will be treating fans to a documentary concert in April which will mark her comeback after two years of hiatus in showbiz.

Curtis announced the news while showing a photo of herself striking a fierce pose in a black one piece suit paired with knee-high boots, via her Instagram page yesterday, Feb. 26.

“A very special docu-[concert] for everyone I LUV! Join me as I share bits and pieces of my life in the past two years. Plus! I just might have some surprise fierce, fun and fab performances!” she said.

The concert, entitled “Luv-ANNE,” is a livestream event and will be held on April 30.

Fellow actresses who gushed over Curtis were Angel Locsin, Chie Filomeno and Chynna Ortaleza.

Fans, meanwhile, expressed their excitement, with one @jhoannacurtis stating that Curtis’s announcement is “worth the long wait.”

“LITERALLY CRYING. You will never have an idea how you continuously make my dreams come true as well! I love you so much!!! And, I am so proud of you. I will be there, mahal kita (I love you),” she said.

“YAAAS FINALLYYYYYY. ORDER NA AGAD NG TICKET (I’ll already order a ticket). I CAN’T WAIT FOR [THIS],” another fan, @cathrynarceo, commented.

Curtis earlier teased fans of her return with a black-and-white video of



herself dancing and striking sexy poses while a spotlight follows her. She can also be seen holding a red microphone, the same one she used in her 2014 concert “The Forbidden Concert Round 2: Annekapal.”

Curtis took a break from showbiz in 2019 months before she welcomed her daughter with celebrity chef Erwan Heussaff,

A trucker’s wife sees 3 parrots for sale. \$170, \$150 & \$10. She asks why the last parrot is so cheap. The pet store owner said it used to live in a whore house. The woman laughs & buys it. She gets home the parrot says “Wow A new whore house!” The woman laughs... When her 2 daughters come home, the parrot says “Dang!!! 2 new gals!” They all laugh! When her husband walks in door, the parrot says “Hi Joe! You found the new spot!” And... that’s how the fight started.

Dahlia. The actress gave birth in Australia where she stayed with her family, and later returned to the country in February last year.

NORMAL 2022, from page 1

DOF officials had said the next administration could set its sights on “relatively untaxed” sectors. For instance, the viability of carbon tax, a levy on cryptocurrencies, removal of all exemptions from 12-percent value-added tax (VAT) payments, as well as further hikes of excise taxes on cigarettes, e-cigarettes, alcoholic drinks and sugary beverages were being studied.

“The Congress’ recent passage of game-changing economic reforms — namely the amendments to the Foreign Investments Act, Retail Trade Liberalization Act and Public Service Act, which are meant to further open the economy to foreign investment — is a strong indication that the economic reform momentum will continue beyond the current administration. These reforms will help the Philippines return soon enough to its rapid economic growth and support faster fiscal consolidation,” Dominguez said.

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“The Philippines’ long track record of pursuing structural reforms through successive political administrations will help the Philippines transition from lower middle-income

to upper middle-income status this year,” according to Dominguez.

Once the Philippines becomes an upper middle-income economy, it will lose access

to concessional interest rates now being slapped on official development assistance (ODA) loans extended by bilateral and multilateral lenders.

Edward Barber lookalike? Maymay Entrata introduces boyfriend



Actress Maymay Entrata finally introduced her non-showbiz boyfriend through social media on Valentine’s Day.

Maymay shared a photo of herself with her beau, who seems to be a foreigner. She wrote in the caption, “Happy Birthday my Valentino.” The boyfriend

Maymay Entrata with non-showbiz boyfriend

is celebrating his birthday on Valentine’s Day, it would appear.

In April 2021, the singer opened up about her love life.

“Sa totoo lang po may nagpapasaya na po sa aking puso at nawa’y kahit anong maging desisyon namin ay respetuhin po ‘yun ng aking mga taga-suporta,” she said.

She made a similar admission in July 2021, when she addressed rumors romantically linking her to onscreen partner Edward Barber, as well as actor Donny Pangilinan, on the talk show “Hotspot.”

“Hindi ako in a relationship kay

Donny or kay Edward man... Wala po kahit sino sa showbiz, wala,” she said at that time. “Nabanggit ko na naman po ito sa isang magazine na may nagpapasaya sa akin. Opo. Hanggang doon na lang. Basta wala sa showbiz.”

“Nagpapasalamat din ako sa lahat talaga ng mga fan na kumbaga kahit di ako nage-effort na pasayahin kayo, pinapasaya niyo ang sarili niyo. Joke, sorry. Naa-appreciate ko ‘yon at natutuwa lang din naman ako. Pero para maging clear ang lahat hindi ako kay Donny. Wala pong kahit sino sa showbiz na in a relationship ako.”

Entrata’s post featuring her boyfriend was immediately flooded with hundreds of comments from Maymay’s followers, and showbiz friends. “Ganyarn!!!! Happy Valentines,” said Angelica Panganiban. “OMG!!! Hala! Ngiga sa pagkagwapa sa akong miga oi! Grabe man na. Maka happy mana miga! Happy Vday miga!,” wrote Kim Chiu.

Others who reacted to the photo included Maja Salvador, Janella Salvador, Dimples Romana, Bianca Gonzalez, Elisse Joson, McCoy de Leon, Chie Filomeno, Jayda Avanzado, and Mimiyyuuuh.

Claudia Barretto raps on her own

Rapper Because calls Claudia Barretto a classy singer but accessible to the masses. “She has that kind of impression. Her style is mature but open to interpretation, everyone can relate to her,” Because says. Claudia opened up about wanting to reach more audience through the songs she puts out and looking into different creative avenues where she can thrive as an artist.

“Honestly, I also wonder why acting didn’t become something I’m inclined to do naturally considering the environment that I was in. But I guess, growing up, I always looked up to musicians and singers,” Claudia said underscoring the fact that she draws inspiration from life experiences and the artists she listens to.

“With music, I can decide what I can



share with the world and have a personal life that I want to live for myself,” the 22-year-old Viva Records artist said.

To reach a wider audience, Claudia drops the single “Everything” in collaboration with the young prolific rapper Because.

The two music artists are among the headlining music acts in Viva Live’s digitally streamed music event titled “ARRIVAL.”

“Because was one of the artists I felt I could easily collaborate with,” said Claudia.

The sound is of course all Claudia, who’s been method-

ically building a reputation as a modern Pinoy pop tastemaker. Her previous releases have a common denominator – all are steeped in R&B, lo-fi feels with elements of hip-hop beats, and a moody demeanor to it.

Her debut single with Viva Records and its follow-up, titled “Nothing To Do” and “Be It,” respectively, are prime examples. “With ‘Everything,’ the whole writing happened during our first in-person meeting and within one studio session. We wrote and recorded everything during that day,” Claudia recalled.

And while the new track’s sound and style is all Claudia, she had envisioned the “BMW” hit rap artist from the start, saying, “I consciously did. I’ve always wanted to experiment with a little bit of melodic rap.”

Claudia only has high praises Because. The young Barretto expressed her intention to more collaborations in the future including another work with Because.

“Definitely. We have some things in the works as we speak, (among those are) an Electronic EP, (more) singles, (and) collaborations,” she concluded.

Rey Valera wants Sharon Cuneta for Musical

Ipinagkatiwala ni Rey Valera sa concert producer na si Mhae Sarenas ang pagpoprodyus ng musical base sa kanyang mga awit.

Kung ang Aegis ay may Rak of Aegis, ang Eraserheads ay may Ang Huling El Bimbo, ang APO Hiking Society ay may Eto Na! Musikal nAPO! at pelikulang I Do Bidoo Bidoo: Heto nAPO Sila (2012)... exciting ang Rey Valera na Kahit Maputi Na Ang Buhok Ko: The Musical, di ba?!

Kung papalarin, nais daw ni Rey na makasama sa musical si Sharon Cuneta.

Lahad pa ni Ms. Rhea: “Siya na



yung nagbibigay ng mga idea. Sabi nga niya, yun na yung legacy niya na maiiwan niya sa buong mundo.

“Sabi niya, ‘Ako, hangga’t ganito, medyo malakas pa ako, kumakanta pa ako pero gusto ko, may maiwan ako. Inihabilin ko ito sa ‘yo.’

“Alam mo, nakakatuwa yun. Ang sabi pa ni Tito Rey, try lang niya raw kung papayag si Miss Sharon Cuneta na makasama sa musical.”

Aba! Sandamukal na Rey Valera songs ang inawit ng Megastar, gaya ng “Mr. DJ,” “Kahit Maputi Na Ang Buhok Ko,” “Maging Sino Ka Man,” “Pangako,” at “Kung Kailangan Mo Ako.”

Paolo Gumabao takes over pasaway Kiko Estrada in ‘Darna

Controversial actor Kiko Estrada will no longer be part of the upcoming TV remake of Mars Ravelo’s “Darna.”

Recently, hunk actor Paolo Gumabao (PHOTO)revealed he’s joined the cast of the show as Noah Ballesteros, a role that was originally assigned to Kiko, based on the cast reveal last year.

According to reports, Kiko had to “drop out” of the project due to “scheduling conflict.” But sources say pasaway daw ugali ni Kiko na hindi na kayang i-tolerate ng mga katrabaho niya.

As of writing, the producers of the show, JRB Creative Production, is yet to release a statement on the matter.

Based on behind-the-scenes photos uploaded on social media, Paolo as with Jane de Leon, Joshua Garcia, and Janella Salvador, have already shot scenes for the series.



POLITICS RIP, from page 1

itician Joseph “Erap” Estrada is seen raising the hand of Bongbong Marcos.

Juxtaposed is a photo of his son, actor Jake Ejercito, who along with his daughter Ellie, are both wearing pro-Leni Robredo attire.

Also seen in the same is Karla Estrada, looking quite gleeful at the BBM-Inday Sara proclamation rally. Her son, Daniel Padilla, on the other hand, just liked an anti-Marcos post. Meanwhile, the country’s one and only Superstar, Nora Aunor, is seen proudly wearing a red BBM hoodie.

But her granddaughter, Janine Gutierrez, says “Never Again.”

Janine also made clear she is sup-



porting Leni Robredo.

Some of the comments:

“Kaya wala nang fans sina Erap at Nora ih...”

“Sinong maysabi na kung alin ang puno siya rin ang bunga? Nganga!!”

“JUsume si Karla pinahiya na namana ang mga anak”

“Ang kabataan ang pag-asa ng bayan.”

“Proud to be part of the younger generation!”

“Nilumot na ang matatanda sa kinamulatan, habang ang mga kabataan gising na sa katotohanan.”

“Old vs new. I’m with the new.”

PHILIPPINES

SWS: More Pinoys back mandatory jabs, restrictions for unvaxxed

About half of adult Filipinos support mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations and stricter policies against the unvaccinated, a recent survey conducted by Social Weather Stations (SWS) showed.

SWS president Linda Luz Guerrero presented the December 2021 survey results at a virtual forum earlier this week.

According to Guerrero, some 51 percent of the adult respondents in their latest survey either strongly or somewhat agree to enact into law the proposal of President Duterte to compel all Filipinos to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

Earlier, it said that vaccine skepticism among Filipinos has dropped from as high as 33 percent in May 2021 to just eight percent in the most recent survey.

A majority of those who received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccines also said they are willing to get booster shots.



PH eases entry of foreign kin of Filipino citizens

Foreign spouses and children of Filipino citizens will now be allowed to enter the Philippines without presenting an outbound ticket, the Palace said.

The country has started to open its borders to fully vaccinated foreigners from non-visa-required countries, the first time since the Philippines went into lockdown in March 2020. Also, former Filipino citizens with Balikbayan privileges and their foreign spouses and children are also allowed to enter the Philippines without outbound tickets.

The country is only accepting fully vaccinated foreign nationals.

Inbound foreign nationals must also present a negative PCR test taken within 48 hours prior to date and time of departure from the country of origin or first port of embarkation in a continuous trip to the Philippines excluding layovers.

Most of the expected travelers to the country are Filipinos, while they project around 27 percent will be foreign nationals.

“As we welcome our fully-vaccinated visitors to our country, we need to be assured that proper health and safety protocols are strictly enforced in our airports in order to provide a hassle-free entry for travelers,” said Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat.

Puyat said she is optimistic that the number of inbound tourist arrivals will steadily grow in the coming weeks, as tourists usually need time to finalize their travel plans.

Puyat reminded all tourism stakeholders to ensure strict adherence to health and safety protocols when handling guests and to all foreign tourists visiting the Philippines to prepare all travel requirements ahead of time and to follow the minimum health protocols.

Make carabao as meat source to boost food security

The carabao should be considered as another meat source to strengthen the country’s food security, former Defense Secretary Norberto Gonzales, a presidential candidate, said on Tuesday at a debate hosted by Sonshine Media Network International (SMNI).

Gonzales said that, if elected president, he would ask Congress that would allow carabaos to be eaten.

“Maybe we would fix other sources of protein like the carabao. Maybe we can ask Congress to allow the carabao to be eaten. We don’t eat carabao meat,” he said in Filipino.

Gonzales also said the agricultural sector should be strengthened to ensure food security.

He also raised concerns about land ownership, citing it as one of the reasons holding back progress in agriculture.

“Our agriculture is not progressing because we have deficiencies in our laws and policies on agriculture, particularly the law on agrarian reform. The big lands that others are farming, we cut them up and distributed them,” he said.





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Zoren quickly wed Carmina due to her father’s critical condition

Zoren Legaspi recounted how he planned his surprise wedding to Carmina Villaroel and how her father’s health was one of the factors why Legaspi decided to push through with it.

Legaspi got emotional as he talked about their wedding and his concerns at the time regarding Villaroel’s father, as seen in a vlog on the couple’s YouTube channel yesterday, Feb. 27, where they were answering fan questions.

“Ang isang triggering point kasi no’n kaya siya naging surprise at mabilisan, nagkasakit kasi si daddy Reggie, bibigyan ng hip replacement,” he said.

“Sabi nung doctor ‘pag ginawa ‘yun, 50-50 si daddy Reggie then sabi ko ‘Yun lang ba talaga ‘yung option?’ then it hit me.



Sabi pa- ko ‘Kung mag-pakasal kami ni Mina na hindi mawi-witness ni daddy Reggie, useless.’ Kasi wala na mama mo

tapos pag naglakad ka doon wala pa daddy Reggie mo, so for me, useless siya.”

Legaspi then described Villaroel’s walk down the aisle as his favorite part of their wedding, stressing that Villaroel’s emotions were evident then as she was with her father.

Aside from their wedding, Legaspi also talked about how he’s not ready for his twins, Cassy and Mavy, to be in a relation-

ship, stressing that they’re still young to be in one. He also added how the “culture” of getting into young relationships should be dismissed.

“Yung sa akin kasi, why push them into these things at a very, very young age kung marami namang pwedeng ma-push sila in a different angle,” he stated.

“The later you have a relationship, the better. Kung nag-25 ka or 26 and you’re still single, doesn’t mean you have a lonely heart. It’s better kasi hindi ‘yan ang priority sa buhay.”

Legaspi and Villaroel tied the knot in 2012 after being a couple for 12 years. Their surprise wedding was attended by fellow celebrities that include Boy Abunda, Susan Roces and Maricel Soriano.

Why Jolina Magdangal stays with ABS-CBN



Kapamilya actress and TV host Jolina Magdangal explained the reason why she stayed with ABS-CBN despite the non-renewal of its franchise.

During the Kapamilya Strong 2022 media conference last night, Jolina shared with the press that she never hesitated to stay.

“Sa’kin kasi nu’ng nangyari ‘yun, wala talaga akong dala-wang isip. Ang sabi ko nga dati kung nagsasama-sama tayo ‘pag Christmas special, kung nagsasama-sama tayo ‘pag mayroong ball at mayroong mga big event na masaya bakit ‘di tayo magsama-sama kapag nangangailangan laluna ang isa’t isa?” Jolina said.

“Hindi naging issue ‘yun na, ‘OK, matatakot ba ‘ko dahil yes nanay ako?’ Ang nanaig sa’kin ito ‘yung time para mas dapat kuma-

pit kami sa isa’t isa. ‘Yung mga gustong bumitaw, try nating hilain pero kung ayaw na OK lang basta try mo pa ring akapin ‘yung iba. ‘Yun ‘yung pinakananaig sa’kin,” she added.

She also thanked the network for giving her projects despite what happened.

“I’m very happy. Hindi ko maintindihan parang nagfa-flash-back sa’kin nu’ng bata pa ako na tatakbo-takbo ako rito sa ABS and after ilang years, 3 dekada and more ito kasama ko pa rin ang ating mga boss at talagang andito pa rin ako. Hindi man tumatakbo pero nandito pa rin. Maraming-maraming salamat po sa pagtitiwala sa akin mula noon hanggang ngayon, thank you so much po,” she added.

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BARBI IMPERIAL, reason for split, muses on goodbyes

Barbie Imperial tells why she broke up with Diego Loyazaga. “If I feel like the other person is not growing with me, that’s the time I say goodbye na talaga. Kasi para saan pa ako mag-se-stay if parang wala na akong naaambag sa growth mo?” said Barbie

“One of the hardest goodbyes is the one you don’t see coming,” she opined. “Hindi mo na-anticipate na yun na yung last time na makikita mo yung taong yun. Yun yung pinakamahirap na goodbye na bigla na lang, ‘Huh, paano nangyari yun?’ Yung hindi mo alam na mangyayari kasi hindi ka ready. But ganun talaga, life.” “Based on experience, ako yung nag-go-goodbye. Kasi pumasok ka sa relasyon, so, alis ka, paalam mo rin,” she furthered. The Kapamilya star’s personal advice to “The Goodbye Girl” is to take all the time you need to heal, “You don’t have to rush it. (It should be) at your own pace and if you feel that you are ready na bumangon, ituloy-tuloy mo

lang.” “Yung healing naman kasi hindi naman siya tuloy-tuloy, eh. May mga days na paakyat ka na tapos pababa, tapos pataas. For me, you just have to remember that this is life, eh, we got hurt but we learn from it. It’s OK to feel hurt, you are only human,” reminded Barbie. Will she ever empathize with “The Other Women?” It depends on the situation, she explained. “There are ‘Other Women’ na hindi

alam na ganun sila. I feel sorry for them. But if they know na ‘Other Woman’ sila, and they still continue to enter that kind of relationship, knowing that the guy has a legal girlfriend or wife, it’s a big no.” “I believe in karma. Kung ano yung ipinaparamdam mo sa isang tao, babalik at babalik yan. Ipa-paramdam yan sayo balang araw,” asserted Barbie.



Veteran actors’ ‘stretched’ look defies ravages of surgical aging

At the shoot of a popular series, Seasoned Professional (SP) was overheard complaining about the cruel closeups her character was getting. “I’m no spring chicken, so these extreme shots on my face are far from flattering,” SP complained to a confidant. But when she saw a succeeding scene involving three show biz vets, SP couldn’t help but chuckle. “Well, theirs is a different case. When you look at their faces up close, you’ll see how ‘stretched’ their faces look. They hardly move at all (laughs)!” Indeed, anything done in excess is just as unappealing.

Gabby Concepcion delivers

Gabby Concepcion reprises his vice-president-turned-president role in the First Yaya’s book two titled First Lady. “You have to be, I believe, nice to everybody on the set,” answered Gabby when asked about staying long in show business. Complementary to that work attitude is an actor’s commitment to deliver the goods. “Do your job, do what is expected of you to do,” added Gabby, who reflected that there are many other factors for one to have and enjoy an enduring career like luck, hard work, dedication and building relationships with people. If actors like Gabby are able to provide an inspired performance, it’s also because of the material being presented to them. “Ang ending talaga, I believe, is the story,” shared Gabby. “The intent is to make sure that not to pry on the intellectual contribution of the writers and the producers, but to add on to what can possibly be done to help and enhance the flavor,” said Gabby. This environment makes the work thrive and conducive for actors and other creatives to better their craft. Gabby is always in his element to



be the leading man of Sanya Lopez, who also deserves a pat on the back for playing Yaya Melody, now the wife of President Glenn. “Hindi ko alam kong bakit nangyayari yun (I don’t know how it happens),” said he of his effective onscreen chemistry with leading ladies. Gabby attributes his success to the people he has worked with. “Hindi ko magagawa ang lahat ng yun kung hindi ako pinagbibigyan ng aming mga writers, mga directors, mga producers para mailabas yung gusto natin sana i-contribute dun sa magiging character, sa storya,” said he, who shared that there’s an offer for him and daughter KC Concepcion to do a US tour this year. With the rate his career is going, viewers will see him more on TV, and as he put it, “Ang uso ngayon is teleserye.” But it’s also nice to see him acting in a film, just like what he and KC did, along with Jericho Rosales, in I’ll Be There, whom Gabby described as “a very good movie,” and if one may add, with a relatable narrative and heartfelt performances from the actors. That work between Gabby and KC can also be done in a family drama TV series. Still at it, Gabby is an epitome of a Filipino leading man, whose acting can traverse genres and whose career continues to thrive.

How Piolo Pascual feels about being called ‘Papa P’



Stars are often christened with “titles,” created intentionally or randomly. Take Piolo Pascual, for example. ABS-CBN’s favorite leading man has been fondly called Papa P by almost everyone in the industry. But the 45-year-old actor doesn’t mind. “It started with Ms. Ai-Ai (delas Alas) in Magandang Tanghali Bayan (during the early 2000s). I was a guest one time and she called me Papa P, and I called her Mama Ai, and then it just stuck. “Pag tinatawag kang Tito, nakakatanda. At least, it’s a term of endearment. May mga naiilang na tawagin ako sa aking pangalan, so yun nalang. OK na rin.” Nevertheless, Piolo shared how initially “awkward” it was being called Papa P. “At first, it was really awkward, you know. Kasi ‘pag mga babae tatawag sayo ng Papa P, especially ang mga bata, parang OK lang, di ba? Pero umabot kasi sa punto na pati cameraman tumatawag sa akin ng, ‘Papa P! Papa P!’ Tol, pati ba naman ikaw? Hahaha! So, napagtanto ko, na siguro out of respect na rin, ibigay nalang natin kaysa iba ang tawag sayo. So natanggap ko na rin naman at may show na nga tayong ganun,” he said.

True enough, Piolo’s brand-new sitcom directed by Cathy Garcia-Molina, capitalizes on this long-standing moniker, as it’s titled My Papa Pi. Also dubbed as a “sweetcom” for its rom-com feels – direk Cathy’s box-office proven specialty – My Papa Pi is Piolo’s first ABS-CBN series since 2020. His last sitcom was via a recurring role in Home Sweetie Home. “It’s a nice breather, you know. If you’re able to make people laugh and happy, it’s a nice feeling na babalik sayo.” Besides this “sweetcom,” Piolo is simultaneously doing another TV project, the Philippine adaptation of the hit K-drama thriller Flower of Evil. If My Papa Pi allows Piolo to explore the lighter side of the acting job, it’s a different story for Flower of Evil. The series follows a man who changes his identity to hide his dark past, successfully keeping his disguise by building a happy family with his police-detective wife. “Pini-prepare ko yung sarili ko sa Flower of Evil kasi iba yung character na pino-portray ko, may pagka-twisted. So, baka pagkatapos ng taon, pumasok na ako sa rehab, hahaha!” he said. “But I guess, that’s the fun part of being an actor. We get to really portray different roles. Mahirap na masarap na masaya.”

Piolo topbills with Pepe Herrera and Pia Wurtzbach.

Lady Gaga shows love to Filipino makeup artist

MANILA, Philippines – International star Lady Gaga showed her love for part-Filipino makeup artist Frederic Aspiras for being nominated for the Best Makeup and Hairstyling category at the Academy Awards. In her Instagram account, Gaga posted a photo of her with the makeup artist she called “living genius.” “I could not be happier for a man I call my brother, who I’ve worked with for the last 15 years, @fredericaspiras, for his nomination in Makeup & Hairstyling for House of Gucci,” Gaga said. “Frederic was magical, precise, and dedicated months leading up to shoot and during filming. He prepared dozens of wigs for months and months, and did at least a year of preparation. He’s a living genius and Freddie, we are all so grateful to just



even be near your talent, creativity and generosity of spirit,” she added. The hit maker congratulated Frederic and other nominees saying she’s rooting for him to win. For his part, Frederic thanked Gaga saying he loves her so much. “Thank you @ladygaga. This past year was the most difficult of all after losing my mom. You believed in me and trusted me. You reminded me of the gift that I had and how much joy it brings. You made me do it for my Mom. I can’t begin to thank you for these kind words. You’re performance and dedication to your performance in this film is legendary! The amount of respect and camaraderie we had amongst our team is unparalleled. We are a family. I love you so much,” he said. “I am so proud to be part of such an amazing group of talented visionaries of hair and makeup artist on the @houseofguccimovie team. And the rest of the Haus family, filming while under COVID was not easy but we made it so fun! I love you,” he added.

TALENT FEE, from p1
range from P3 million to P5 million.

One popular dance group asks for P200,000 for just one dance number, while P150,000 is paid to one hunk actor in exchange for two songs, and P250,000 is the talent fee of a newbie singer for two songs as well. There are celebrities who are paid “per akyat” (for every time they go up on stage). This means that if the said celebrity, for example, commands a talent fee of P1 million, and should this celeb go up on stage 10 times to perform in just one day, that talent can earn up to P10



million in a day. Social media influencers like Jasmine Curtis-Smith are playing a big role in this campaign also by sharing content. The actress was paid a total of at least P405,000 for half a year in 2017. Curtis-Smith’s posts contained a mix of clickbait articles,

showbiz-related content, Duterte propaganda, and false information. It’s a testament to these celebrities’ reach, highlighting their role in contributing to disinformation, wittingly or unwittingly, willingly or not, by selling their content space to the highest bidder.



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Korina on Villar-led TV network: The more, the better

“Well, you know, I’m a free agent. All my doors are open,” said the veteran TV journalist Korina Sanchez if she would be willing to accept should an AMBS offer be made.

So, if there’s an offer, why not? I’d love to be working again with the people who I came to know as my family, as I was growing up in the industry. So, why not?” she further said. Korina was asked her opinion on the arrival of the new network Advanced Media Broadcasting System (AMBS), Inc., by tycoon and former Senate president Manny Villar. “Well, I think, the more players, the better. “Others say, malapit nang mawala ang TV. Maybe not in the next five, eight, 10 years. Iyan pa rin ang No. 1 source of information. And the more strong



frequencies we have, with good content, the better for our country.”

‘Journalism is evolving’

“In America, makikita mo nagpi-picnic si (former US president) Barack (Obama) kasama ni Michelle, di ba? Naka-two-piece si Michelle, papakita ni Barack na naka-six-pack siya. Why? ‘They have to know I’m healthy. They have to know that this is the kind of father I am.’”

“Are we really electing presidents to Malacañang? We are electing human beings to Malacañang. And you have to know what kind of human beings they are. So, that is how I feel my brand of journalism is evolving. It’s less judgmental, without having to diminish the value of knowledgeability, decency, education.

“Pero tama yung narinig ko kahapon dun sa isang vlog. Nasa galing ito. Gaano ka kagaling? Gaano ka marunong dumiskarte? Husay — husay ang pinag-uusapan dito.”

Coleen Garcia: *Motherhood is absolutely life-changing*

After giving birth to her first child, Amari, in Sept. 2020, Coleen Garcia has returned to acting via Jon Red’s Adarna Gang.

The 29-year-old actress admitted feeling “intimidated” and had “challenging” times drawing emotions for the scenes because she hadn’t done acting in a while.

Coleen also felt pressured because she got to work with experienced actors.

“It’s a good thing na hindi sila intimidating people. Very approachable. It was a huge help.”

She likewise cited direkt Jon for the guidance. Now back, she is more willing to experiment and give what is needed for any role she takes.

“Yes, pipili pa rin ako (ng projects) because I don’t want to be a part of something na hindi ako all in,” she asserted.

Coleen could have done new projects sooner but due to COVID-19 restrictions, it took quite a bit of time for her to start filming again.

“Ito kasi nag-taping kami sa isang place na zero talaga yung cases tapos ito pa yung time na



pwedeng lumabas ang mga bata so I was able to bring Amari.

The “efficient and organized” conditions during the taping were a big help to Coleen to still fulfill her mother duties to Amari while working.

“Hindi kami nagpa-pack up ng sobrang late so I was able to come back to him and everything. It was just so perfect,” she said.

As a mom, Coleen thinks of herself so much less now compared to when she was single.

“Kasi si Billy (Crawford) he’s always at work also. So I’m with him (Amari) very often. Maka-mommy talaga siya. Very clingy,” she added.

Motherhood taught her a lot of things, she confessed. “Andami mong na-realized na dati it was such a big deal for me pero ngayon, ang liit na na bagay because Amari is such a... I wouldn’t say a handful but he is the bigger picture now. Parang everything I do, everything I plan, it’s all for him. And he is taken into consideration every single time. If I could say it in the shortest possible way, it’s (motherhood) life-changing, absolute life-changing.”

Director Cathy Garcia-Molina on plans to migrate to New Zealand: ‘Na-push back ng konti yung paglipad’

‘My Papa Pi’ director Cathy Garcia-Molina admits she still plans to relocate to New Zealand with her family in the future.

After being at the helm of Star Cinema’s 2021 Metro Manila Film Festival entry Love At First Stream, Cathy Garcia-Molina returns to the small screen this year with her first sweetcom My Papa Pi. The veteran director admitted that lead actor Piolo Pascual was a big factor in her accepting the project.

In My Papa Pi, Piolo and Pepe Herrera play

twin brothers who live in a loving community called Mapagasa Street.

“Ang top of all my reasons, si Piolo. I really want to work with Piolo kasi ang huling project namin Lobo pa. Dekada na yun. So na-miss ko na siya and ngayon parang once a year na ako mag-pe-pelikula, parang na-offer sa akin yung pagkakataon na ayon project ni papa Pi kaya um-oo ako. Yun talaga yun. Pangalawa it’s something new to me. Sitcom na naging sweetcom.

The kapamilya director admitted that if it were not for the pandemic, her plans of migrating to New Zealand would have pushed through already.

“Actually my children especially my daughter still wants to go to New Zealand. But because of the pandemic nagkaroon din ng avenue for a new company na na-put up ko with my friends na Nickl Entertainment and so far marami kaming natutulungan tao via this new company. So parang na-push back ng konti yung paglipad. Pero nandun pa rin yung kailangan naming umalis. Kailangan kong pagbigyan yung anak ko. Panay lang talaga ang katok ng kuwento. Siguro talaga pag isa kang mangenguwento, parang ang hirap umalis. Pag may magandang kuwento napapaligon ako pabalik (laughs),” she revealed.

The My Papa Pi director said she does not discount the possibi-

ty of shooting a film in New Zealand with a Filipino cast even after she moves there.

“Hindi malayong mangyari. Actually na-pag-isipan na. Kasi ang sabi ng Star Cinema sa akin before, kung nandun ako sila ang susunod,” he added. Having announced her planned retirement from directing as early as 2018, direkt Cathy told fans she wanted more time to focus on her family.

“I just want to give time to my kids. I have served 25 years of my life sa show business. It’s time to give it to my children,” she said.

GOD'S LITTLE PARADISE

Another gem of the Visayas, Bohol's Historical significance extends way back to the blood compact between boholano chieftain sikatuna and the Spanish Conquistador, Miguel Lopez de Legaspi, in 1565.

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

Sunset @ Sta. Fe Beach

Chocolate Hills

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

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

Balicasag Resort & Diving Spot

A tropical havel of beauty, the coastline of province is skimmed by gentle coves and white sand beaches. You can fins some of the country's great dive sights here. Balicasag in Bohol is one of the most popular dives in visayas.

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

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Joshua Garcia, Janella Salvador reunite in ‘Darna’ set

Kapamilya stars Joshua Garcia and Janella Salvador have finally reunited.

In Joshua's Instagram account, the talented actor posted a photo of him with Janella.

“Reunited,” Joshua captioned the post.

“Nice to see you again, mister,” Janella commented on the post.

Joshua was seen wearing a police officer uniform for his role in the “Darna” series starring Jane de Leon.

Janella will be portraying Darna's rival Valentina in the series.

The two were paired in the hit series “The Killer Bride.” They were also paired in an episode of “Maa-laala Mo Kaya” before working with each other again in the upcoming superheroine series by Mars Ravelo.



Gerald Anderson and Jake Cuenca & other Star Magic stars give advice to aspiring actors

With Star Magic now celebrating its 30th year anniversary, longtime stars of the talent management arm of ABS-CBN took turns in dishing out advice for those aspiring actors.

Gerald Anderson

“Hindi ako mahilig magbigay ng advice. But more than anything dapat always have kindness. So always have kindness sa cameraman, sa utility. So kindness and professionalism.”



Jake Cuenca

Whatever quirks you have, whatever weirdness you have, you have to keep those things kasi that thing which is called you, that's what's going to make you different from everyone else. At the same time, with that being said, siyempre you have to be kind. You have to be professional.



Loisa Andalio

“Ang ma-a-advise ko sa mga kabataan, mangarap lang kayo ng mangarap kasi libre lang yan eh. At siyempre hindi naman puwede na pangarap lang. Kailangan may kilos din at tiyaga. Huwag kayong susuko sa pangarap niyo. Kasi once na gusto mo talaga yung bagay at para sa ‘yo talaga, talagang ibibigay ni Lord para sa ‘yo.”



Ronnie Alonte

“Ang masasabi ko lang dun sa mga kabataan na talagang gustong mag-ing artista is ituloy niyo lang yung pangarap niyo. Kung ano yung nararamdaman niyo, go lang. Huwag kayong makikinig sa iba. Sundin niyo yung puso niyo.”



‘Mabuhay ang Demokrasya!': Kris Aquino, Angel Locsin reunite

Actress Angel Locsin was seen at Kris Aquino's small birthday gathering, as posted by “The Queen of Media” herself on her Instagram page.

Kris commemorated her bond with Angel, noting that they have been together through thick and thin since Aquino has been the first friend of Locsin when she moved to the Kapamilya network.

Kris wrote in the caption, “We've known each other mula nung baby pa si Bimb, first friend nya ko sa network namin nung bagong lipat sya. Never did i expect na magiging friends for life na kami... Name it, napagdaanan na namin together pero ang maganda, hindi for public consumption.. super small gathering lang for the people i am closest to, more than a week after my birthday...”

Kris also hinted at who they are supporting this upcoming presidential elections in May.

“Obviously alam namin ni Gel kung anong kulay kami this 2022, BUT happy ako to embrace the rainbow. (well, except for 1 color- for now, gets nyo na, diba?) ready, action agad, hindi puro pangako lang ang pagtulong sa mga nangangailangan (kaya nga po nabuo at tumibay ang samahan dahil sa mga relief ops namin). #lovelovelove from Ate/ Ninang Kris & Angel na parehong nagmamahal sa BAYAN. We (love) the PH.”

Seemingly celebrating the EDSA People Power Movement, Kris concluded her caption with, “Mabuhay ang KALAYAAN at DEMOKRASYA!”

Kris Aquino is of course the daughter of the late former president Cory Aquino, the leader of EDSA People Power Movement. Aquino is also the sister of the late former president Noynoy Aquino.



BING MARIANO

photography

www.facebook.com/Bing-Mariano-Photography

Ivana Alawi sets up own skin, beauty brand

Ivana Alawi has finally fulfilled her dream to have her own skincare brand, Ivana Skin, after working on it for two years.

The actress-vlogger announced the launch of her skincare line on her YouTube vlog today, Feb. 11. Alawi described the brand as her “newest baby.”

“Pati itlog nilalagay ko sa mukha ko noong bata ko so it’s a love from [within].

Ever since, mahal ko talaga ang skincare. It's my dream and happy ako na mashe-share ko na siya sa inyo," she said.

Alawi also recalled her teenage years, when she was still insecure with her body and not familiar with proper skincare.

“Noong bata ako, hiyang hiya ako sa skin

ko. Hindi ako makapag-sleeveless tapos nahihiya talaga ako. Wala akong confidence sa sarili ko and natuto akong alagaan ‘yung sarili ko,” she told fans.

Alawi's siblings, Hash and Mona, were also present in the vlog to show support for the actress. Mona commended her sister for her efforts in the brand, stressing that Alawi would not release anything she is not proud of.

Ivana Skin's products include body milks, soaps and creams, among others.

Prior to the launch of Ivana Skin, Alawi warned the public against scammers who used her brand to ask for money. She stressed that her team would not send messages to individuals outside of the beauty line's official social media accounts.

Ivana Skin was “two years in the making,” as per the brand’s website. The products were tested by Alawi herself, who tried skincare products to find out that there were certain ingredients she considered her “favorite ones.”

Gigi de Lana, paano iniingatan ang boses?

Ibinahagi ng singer at aktres na si Gigi de Lana kung paano niya iniingatan at ipinapanatiling maganda ang kanyang boses.

Sa virtual media conference para sa kanyang concert na *Domination*, sinabi ni Gigi na praktis at pahinga lamang ang kanyang sikreto upang mapanatili ang kanyang singing voice.

“Actually, napahinga talaga ‘yung boses ko ngayon. Pinahinga ko siya totally. Paano ko siya inaalagaan?”

Actually mali na sabihin ko 'to kasi hindi ko siya inaalagaan. [Yung iinom] ng salabat, 'di ako naniniwala doon. Para maingat mo 'yung boses mo is maintain. I-maintain mo 'yung pagkanta mo, vocalize ka, practice ka ng proper technique," aniya.

“Kasi ‘yung mga iniinom
inom na ganyan, I don’t believe in that kasi hindi siya
nagwo-work for me... Pero you should rest, at [inom
ng] tubig, ‘yun talaga. Practice kayo every day.”

Toni Gonzaga-Soriano thanks followers on YT, IG

Toni Gonzaga-Soriano took to Instagram to thank her millions of followers on social media.

The multimedia star shared a photo with the caption: "Thank you. We have reached 7 million Instagram followers and 5 million YouTube subscribers."

Toni thanked her followers days after she got controversial for hosting the proclamation rally of presidential aspirant Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. and running mate Sara Duterte last Tuesday.

She also resigned as the current host of the popular reality show "PBB."

ABS-CBN has accepted her resignation from the program. The full statement of the Kapamilya Network:

"Following Toni Gonzaga's sudden stepping down as host of 'Pinoy Big Brother,' ABS-CBN has reacted to it.

they remain 'grateful' to the seasoned actress-singer for the 16 years of being the main host of the show.

"Note that Toni was among the original member since it was launched in 2005.

"We value Toni's hosting prowess and her many years of serving the Filipino with us as our Kapamilya," they said. "We accept her resignation from 'Pinoy Big Brother' and respect her personal choices."



Cesar Montano game to do a movie with son Diego Loyzaga

Diego Loyzaga is very vocal about his desire to shoot a movie with his dad, Cesar Montano (who happens to be my BFF). In a recent press con, Diego admitted that he wants to reach the stature of his dad as an actor. So, every time I catch BFF Buboy's (Cesar's nickname) old movies on TV, I send him screenshots and chide him, "Is that you or Diego?"

When I asked him if he's game to star in a film with his "mini-me," he was keen about it. "I want us to do a comedy-action film," he said. "And I am looking forward to Diego's remake of my movie, 'Waway.'"

After their father-son squabble many controversies ago, they finally made peace when BFF was hospitalized due to COVID-19. So, working together would be a celebration of their renewal of ties.

This time around, if Buboy and Diego argue, it will be about who loves the other more.

FRANCINE, from page 11

good future for herself. She spoke about the challenges that come with being in the industry, how difficult it can be to spot people's intentions, which aren't always well-meaning. "Kasi hindi mo alam kung totoo sila 'pag kaharap ka at 'pag nakatalikod na sila sa'yo," she says.

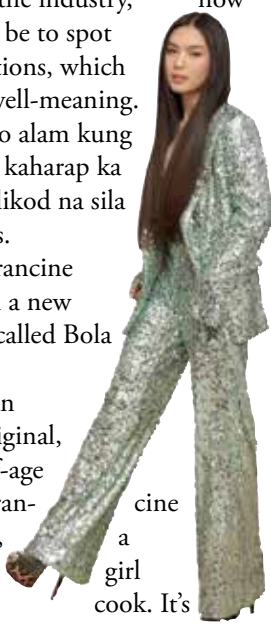


This year, Francine is set to star in a new limited series called Bola Bola.

Bola Bola, an iWantTFC original, is a coming-of-age story where Francine will play Thea, a 220-pound girl who loves to cook. It's a role Francine instantly found a connection to, because she has experienced being made to feel inferior because of her physicality: hairy arms, a chubby face, the works!

“Gusto ko lang din na i-portray si Thea, kasi nga nakaka-relate ako sa kanya and I think marami namang makaka-relate, kasi sinasabihan din siya na, ‘Ang taba mo, ang panget mo.’ And gusto kong malaman din ng ibang tao, na ma-realize nila na hindi dapat ganu’n. Kasi sobrang laking impact ng mga words talaga sa isang tao.”

For many teen girls, 18 is a milestone—and it surely is one for Francine, too. But for a lot of other women, 18 is only the beginning. Thankfully, the future looks bright for Francine—and Francine's star.



Candid SPOOF

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



Nitz Rejdik cooks the leftover Costco chicken into a sotanghon soup.



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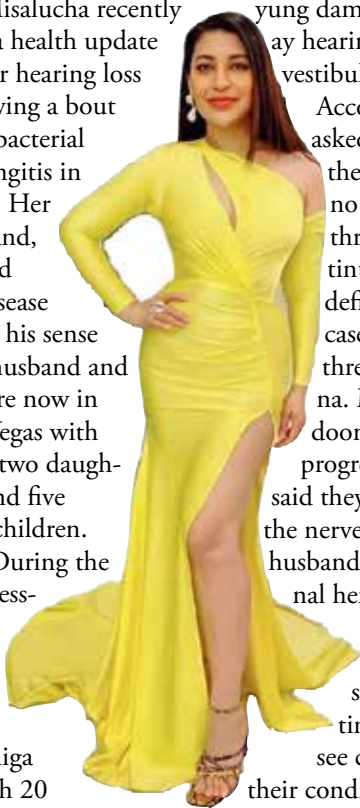


Lani continues to seek medical help for hearing loss

Lani Misalucha recently gave a health update on her hearing loss following a bout with bacterial meningitis in 2020. Her husband, Noli, was afflicted with the same disease that also affected his sense of hearing. The husband and wife are now in Las Vegas with their two daughters and five grandchildren. During the press-



con for Timeless Seasons, a series of shows that she is headlining with Nonoy Zúñiga starting on March 20 in Beverly Hills, California, the songstress revealed that she and her hubby continue to seek medical help in hopes of fully recovering from their hearing problem. “Tinitingnan namin kung ano yung pwede nilang i-suggest,” began Lani, who is now using a hearing aid. “Yung bacteria na pumasok sa amin, tinatawag nila na sequelae,



yung damage n’ya (na idudulot) ay hearing loss, and also the vestibular disability.” According to Lani, they asked if they would regain their hearing and would no longer feel dizzy after three months. She continued, “They didn’t give a definite answer because the cases are different, merong three months lang, OK na. Merong six months, doon pa lang makakakita ng progress.” In their case, Lani said they had inflammation in the nerves of their brains. “Yung husband ko nag-karoon ng internal hemorrhage sa brain.” They were told that once the inflammation subsides, that’s the only time they will most likely see changes or progress in their condition. “But the thing is, it’s already been over a year and we’re still like this. So, in other words, permanent na ito,” she said. Lani recalled that their health issues began in 2020. Whatever happened to them, Lani stressed, they gladly accepted it. “Kung gagaling, panalo, di ba? Kung hindi, ganoon talaga, e. But of course, we won’t stop talking

to doctors to know what we can still do. We’re still seeing other doctors and we’ll see what they have to say.” At present, Lani added, they are under medication. Meanwhile, the singer expressed happiness over her return to performing on stage in front of her kababayan in the US. Timeless Seasons is produced by Amore Entertainment under the helm of Pia Legaspi. Musical director is Louie Illustre. This is the first time that Lani and Nonoy will headline a major concert tour together.

“Kung gagaling, panalo, di ba? Kung hindi, ganoon talaga, e.”

“We’ve known each other for a long time. We had our own shows in the past, minsan nag-kakasabay kami as guests in shows

but this is the first time for us to have a full concert together,” said Lani on partnering with Nonoy. Nonoy, for his part, said, “They (referring to Lani and their guests) were so busy at hinahayaan ko lang sila. Ngayon, tayo naman. So, we are so grateful to all our sponsors and producers na talagang pinag-sama kami.” Apart from being back on the US concert scene, Lani is equally delighted to share that she is back to spending time with her grandchildren. “We spent 22 months in the Philippines, so I’m happy we’re in Las Vegas and I’m back to my five grandchildren. I’m happy to be playing with them every single day,” she concluded.

‘I know who I am’: How Belle Mariano handles criticisms

Actress-recording artist Belle Mariano shared how she handle criticisms from other people. “I just don’t let it define me po. As long as I know who I am,” Mariano said. “Mayroon naman pong constructive criticism, feeling ko importante rin po ‘yon para alam din po natin kung ano pa ang kaya nating i-improve. Let’s say may comment sila about sa acting ko, at least there’s always room for improvement. I take it that way po,” she added. Mariano also shared her message for herself. “Magte-thank you ako sarili ko. Thank you for holding on throughout those years. You are doing great and get ready for 2022. It might be a roller coaster ride but just remember what you want, your passion, what you love, your core and you will get through



it,” Mariano said. Mariano held her first-ever digital concert. After the concert, Mariano will star in season 2 of the hit series “He’s Into Her” with her onscreen partner Donny Pangilinan. “Talagang hinihintay ko rin kasi kasi gusto ko na talaga sagutan ‘yung Season 1. I actually read the script na rin, talagang wow jam-packed ng emotions at lahat talaga. As in lahat ng questions ko nung Season 1 ay nasagot,” she said. Mariano said she is also excited to work again with the other cast members of the series. “It’s been a while na rin po since I last saw them. So I really can’t wait na mabuo kami ulit, HH Squad. Let’s be high school students again,” she said.



SOCIALLIST, p23
the messenger group.
“Of course,” was the unanimous response.

Who would say no to someone who wants to bring food?
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PHILIP BELOSO, from p12

is held every Victoria day long weekend in May. Meanwhile, Asenso Remit has Simon Roberts as its Founder and CEO, a very honest and reliable man, the same fine qualities as the service of the company to all valued clients, who is happily married to Analiza Roberts, a lovely Filipina. The couple do not only have a very successful international business which helps a lot of our Kababayans give their love to their families back home by sending their hard-earned money fast and safe, but also blessed with a set of very cute twins. Commenting on the brand merger, Roberts explains, “This is an exciting time for us, as this brand merger will allow us to represent better what our company stands for. Our business has strong roots in the Philip-



pines, so we actively commit to supporting and helping overseas Filipinos that work hard abroad to send money to their families and friends back in the Philippines.” “The word kabayan refers to fellow Filipinos, so adopting the Kabayan Remit name will allow us to embody who we are - a kababayan there 24/7 to help fellow Filipinos. We also believe that it will strengthen further our



Philip Beloso gets a visit from Joy D’aoust (FAR RIGHT) of Pinoy News at his Kabayan Remit office at 1018 Finch Avenue West.

relationship with Filipinos, not only here in Canada, but also in the UK, and soon in the USA and Europe. Rest assured, we are still the same Asenso Remit team you’ve always known,” adds Roberts. Asenso Remit’s transition is now underway and is expected to officially launch as Kabayan Remit in a few weeks. The new application and website will soon mirror Kabayan Remit’s existing operations in the UK. The new user interface will provide an even better, faster and more convenient money transfer service to existing customers in Canada.



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