

PHL Extend Covid19 State of Calamity

The Philippines imposed one of the longest lockdowns in the world

MANILA, PHILIPPINES - Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is extending a state of calamity declared by his predecessor more than two years ago to deal with continuing concerns over the coronavirus pandemic, an official said.

Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles also said a previously announced plan to lift the compulsory wearing of masks outdoors will take effect immediately throughout the country, except in crowded areas where people cannot observe social distancing.

The Philippines and Myanmar were the last two countries in Southeast Asia that still required the wearing of masks outdoors, Philippine officials said.

They said they would assess whether indoor mask requirements can be lifted toward the end of the year in areas where an increased number of people receive coronavirus booster shots.

Previous President Rodrigo Duterte placed the entire Philippines under a state of calamity in March 2020 because of the coronavirus, and then extended

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Previous President Rodrigo Duterte placed the entire Philippines under a state of calamity in March 2020 because of the coronavirus, and then extended

CALAMITY page 15



Why
KIM
chiu
feels
happier
than
ever



Postcard
Avenida Riza 1970's

Ice Segueria on child star life: *Nothing traumatic, only fond memories*



Photos show Ice Segueria as a precocious child star, often accompanied by his Mommy Caridad 'Caring' Segueria. He's set to retrace his showbiz beginnings in his concert.

When Ice Segueria celebrates his 35th year in showbiz with a concert titled *Becoming Ice* on Oct. 15 at The Theatre at Solaire, it will be an intimate yet encompassing look into the journey to his "authentic" self as a person, artist and member of the LGBTQ community.

"I was formerly known as Aiza Segueria. *Becoming Ice* is also a journey, career-wise and personal life-wise. That's what it's all about. I want to show during the concert how I became who I am now," Ice said.

Ice decided to do a concert, which he also directs and produces with wife, former Film Development Council of the Philippines head Liza Diño, after forgo-

ing one on his 30th year because he was in government service at that time.

"On my 35th, napag-usapan namin ni Liza, that we should do something because if you look at the trajectory of my career, I started in the industry as a beauty queen (laughs), it's true naman. Then I became a singer. And then now, it's another journey for me as a director. I'm going around, balik ako sa dati, so it's really something to celebrate," he said.

"With my personal life, a lot also has happened as an LGBTQ person. Marami din akong naging milestones. So, that's something to be celebrated.

"At the same time, with

ICE p3

Mandatory drug testing for celebrities violate their rights

MANILA — Requiring workers in the entertainment industry would be a violation of their rights, Sen. Rob-inhood Padilla — an actor before he became involved in politics — said.

Padilla said he supports the government's campaign against



illegal drugs but also said if any sector would be required to take drug tests, government officials and employees should go first.

"Hindi maaaring obligahin ang sinuman na magpa-drug test, dahil maaaring labag ito

PADILLA p7

Action Honda Manager **Rafael Nebres** attend Peñafrancia Festival



1. Action Honda Manager & former Bicol Canada Community Association (BCCA) President Rafael Nebres, current President Earl Francis Oriño Dacara, Edgardo Acuna and a devotee attend the Peñafrancia fluvial festival; 2. OMNI Reporter Paula Saraza fixes the lavalier mic on Rafael Nebres; 3. A girl carries a frame with a photo of the Veil of Veronica.

Bea Binene returns to school this pandemic

Twenty-four-year-old actress Bea Binene enters a new chapter in her career as she recently signed a management deal with Viva Artists Agency (VAA), after her contract with the Kapuso network expired more than a year ago.

At present, Bea's projects with Viva are still being talked about. She admits she can portray more mature roles in her forthcoming Viva projects. However, going the sexy route, like perhaps what Julia Barretto did in director Jason Paul Laxamana's recent romance-drama, *Expensive Candy*, is not just yet in



Bea's plan.

"Hindi ko talagang kayang magpa-sexy (I really can't go sexy). Hindi naman lahat siguro ng ibibigay nila sa akin, pa-sexy or daring. I'm sure I can do other projects. Hindi ko talagang kayang maghubad.

"When they say daring, hindi naman kailangan maghubad or show some skin. It also depends on the project, the story, the opportunity. Lahat naman napag-uusapan. Pros and cons, kaya ko ba? Am I confident enough to do it? Am I confident to take a risk?"

BEA p19

Filipina actress Max Collins joins Hollywood show 'Almost Paradise'

Actress Max Collins is set to star opposite American actor Christian Kane in the Filipino-American television show "Almost Paradise," which was recently greenlit for a second season.

Collins confirmed her inclusion in the series billed as the "first American television show filmed entirely in the Philippines" in an Instagram post with Kane, who portrays ex-drug enforcement officer Alex Walker.

"Secret's out! I'm part of Almost Paradise season 2!" Collins wrote in the caption. "So lucky I get to work with this action star, Christian Kane."

Kane congratulated Collins by commenting on her post, "We are all happy to have



you. You rocked it!! More to come!"

In a post on his own Instagram account, Kane said it was a lot of fun working with Collins and referred to the two of them as "beauty and the beast."

"Almost Paradise" follows Kane's Walker who moves to Cebu after forced retirement, but the criminal world keeps drawing him back into a familiar line of work.

Several Filipino actors appeared in the show's debut season like Nonie Buencamino, Ces Quesada, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Lotlot de Leon, Raymond Bagatsing, Ketchup Eusebio, Ryan Eigenmann, Richard Yap, and young artists AC Bonifacio, Elijah Canlas, and Zaijan Jaranilla.

The series is co-produced by Filipino-American filmmaker Dean Devlin, a frequent collaborator of director Roland Emmerich, who produced and wrote Hollywood blockbusters "Independence Day," "Godzilla," and "Stargate."

"Almost Paradise" Season 2 is currently filming in Cebu, with Kane frequently posting updates on Instagram.

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Jean Garcia’s son Kotaro catches social media attention for being a V look-alike

As a K-pop fan, Jean Garcia couldn’t help but feel kilig when she learned that her son, Kotaro Shimizu, had caught the fancy of social media users because of his pop idol-like good looks.

Because she didn’t have a partner, Jean asked her son instead to be her date at last month’s GMA Thanksgiving Gala. And when the photos came out, some fans were quick to point out that Kotaro bore a resemblance to music artist Kim Taehyung—who goes by the name V—of the K-pop band BTS.

“Siyempre kinilig din ang nanay. I’m happy because he gets people’s attention and they appreciated him even if he’s not a celebrity... Favorite ko pa naman si V. Naka-kaloka!” Jean said at a virtual conference for her new afternoon drama series, “Nakarehas na Pusong.”

Supportive mom

Should he decide to dabble in acting, Kotaro would be hard-pressed to find a better mentor. “I want to give him the freedom to choose. If he wants to be an actor, why not? His sister (Jennica Garcia) and I are actors. We know the ins and outs of the business and we can give him advice,” she said. “But now he’s just enjoying himself.”

Ice Seguerra on child star life: Nothing traumatic, only fond memories

ICE from page 1

the pandemic and all, these milestones in your life should be celebrated. That’s what I’ve learned because you never know when’s the next chance you will get (to do) it.”

Ice was first discovered for showbiz after winning Eat Bulaga’s Little Miss Philippines at three years old. Before that, the precocious Aiza Seguerra was already joining sagalas and regaling people in his old neighborhood in Dapitan, Manila with his antics.

His mom was then egged on by friends to let Aiza join the popular kiddie pageant of the noontime show.

“It all started there. I was never shy when it came to performing as a kid. Even a hairbrush, I’d sing to it. Even in the office of my daddy, I’d sing. So ayun pinasali nila ako.”

He further recalled how supportive his parents — mom Caridad and his late dad Decoroso — became after the initial hesitation.

“One time, my mom had to sit on the stage as I was crying because of the 9 a.m. call time. We were just about to tape, eh pang Friday kami, ang sinimulan na taping ay pang Tuesday, so inip na inip na ako. Eh ako sobrang mommy’s girl nung bata, ‘di ko lang makita mommy ko, my god, iiyak na talaga ako.

Ice won the contest with the cash prize of P5,000 and college plan (he got to use it for his studies at the University of Sto. Tomas), after which he plunged into the showbiz world and never looked back. As a bankable child star, he starred in at least 30 movies and TV shows.

Looking back, Ice only had good memories of this time in his life. He said it felt like a big playground with his workmates as playmates. He was also happy with the people he was surrounded with, from Eat Bulaga to Okay Ka Fairy Ko, who admonished him when necessary. “For me, that’s very important because when you grow up in this kind of industry, you will be surrounded by yes men... I feel like the values that they taught me, I still carry them with me,” he said.

Asked about the downsides of working so early in life, he said, “There are always disadvantages. Perhaps, lately ko lang na-realize yun. Habang tumatanda



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Life’s brighter under the sun



ing Iris Castillo-del Rosario in the Philippine adaptation of Flower of Evil, her first entry in the suspense–mystery and action genre.

“At least for the duration of this series, I fulfilled my dream of being an action queen,” says Lovi. “The people on set started calling me LPJ or DA Queen in reference to my father, FPJ, and I really enjoyed having that illusion, even if it’s just for a short moment.”

As a police detective in Flower of Evil, Lovi was required to do a lot of action sequences, fight scenes, and chase scenes, and instead of a purse, her accessory this time is a handgun. “I’m really proud of our show, and I am extremely grateful for having the best production staff, the best directors, and a wonderful cast”, admits Lovi. “I loved working with all my co-actors in the show because they were extremely dedicated to the project, Piolo Pascual, my leading man, was very supportive and encouraging, and so were Paulo Avelino, JC De Vera, and the rest of the cast.”

Screen star Lovi Poe receives glowing reviews for her performance in the Philippine adaptation of ‘Flower of Evil’

What’s next for Lovi? The actress will again show another facet of her personality with her musical skills, this time, to our fellow Filipinos in the United States, as she takes part in Asap Natin To tour to be staged on November 5 at the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas.

Catholic priest thinks Sharon Cuneta flaunted wealth on video, netizens defend megastar

A Catholic priest said that megastar Sharon Cuneta should be discreet in showing off wealth when she uploaded a video of her trip to South Korea recently.

“Sana a little prudence naman dun sa isang sikat na singer at actress na nagflaunt ng yaman on video. Daming designer bags/items ang binili sa isang tanyag na store. It is not about affording it, but being discreet about it. Kailangan ba talagang nakavideo at i-post?” tweeted Fr. Nonong Tuazon on Oct. 1.

The Catholic priest added: “I agree that it was her money, and she has all the right. Pero Di naman kailangan. Humility is better.”

Fr. Tuazon is also a social media influencer, an environmentalist, licensed agricultural engineer, chess enthusiast and a ten pin bowler.

During a trip to South Korea, Sharon was barred from entering the Hermes luxury boutique. She did not say why she was banned from the Hermes store. Then Sharon and her companions decided to shop at Louis Vuitton, another French luxury store.

But some netizens defended Sharon, saying there was a backstory to the Hermes incident, and it was not about flaunting her branded bags but the discrimination she experienced abroad. Some comments:

“There’s a backstory po dun, Father. Sharon was snubbed at Hermès, di siya pinapasok when she was going to buy a belt lang. Nauwi siya sa LV and ended up buying several pieces and nun nakita nun unang store na can afford pala siya, ininvite na siya pumasok. It was necessary to share the story para ipakita how Pinoys are badly treated ng iilang mga luxury stores.”

“Pera naman po nya yon..pinaghirapan nya sariling sikap..tingnan din naman po natin sa positibong paraan..at nakaranas po daw si aktres ng diskriminasyon sa store ng branded na bag..kaya ayun lumipat sa LV at don namakyaw kaya may karapatan syang gawin yon pera nyang pinagpaguran.”

“Hindi naman yung idea ng flaunting po ang point ng video. Ang context kasi, hindi siya pina pasok sa Hermes.”

“Hindi siya pinapasok sa Hermes kaya bumili siya ng marami sa LV. And wala naman sigurong masama doon if she uses her own money.”

PhilHealth ‘will last forever.’ Parang Jadine? 🤔😏🙄

PhilHealth spokesperson and vice president for corporate affairs Shirley Domingo said that the state insurer will last “forever,” amid a remark by its chief that its actuarial life may only last until 2027.

Domingo said that the estimated actuarial life of PhilHealth until 2027 are “assumptions and projections based on different scenarios.”

PhilHealth officer-in-charge Eli Dino Santos said the state health insurer’s actuarial life could be extended beyond 2027.

Iyan din ang sinabi nila Jadine. mayroon daw forever. Iyon pala ang definition nila ng forever, short of 4 years lang pala.

Disappointing maniwala sa mga catchphrases.

Iyong ngang Bangko Pilipino, matatag daw, para kang “nakasandal sa pader.” Pero nagsara ng 1985. Sabi ng iba, marami kasi nakasandal sa pader. 😏

Is it Guardian of the Universe

Paano na iyan? Ano na itatawag sa



kanila? If married women are now allowed to compete in the Miss Universe, hindi na puwedeng Miss Universe iyan. Person of the Universe? Guardian of the Universe? Parang Guardians of the Galaxy. Ano iyan, pati raccoon puwede na rin sumali? Sus Guinoo ni Roxanne. 🐼

Lahat OK sa married women sumali sa Miss Universe?

E paano ba naman, kungkumontra ka, maraming

mga bashers ang magsusulputan. Kaya siguro lahat ng mga tinatanong, ang sagot, “it’s about time we become inclusive.” Naku ha. Siguro, dapat iyong Ku Klux Klan, dapat tumanggap na rin ng mga itim. They have to get with the times.

Iyong iba naman, they have no comment for now. Ibig sabihin, they do not agree. Just don’t try to get a statement from me again ang ibig sabihin.

Times are changing, sabi ng iba. Ewan ko lang. 🙄

‘Sobrang supportive’: Vhong Navarro’s wife thanks actor’s ex-lovers amid rape case

Vhong Navarro’s wife Tanya Bautista thanked the “It’s Showtime” host’s ex-lovers for supporting him in his battle against the rape case filed by model Deniece Cornejo.

In an interview with the media, Tanya said Vhong’s former partners are very supportive of Vhong.

“Sobrang supportive. Alam mo, para kasi kaming family, e. So, siyempre, may time na mas focused ako kay Vhong,” Tanya said.



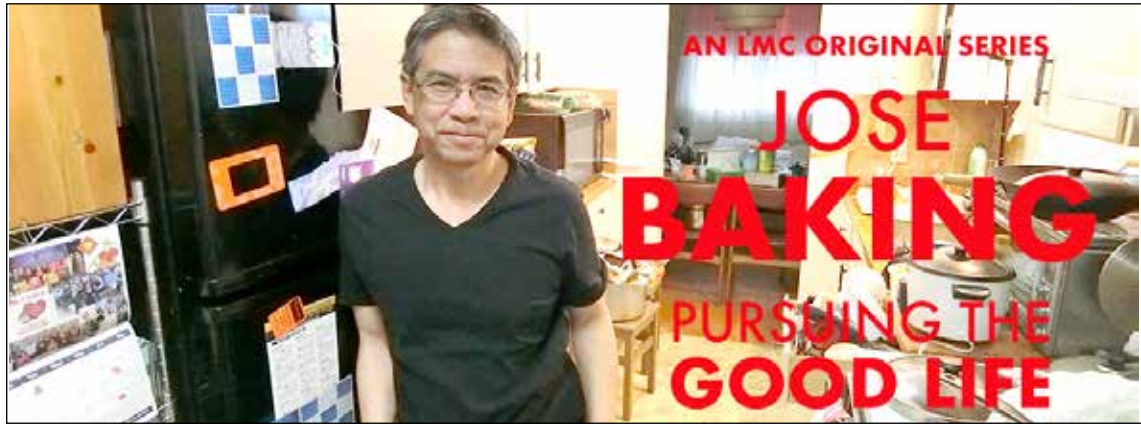
“Talagang inaano nila, ‘Huwag kang mag-alala. The boys are okay,’ ganyan. Sila talaga constantly tsini-check kami,” she added.

Prior to this, Cornejo’s legal team announced they will be filing contempt charges against the wife of host-actor Vhong Navarro, Tanya Bautista-Navarro, and his lawyer Atty. Alma

Mallonga.

Atty. Ferdinand Topacio, Cornejo’s lead counsel, made the announcement on his Twitter account, vowing that he would the two women liable.

“Now preparing contempt charges against Atty. Alma Mallonga and Vhong Navarro’s wife for making statements that are sub judice in nature,” Topacio wrote. “We will not sit idly by while some people again make a mockery of justice by having another trial by publicity.”



FIL-CAN TORONTO CATHOLIC TRUSTEE GARRY TANUAN SEEKS REELECTION

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

The longest-serving Filipino trustee in the Toronto Catholic school system is once again running for reelection in the upcoming municipal election on October 24, 2022.

Trustee Garry Tanuan, a Filipino-Canadian community leader, was first elected in the 2012 Scarborough By-election, then reelected twice in 2014 and 2018 representing the students, staff, and parents in Ward 8, Scarborough, and Toronto. Ward 8 is comprised of 20 Catholic elementary schools and two secondary schools.

As the Trustee for Scarborough Ward 8, Garry Tanuan served in various leadership capacities in the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB), the largest Catholic school district in Canada.

Trustee Tanuan pledged that “he will vigorously continue to advocate for our authentic Catholic values, reliable stewardship, and excellence in student achievement.” Proudly, he has accomplished & delivered results to the Ward 8 and TCDSB community. Among which he 1) Established the TCDSB Filipino Advisory Committee (FAC); the Filipino Canadian Parents in Catholic Education (FCPACE) and the Faith in Our Child (FiOC) movement to form well-nurtured Catholic communities; 2) Strongly advocated for higher EQAO Math & Literacy scores; Special Education; Equity, Diversity, & Inclusivity; School technology upgrades; STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math); and YAP (Youth Apprentice Programs); and 3) Advocated for and worked closely with local elected officials to build several new school Child Care projects covering more class space, updated gyms/new playgrounds, affordable Day Care centers, and improved transportation service.

Tanuan stressed that “we are blessed to now have the Filipino diaspora as the largest ethnic group within the TCDSB family of schools with more than 30,000 students, representing a third of our school population.” He strongly believes that “living out our Catholic Faith as disciples of Christ is very much an integral part of the Filipino culture and tradition that dates back half a millennium.”

Once reelected as a TCDSB Trustee, Garry Tanuan promised: “to continue to take a stand on authentic Catholic values, excellence in student achievement, and reliable stewardship.” With those beliefs and pledges, Garry Tanuan deserves the utmost support of his Catholic constituency and Filipino residents & stakeholders in Scarborough Ward 8 on his reelection bid.

For fundraising contributions, volunteers, and lawn signs, please contact Garry at (647) 367-5767 or email garry.tanuan@gmail.com; visit www.tanuan.ca (Tony A. San Juan, OCT).

‘Tignan natin’: Kim Chiu not closing door to sexy roles in movies



Kapamilya actress Kim Chiu is not closing the door to sexy roles in movies.

In an interview with the media during the premiere night of her movie “Always” with real-life sweetheart Xian Lim, Kim was asked if she is ready to do daring roles.

“Matured, mas matured. Tignan natin. Depende naman sa story,”

Kim answered.

KRISTIAN SANTOS RUNS FOR TORONTO COUNCILLOR

Kristian Santos, a business executive and BPO professional, is vying for Toronto Councillor of Ward 1-Etobicoke North in the municipal election on October 24, 2022.

The Ward 1 geographic boundaries are the communities sited South of Steeles Avenue W., Highway 427 East, Islington Ave. & Albion Ave. West, and North of Humberwood Blvd, Humber River, and West Humber Blvd., Etobicoke, Toronto.

K. Santos, a proud Rexdalian, is running with the mantra of “let’s change the way they view our community. We are going to highlight the goodness that this district has to offer by supporting the community organizations that are aligned with our goal of making our neighborhoods a better place. By providing access to quality education, community programs, and social aid we can secure our future by investing in our youth.”

Kristian has been living in Rexdale, Etobicoke North for almost 25 years.

“This district and the surrounding neighborhood have always given me a sense of pride. But the reality is, for many years our community has been labeled as a district tolerant of crime and gang activity. We plan to change that!”

Once elected to the Toronto Council, K. Santos pledged that “Our mission is to hold both municipal and provincial governments accountable for their promises and challenge the policies that ignore the needs of the residences of Etobicoke North.”

Kristian Santos, a determined “Kabayayan”, really needs our strong support and generous help to get him elected City Councillor for Ward 1-Etobicoke North in the Toronto Council on October 24, 2024. He can be reached at kristiansantos@therexdalian.ca or Tel. 1-437-2693858.



Kobe Paras and Erika Rae Poturnak have yet to confirm their relationship status but observers are already speculating that the two may have already broken up. This is after fans noticed that the rumored couple no longer follow each other on Instagram.

The basketball player also appears to have removed all photos as well as his profile image from his Instagram page. Meanwhile, Paras’ photos can still be seen on Poturnak’s page, as of this writing.

Did Kobe Paras and Erika Rae Poturnak just unfollow each other on Instagram?

Poturnak earlier greeted Paras on his 25th birthday by showing their moments together, including that of them hugging, kissing and cuddling. The two of them also appear to have recently gone on a trip to California together.

Poturnak and Paras were speculated to be dating after they were seen spending time together on a beach trip last June. In the same month, they also went to Bali for a vacation with several other companions.

Valeen Montenegro misses Spartan Race after testing positive for COVID-19

Valeen Montenegro had no choice but to skip the recently held Spartan Race she

signed up for after she contracted the novel coronavirus.

The actress-comedian gave a glimpse of the intense training she underwent for the race, through a video compilation on her Instagram page last Saturday, Sept. 24.

“Excited pa naman [ako] mag-caption ng SPARTANG INA (I was excited to use the caption ‘Spartang Ina’),” she quipped, which is a play on her and fellow comedian Chariz Solomon’s hit segment “Bali-tang Ina” in GMA’s comedy TV show “Bubble Gang.”

“Been training for Spartan Beast (21k with 32 obstacles) but covid happened,”

Montenegro added.

Although she was not able to participate in the competition, Montenegro still expressed joy and stated that she will be looking forward to joining the next race.

“Still a bit bummed that I wasn’t able to race, but I’m so happy [and] proud that my friends made it!” she said.

Montenegro received well-wishes from fellow celebrities that included Lovely Abella, Melissa Gohing, Camille Prats and Bea Binene, who were in awe of Montenegro’s training.



FIL-CAN COMMUNITY ADVOCATE RUNS FOR VAUGHAN CITY COUNCILLOR

By Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

Erlinda Insigne, a Filipino- Canadian community advocate and realtor, is running for Councillor for Ward 4 in the City of Vaughan, Ontario on October 24, 2022. Ward 4 comprises the geographic boundaries of communities in Steeles Avenue North, Highway 400 & Keele Street East, Bathurst & Dufferin Streets West, and Teston Road South, City of Vaughan.

Erlinda is motivated to run for the election as a City Councillor for three reasons: First, Diversity. She identified little or no diversity on Council – she wants to change it. Second, Strong Advocacy on community issues like reducing gridlock, reducing taxes, and better safety for seniors. Third, Communications – she would increase communications with taxpayers by having a quarterly meeting on community issues and developing a video newsletter through social media.

Born near Baguio City, Philippines, and part of 8 siblings Erlinda immigrated to Canada in 1974. She is married to Tony Insigne, a realtor, and they are blessed with 2 boys. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of the Philippines and also completed a diploma in Computer Programming at Ryerson University in 1980. She worked at Sears Canada in the Buying Office Department & in Information Technology for 31 years and is engaged in the real estate business, as well.

Being a community leader, as President of the

Filipino-Canadian Association of Vaughan(F-CAV), Erlinda is credited as the architect of the twinning of Baguio City and Vaughan City as Sister Cities in Ontario. For over 30 years, she devoted her life to helping and improving the well-being of seniors by introducing many community programs such as cultural & group dancing activities, martial arts, and community gardening. As a volunteer, Erlinda stressed, “A safer and supportive community for seniors is a right and that seniors need physical activity, social interaction, entertainment, mental stimulation, and a purpose.”

For 8 years, she served as a member of the Police Community Liaison Committee 4th district from 2004 to 2012. She was President of the Lakeview Estate Ratepayers Association from 2004 to 2008. On February 4, 2014, Erlinda Insigne received the “Civic Hero Award” from the City of Vaughan Council “for her community leadership, volunteerism, and active involvement in the Filipino community.”

If elected Councillor, Erlinda Insigne plans to 1) Find new ways of generating new revenues through energy and maintenance savings; 2) Introduce and expedite a Granny Flats program allowing it to be built in backyard spaces, whereby homeowners can sell or gift their homes to their kids who need the space to grow a family but cannot afford the skyrocketing prices; 3) Reduce gridlock on our major streets by lobbying the



Big City Mayors in the GTA and request the Province to lower the high cost of Highway 407 by half so that more people can afford it. She cited that “We have a highway that’s practically not used to its potential. She believes that an opportunity program to relieve gridlock on our major roads must be bold and outside the box”.

Moreover, once given the opportunity of becoming a member of the Vaughan Council, Erlinda will work towards introducing a 5-point plan to strengthen sustainable urban development for Vaughan to mitigate climate change such as a) reducing dependency on the car by strengthening our transit system, b) adding more EV charging stations, c) improving water conservation and wastewater management, d) supporting urban farming, and e) implementing the green architecture.

In her campaign posters, the question: Why should people vote for Erlinda Insigne? The answers: Erlinda believes that new blood is good for democracy! Erlinda represents a fresh perspective on community issues! Erlinda loves helping people because people come first for her!!

Given her solid advocacy work, experience, and qualifications, Erlinda Insigne deserves the support of the residents, especially our “kababayans”, relatives, friends, and colleagues in Ward 4 of the City of Vaughan. (Tony A. San Juan, OCT)

Gerald Anderson delete comments on Rayver Cruz’s photo with ex Bea Alonzo

Kapamilya actor Gerald Anderson deleted his comment on Rayver Cruz’s post after realizing that his ex-girlfriend Bea Alonzo is included in the photo.

Rayver posted on his Instagram account a photo of him, rumored girlfriend Julia Anne San Jose, Dingdong Dantes and Bea Alonzo in the USA.

“Back in the city of angels,” he captioned the post. Gerald commented on the post saying,

“Without me?” and a sad emoji. He, however, deleted the post after realizing Bea is in the photo.

The celebrities are in the US in celebration of Pinoy TV’s 17th anniversary.

Gerald and Bea broke up in 2019 after the actress said that the actor “ghosted” her.



Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre presents Simply Terno, a fashion show and bazaar of the Philippine gown.

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Kris Aquino offer help for Lolit Solis’ dialysis amidst her own illness

Kris Aquino has offered help for the dialysis of columnist and talent manager Lolit Solis, even as she herself is battling with autoimmune diseases, Solis revealed.

The Queen of All Media had reached out to Solis after personal shopper Ronite (@dpersonalshopperph) talked to Aquino about her condition, as per Solis’ Instagram post yesterday, Sept. 27.

“Kaya hindi ko puwede hindi mahalin si Kris Aquino dahil lagi siyang ready to help out kung

kailangan mo siya, Salve. Dahil nasabi sa kanya ni Ronite [na] nagda-dialysis ako, kaagad niyang pinatawag si Alvin (Aquino’s assistant) para alamin kung ano kailangan ko at ibibigay niya agad,” Solis narrated.

“To think na meron siyang sakit at nasa abroad siya. Talagang kahit [love-hate] ang relationship namin dalawa, hindi talaga



nalimutan ni Kris Aquino ang naging friendship namin,” she added, noting that she never saw a “mean bone” in Aquino.

For Solis, Aquino may appear to be “naughty” or “tactless,” but she is “bukas palad” (generous) and “mabait ang puso” (has a kind heart).

“More than anything, gusto ko gumaling si Kris para sa mga anak niya. Sana naman anuman ang sakit niya gumaling na at mag-

ing energetic siya uli,” she said. (More than anything, I wish for Kris’ recovery for the sake of her children. I hope that whatever her illness is, she will recover and go back to her energetic self.)

Solis then expressed gratitude to Aquino and advised her not to be stressed over things that are “walang kuwenta” (worthless).

“Pagaling ka Kris, don’t stress yourself sa mga bagay na walang kuwenta. You are loved and you are worth the love,” she told Aquino. (Get well Kris, don’t stress yourself over things that are

useless. You are loved and you are worth the love.)

Aquino has been diagnosed with four autoimmune diseases, but revealed earlier this month that she has been showing physical manifestations of a possible fifth illness. She also said she would be undergoing chemotherapy for her condition.

Recently, Aquino admitted that the treatments she had been getting were taking a toll on her, though her writer-editor friend Dindo Balares assured that the actress was still “playful” whenever she talked to him.

‘Shopee’ trends on Twitter after Toni Gonzaga becomes its new endorser

Online shopping app Shopee revealed its newest ambassador, TV host and actress Toni Gonzaga, a move that was put under a firestorm of criticism most especially on Twitter.

The topic “Shopee” and “Bye Shopee” trended in Twitter Philippines, garnering 298,000 and over 7,500 tweets as of posting.

A number of social media users said they have uninstalled the app on their phone.



“Shopee made a WRONG decision to hire her and lay off some employees,” a social media user said of Gonzaga while alluding to the company’s reported move to downsize the number of its employees in the country in a bid to “optimize” its business.

“The marketing team should probably start bidding their jobs goodbye too,” another social media user said.

Shopee, in response to the backlash, told the Philippine Daily Inquirer that it chose Gonzaga due to her “mass appeal” and that it has nothing to do with her political leanings.

‘Baka kasuhan mo po ako’: Kim Chiu declines to comment on Vhong Navarro’s case

Kapamilya actress Kim Chiu declined to comment on her “It’s Showtime” co-host Vhong Navarro’s absence on the show.

Kim Chiu was asked how she and the rest of the cast of the noontime show are coping without Navarro, who is currently detained for the rape case filed against him by model Deniece Cornejo.

“Ay ano po yan. Baka kasuhan mo po ako,” Kim answered.

“Ikaw ang magkakaso sa akin. Hindi huwag ‘yon, huwag ‘yon,” she laughed.



‘Habang ang iba, pasarap’: Agot Isidro advises Filipinos to save up

Actress Agot Isidro advised Filipinos to save up now that the country is facing a high inflation rate and a sinking peso against the dollar.

In her Twitter account, Agot expressed her disappointment and concern.

“Mag-ipon ipon na. Alam nyo na, taghirap,” the actress wrote on October 2.

The known vocal critic also posted a comment that seemed to take a swipe at certain people in her post.

“Habang ang iba, pasarap,” she said.

Agot’s post came following the Singapore trip of President Ferdi-

nand Marcos Jr.

Malacañang finally confirmed Monday the unannounced Singapore trip of Marcos over the weekend and called the visit “productive.”

Palace was mum about reports that Marcos flew to Singapore to attend the Formula One Grand Prix in the city-state throughout the weekend despite photos showing the president, his son Rep. Sandro Marcos (Ilocos Norte), and cousin House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez at the event.

Their weekend getaway came days after Typhoon Karding (Noru) — the strongest storm to hit the country this year — ravaged Central Luzon.



JOY SARMIENTO D’Aoust HOMEBUYERS SEMINAR



REALTOR JOY D’Aoust holds a homebuyers’ seminar at the Filipino Centre Toronto.

PADILLA from page 1

sa kanilang karapatang pantao. Mas mainam kung boluntaryo ang kanilang drug test — para na rin ito sa kanilang kapakanan at kaligtasan,” he said.

(We cannot oblige anyone to take a drug test because that may be a violation of their human rights. It would be better if the drug tests are done voluntarily — this is also for their safety and wellbeing.)

Padilla added that it would be better if the costs of any testing would be shouldered by employers.

Padilla issued the statement in response to a proposal by Rep. Robert Ace Barbers (Surigao del Sur) to have entertainment workers take drug tests before they are allowed to work on TV or movie projects.

Barbers made the suggestion after actor Dominic Roco was

arrested in Quezon City over the weekend for allegedly selling drugs to undercover law enforcement. He said celebrities are supposed to set good examples and that testing would make sure they are drug free. “Sa kabilang dako, mas nararapat na sumailalim sa drug test ang ating mga opisyal at kawani ng pamahalaan — na may tungkuling magbigay ng mabuting halimbawa para sa kapwa nating Pilipino,” Padilla said.

(On the other hand, it is more fitting that government officials and employees go through drug testing since they have the duty to be good examples for our fellow Filipinos.)

In 2019, Reps. Barbers and Elpidio Barzaga Jr. also proposed random drug tests at the House of Representatives as well as mandatory drug tests for local government officials. Barbers made a similar proposal in 2018.

Neither proposals were adopted although government agencies do conduct random drug tests.

Proposals by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency to make students take drug tests raised concerns, including from Human Rights Watch, which said it would “effectively allow the police to extend their ‘anti-drug’ operations to college and university campuses, placing students at grave risk.”

Amid national ID delay, lawmaker wants new PSA chief

NILA, Philippines — President Marcos may have merely inherited the problem over years of delay in the issuance of national identification cards, but this only underscores even more the urgent need to find an able replacement as Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) head, a lawmaker said.

“We have been receiving complaints on the ID, with people saying it is PhilTiis,” Senior Deputy Minority Leader and Northern

opposition bloc at the House of Representatives, said — a wordplay on the national ID project called the Philippine Identification System or PhilSys.

PhilSys, or Republic Act 11055, was signed into law in 2018 by former president Rodrigo Duterte.

Unfortunately, the delivery of the IDs has been suffering delays for several years now, which was reportedly the reason for-

mer National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) chief Ernesto Pernia was removed.

The PSA is an attached agency of the NEDA. The PSA is currently led by Undersecretary Dennis Mapa, who serves as the national statistician and civil registrar general.

“With all the delays and issues in implementation, it is high time to appoint new leadership for the PSA, specifically for fixing the PhilSys,” Daza, along with fellow opposition lawmaker, Bagong Henerasyon party-list Rep. Bernadette Herrera, said.

Out of the more than 70 million Filipinos who have already registered, only 21 million have so far received their “physical” national ID cards, which may well jeopardize the government’s target of 92 million cards delivered by June 2023.

As per records of the Commission on Audit, PhilSys’ contractor AllCard has only delivered 27.3 million ID cards as of December last year, which obviously falls below the 36 million annual delivery requirement.

A total of P28.4 billion has also been allotted for the PhilSys project, but only P6.8 billion has been appropriated since 2018.

Kathryn Bernardo, Daniel Padilla honor ‘solid fans’ in 11th anniversary thanksgiving

Kathryn Bernardo and Daniel Padilla held a thanksgiving event for their loyal fans as part of the 11th-anniversary celebration of their love team.

The celebrity couple can be seen posing for photos, shaking hands and giving certificates of appreciation to fans in the thanksgiving event, as seen on talent agency Star Magic’s Instagram page today, Sept. 27. The gathering was hosted by celebrity impersonator KaladKaren and radio host DJ JhaiHo.

While the event is for “solid fans,” Padilla also expressed appreciation to those who may not be actively following his and Bernardo’s careers, telling them he understands that everyone has to deal with their own lives as well, as seen on DJ JhaiHo’s Instagram post yesterday, Sept. 26.

“Ang bilis ng panahon. Hindi lang naman sa’min maraming nangyari kundi malamang pati sa mga buhay niyo ang maraming nangyari,” Padilla told them.



(Time goes by fast. Not only did a lot happen to us, but probably a lot happened in your lives as well.)

For her part, Bernardo admitted she is at a loss for words to explain how grateful she is of her fans.

“No words can explain how thankful we are sa grabe niyong pagmamahal. Ang daming nagmamahal pero iba kayong magmahal,” she said. (No words can explain how thankful we are for your amazing love. So many people express love, but your love is different.)

Meanwhile, Bernardo’s mother, Min, thanked KathNiel fans while showing a blank certificate of appreciation to fans who showed “extraordinary support” for the love team, as seen on her Instagram page, also yesterday.

“Gusto man namin na andito kayo lahat dahil sa walang sawang support sa KathNiel, need natin mag-adhere pa rin sa safety protocols. Sharing with all of you

this appreciation certificate [because] Team KathNiel, Team Kathryn and Team Daniel APPRECIATE ALL OF YOU,” she said.

(While we want all of you to be here because of your support for KathNiel, we need to adhere to safety protocols. Sharing with all of you this appreciation certificate because Team KathNiel, Team Kathryn and Team Daniel appreciate all of you.)

Bernardo and Padilla, who have been a real-life couple for 10 years, marked their love team’s 11th anniversary earlier this month.

The pair first worked together in the 2011 youth-oriented series “Growing Up,” then starred in various films and TV shows together, including “The Hows of Us,” “Princess and I,” “La Luna Sangre” and “Barcelona: A Love Untold,” among others.

Michele Gumabao surprised by Miss Universe rule allowing moms, wives to join

Miss Universe Philippines 2020 2nd runner-up and volleyball star Michele Guma-

bao admitted that she’s surprised with the decision of Miss Universe organization to allow moms and wives to participate in the upcoming pageant.

Michele said she supports the organization’s decision.

“Nakakagulat din talaga ‘yung decision ng Miss Universe to announce these changes but I’m sure it took a long deliberation for them to make this stand,” Michele said.

“I’m all for being inclusive and so support lang din talaga, we all enjoy watching Miss Universe and that won’t change just because of this new rule,” she added.

Michele also said in the same interview that she’s open to join showbiz through ALLTV.

“If given the opportunity to explore this possibility I will, I don’t have any lockouts with networks naman, volleyball lang talaga,” she said.



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A TO HIGH SCHOOL

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Calida trying to meet SG Leonen

Duterte says Manny is Found and All Filipinos will be Vaccinated

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'It's Showtime' hosts voice support for Vhong Navarro amid arrest order



"It's Showtime" hosts Ryan Bang, Jackie Gonzaga, Teddy Corpuz, Kim Chiu, Ogie Alcasid, Jhong Hilario, Vice Ganda and Jugs Jugueta.

"It's Showtime" hosts Vice Ganda and Jhong Hilario assured Vhong Navarro of their support amid the cases filed against the actor-TV host.

Hilario was the first to address Navarro after the other hosts made their greetings, as seen in an episode of the noontime variety show on its Facebook page today, Sept. 20.

"Syempre, kay kuys Vhong — kuys Vhong nandito lang kami, kapit lang," he said. "We love you, kuys Vhong." (Of course, to brother Vhong — brother Vhong, we are here [for you], just hang in there. We love you, brother Vhong)

"Yes, mag-group hug tayo para kay Vhong (let's have a group hug for Vhong)," Vice Ganda stated.

The hosts including Ogie Alcasid, Kim

Chiu, Ryan Bang, Teddy Corpuz and Jackie Gonzaga then hugged each other while expressing their love for Navarro.

"We will all be praying for you, Vhong. We love you," Vice Ganda added.

The Taguig City Court earlier ordered the arrest of Navarro for the acts of lasciviousness filed by model Deniece Cornejo in 2014. The actor-TV host was able to post bail for this but another court, Taguig Regional Trial Court, later ordered his arrest as well for a separate rape case also filed by Cornejo.

Cornejo accused Navarro of molesting her on Jan. 22, 2014. She later said that a prior incident took place on Jan. 14, 2014.

Nadine Lustre laments hit-and-run incident amid PH 'flawed' justice system



Nadine Lustre expressed sympathy for a recent 63-year-old hit-and-run victim in Parañaque, stating how there is no assurance the incident would be "handled accordingly" under the "flawed" justice system in the country.

The actress vented her frustration while reposting a copy of the CCTV footage of the said incident, through her Twitter page Sept. 25. Lustre later removed the video, describing it as very triggering.

Lustre then asked fans for an update on the driver of the vehicle, identified as Raymond Maraña, who reportedly abandoned the victim on the road because he "was not aware" he hit a person.

"Not buying the whole 'unaware' [bullsh*t]. Mararamdaman mo naman siguro kung may nabangga ka (You would probably feel it when you hit someone)," she said.

"Our justice system is so flawed we don't even know if this issue will be handled accordingly. Naiiyak talaga ako para kay lola at sa pamilya niya (I can't help but cry for grandmother and her family)," she added.

Broadcaster Karen Davila also earlier called for help for the victim who is cur-

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rently in the hospital after suffering severe injuries, including a broken skull. Maraña was arrested and will be facing a complaint of reckless imprudence resulting in serious physical injury.

Maja Salvador returns to ABS-CBN via new teleserye with Richard Gutierrez

Actress Maja Salvador confirmed her return to ABS-CBN with an upcoming teleserye with Richard Gutierrez.

In her Twitter account, Maja posted a teaser photo of the TV series with Richard. "Soon," she captioned the post, with three heart emojis with the color of the network's logo.

According to reports, Maja and Richard will star in the series "Iron Heart" together with Jake Cuenca and Sue Ramirez, to be shot entirely in Cebu.

The series is Maja's first in the network after two years since "The Killer Bride." Maja appeared on TV5 and GMA7 after the denial of the ABS-CBN franchise.

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How Donnalyn Bartolome grew 7M Facebook followers in 1 year

Vlogger and singer Donnalyn Bartolome shared her personal hacks into growing your online presence and becoming a certified social media star.

Recently, Donnalyn once again proved that it’s okay to be silly and sexy sometimes. In a new fun vlog, she showed her enviable

bod and wacky sense of humor as she submitted to her fans’ dare to spend 24 hours in a bathroom.

The “Kakaibabe” singer flexed her vocal skills while promoting a brand of bra, as part of her bikini ensemble in the challenge which sees her spending quarantine in a posh hotel.

Within 24 hours of its upload, the video reached half a million views on her 8-million strong YouTube channel.

Such is the power the Viva artist holds in the social media sphere. She belongs to that crop of content creators whose videos are surely going to gain immediate traction



upon uploading.

Donnalyn shared it was not an easy road to grow her online presence. For example, her Facebook page had remained stagnant at 4 million in 2017. It was a conscious effort for the star to pinpoint how she can improve her Facebook following, and she figured she could maximize the social media site’s Creator Studio tool. From there, things started to pick up, and so did her following. From July 2020 to July 2021, Donnalyn increased her following by over 7.7 million. She now has 15 million followers on Facebook.

“I started from the bottom and

did not get to where I am now instantly. I’ve always felt like an amateur, which made me strive, at mag-try ng mag-try based sa insights na nakukuha ko from Facebook. Yung effort when you combine it with page insights, you’ll surely start to see results,” Donnalyn shared.

If you’re also one of those who are raring to be the next social media star, Donnalyn gives tips on how to grow your channel:

Tip 1: Understand your main audience

Donnalyn recalled how she felt like she hit a wall when her channel did not grow in terms of followers in three years. When she took a crash course on the Creator’s Studio

DONNALYN p17

The Crazy History of Filipino Spaghetti

Filipino spaghetti is the craziest culinary quirk invented by Filipinos.



Filipino spaghetti is a rebellious version of the Italian pasta. It’s sweet and topped with chopped hotdogs, and the sauce is made with banana ketchup and tomato paste. The resulting catastrophe is a dish that is remarkably Filipino.

Origins of the Filipino Spaghetti

The history of Filipino spaghetti is closely linked with the Philippines’ geography, resources, and history. Spaghetti was introduced to the country by the Americans. It was among the dishes requested by the Americans who were looking for dishes that remind them of home. History is vague on who invented the sweet spaghetti but an anecdote from the 1940s involving General Douglas MacArthur provides a clue.

During World War II, the Philippines experienced a shortage of tomatoes, used for spaghetti. Plump red tomatoes didn’t grow in the Philippines and had to be imported from the U.S. The country ran out of tomato-based ingredients, including ketchup—the most important condiment for Americans at the time.

Because of the shortage of tomato ketchup, Filipino war heroine and food technologist Maria Orosa made a similar substitute out of bananas. The banana ketchup was born.

One day, when MacArthur craved for his favorite Neapolitan spaghetti, his Filipino staff made one supposedly with the banana ketchup. Instead of putting meatballs,

chopped hotdogs became the substitute. Sweet spaghetti was born.

How the Absence of Tomatoes Popularized Sweet Spaghetti

The prolonged absence of tomato ingredients in the country paved the way for banana ketchup to become the popular substitute. In 1942, Magdalo V. Francisco invested in a factory that would mass-produce banana ketchup. His company would become the iconic brand Mafran, which quickly became the leading brand of ketchup in the country.

Households would buy Mafran not only as a condiment, but also as the main ingredient for spaghetti sauce. Its sweet banana taste was a hit among Filipinos who already had a natural sweet tooth, being the leading producers of sugar in Asia.

Through the years, Filipinos would modify and improve on their spaghetti sauce, mixing it with ground meats and spices. In some recipes, the sauce was mixed with the pasta as it cooked, instead of separating the two ingredients and allowing each person to put the sauce on his dish.

The violently colored pasta (banana ketchup uses red food color) and sweet flavor of spaghetti alarmed Italian culinary purists, but Filipinos couldn’t care less about their palates.

Today, Filipino spaghetti is considered comfort food, which is usually served at children’s birthday parties together with hotdogs on sticks with marshmallows on the end. What is a nightmare to Italian cuisine is a tale of creativity and resourcefulness to Filipino gastronomy. Filipino spaghetti is the craziest culinary quirk invented by Filipinos. It has survived World War II and will be here to last.



How Richard Yap avoids extramarital affairs

Let Richard Yap’s charms perk up your lazy afternoons in his new series, “Abot Kamay Na Pangarap” (AKNP).

The heartwarming series also stars Carmina Villaroel and Jillian Ward.

It’s about an illiterate woman, Lyneth (Carmina), who falls for a married doctor, Robert (Richard). They have a genius child, Analyn (Jillian), out of wedlock.

What kind of Richard Yap will we see in AKNP?

If viewers have gotten used to seeing me as a very straight guy, this will shock them since my character here is a bit different from the others I’ve played before.

Why is your role as a doctor close to your heart?

I took pre-med. I was bent on becoming a doctor, but my dad had other plans for me. Show biz was never on my mind. It was really accidental. So, portraying a doctor in the series is the next best thing for me. At least I get the feel of it, even if my dream to become a doctor did not materialize.

In the series, you have an extramarital affair. In real life, how do you avoid having one?

By not putting yourself in that position, don’t flirt, don’t show any motives and always make sure that you know your priorities. My priorities are my family and my work, so I always make sure that I don’t do anything to harm them.

Heart Evangelista on her IVF journey:

‘Very difficult & painful’

In a rare instance, actress-socialite Heart Evangelista opened up on her in-vitro-fertilization (IVF) journey.

In the September issue of L’Officiel Philippines, Heart described the process as “one of the toughest, challenging times” of her life.

“With IVF, they inject you with fertility hormones. It was very difficult and painful. I had three injections a day over a two-week process,” the 37-year-old said. “After harvesting and the processes

that came after, they were able to gather the perfect boy and the perfect girl.”

Note that Heart was supposed to have twins in 2018 but lost them.

This allowed Heart a realization.

She shared, “It made me realize, am I ready for a child?”

“I actually have a baby boy and a baby girl waiting for me, but I’m really at this stage in my life where (I ask myself): ‘Do I want a child because I want a child?’ or ‘Do I want a child because the environment or culture dictates that I should have a child?’”

In any case, she related how it’s lib-



erating to decide according to what she wants.

“That has changed me dramatically,” she maintained.

Heart reiterated having a choice is good.

And she suggests other women should take advantage of the same as it “buys them time.”

“Any time they decide on having a child, the embryo is there. Whether you decide immediately or five years from now, there is no deadline. Also, the process is available in the Philippines and not just abroad,” she pointed out.

In the same interview, Heart also talked about her husband Senator Francis “Chiz” Escudero and how supportive he is regarding the whole process.

“Chiz is a really good guy though we’re very different because he’s very conservative and I’m also a little bit more modern. Perhaps it’s because of our age gap. But what I like about him is he tries. He tries to be as supportive as he can be,” she said.

Off late, Heart has been making headlines in relation to her rumored split with Chiz.



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AEGIS 2022 SHOW IS A DOUBLEHEADER SOLD-OUT SUCCESS

1. Aegis producer Naning Tait takes a selfie; 2. MH talent Pearly performs; 3. A fan gives money to Aegis guitarist; 4. January and Realtor and Pinoy News publisher Joy D'Aoust pose with Aegis. 5. Cesar Marquez and wife, Ventocilla family pose with Aegis as Melissa makes a heart with a lead singer of Aegis; 6. Mark Angel Media owner and Aegis producer Naning Tait and daughter Angelica pose with Aegis;

Behind Her Words: Why Kim Chiu Feels Happier Than Ever

Kim Chiu talks about her insecurities, why her words sometimes don't come out right, and how she got her hard-earned self-confidence back.

"I would define beauty as being confident about who you are," Kim Chiu says.

Apart from her newfound self-assurance and mature level of acceptance, Chiu says sports has been a way to make her feel good, and thus, beautiful. Her fitness goals are part of who she is, and they have shown her her strengths and weaknesses.

A few years ago, she started training for and joining marathons. Contrary to common belief, she eats a lot, so she has enough energy to use during her two-hour-a-day workout routine, which she does at least five times a week.

She also follows the "Blood Type Diet," consumes a lot of meat, and only eats two times a day.

When she's training for a race, she wakes up at 6 a.m. every day, goes on at least one 10-kilometer run in a week, and follows that with shorter runs in the remaining days. She also must ride her bike at least

two hours a day.

In July this year, she joined a duathlon after a long hiatus due to the pandemic. "It also feels good for my mental health," she tells us about her love for sports. "It keeps me grounded. During the race, the camaraderie is there, and you're not artista, you're an athlete-ish. You're all doing the same thing, and you all have the same goal: to finish the race. And then you just support each other." Chiu also does boxing and muay Thai, and she says she misses horseback riding.

Sports, she adds, is a way for her to take care of herself, other than her simple skincare (she only uses a hydrating serum and sunscreen) and makeup routine.

"Taking care of myself just makes me feel more confident," she says. "For example, for makeup and skincare, even if I'm not confident about my communication skills, at least I'm confident about how I look. How you feel and how you look on the outside—parang one step toward making you feel confident."

"I just have to love myself. Who will love me more than myself?...It comes from within—the confidence and the beauty."

Another part of life that is making her feel confident and beautiful is her thriving, 16-year career, and a flourishing relationship with fellow actor Xian Lim. The two had just starred in the Filipino adaptation of the Korean film, *Always*—their fourth movie together, and their first in eight years. "We're both excited," she tells us, palpably giddy. "Especially now that we're open that we're a couple. The word is open talaga, no? Before kasi di namin pinag-uusapan 'yong relationship. Now, people are more open and more appreciative of everything. Some may judge, pero may magtatanggol, so doon ka na lang focus."

Talking about the movie, she sees it as a portent of things to come as she was allowed to work with Lim, who is managed by a different agency: "The network is more open din. The world is now more open to all opportunities." Chiu is also working on an upcoming TV series.

She has never been happier, she says. She blames that on all her experience and on growing older. "Age 'to,' she laughs heartily. "I just feel more confident. And different din ang mindset: eto na ako, e. I just have to love myself. Who will love me more than myself? If you don't feel confident, 'yon din perception ng mga tao. It comes from within—the confidence and the beauty. You won't look good outside if you don't feel good inside."

Sharon Cuneta asks fans not to feel bad about Hermes Korea after she was denied entry

Sharon Cuneta today added a postscript to her original Instagram post regarding her recent trip to South Korea.

She called on her fans not to feel bad about her experience being denied entry into a branch of Hermes in Seoul.



"P.S. Don't feel bad about Hermes not letting me in! Lots, if not all name-brand stores even in the U.S. allow a certain number of people in at a

time - sometimes 10 lang, while the others wait in line outside of the store. Lots also ask you to make an appointment. Covid measures nila yan so okay lang," Sharon wrote.

She uploaded her travel vlogs on her YouTube channel. "Sayang lang talaga belt lang naman ang balak ko eh kaya ayoko pumapasok sa ibang stores na 'di ko plano puntahan ang dami kong nakikita eh!" she added.

In her latest vlog, she mentioned about her experience being turned away from a branch of Hermes in South Korea's capital. She only wanted to buy a belt from the French store. It trended over the weekend.

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"I don't know if high society is different in other cities, but in Hollywood, important people can't stand to be invited someplace that isn't full of other important people. They don't mind a few unfamous people being present because they make good listeners."
Marilyn Monroe

Things are looking back to normal, so far

Asialicious festival is back. And MH and JDL performers were there to join the festivities.

Aegis was back in Toronto. And due to high demand they added a matinee show at 1 o'clock, which quickly sold out too. What is more surprising is that this "2 shows, 1 day" sold-out concerts is the first production of producer Naning Tait of Mark Angel Media. To those

who have been attending all the Filipino



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festivals in Toronto, and even outside Ontario,

she has been a perennial presence in each one, usually in the company of D' Ageless dancers plugging the Aegis concert.

Here's hoping we do not return to not normal.



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1. Ilean and Naing Tait pose at a quiet moment before the concert; 2. A friend, Angelica Tait and Angeli San Juan helps sell merchandize; 3. Ryza Quijano and Arielle Perez at Asialicious; 4. The Sarong sisters performs at Aegis; 5-9. MH Talents at Asialicious



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Kumu hosts give advice on how to deal with online bashing

Online bashing is an unfortunate reality in today's social media-powered world. It can have adverse effects on the personality being bashed. Talents of MPJ Network owned by director Perry Escaño recently gave wise advice on how to deal with trolling and other negative remarks which even ordinary people experience.

"Let's think about it in a positive light. Bashers are somehow part of our fandom. They're the ones who wait for our posts and track every move we do online. So in a way, they're people we should be grateful for. They always keep us on our toes," said 17-year-old professional singer Sofi Fermazi who is making a name as the "Darling of Cover Songs" because of what she features on her YouTube channel.

Sofi is a host of the show "Millennials

Lifestyle" on entertainment app Kumu. Hosting with her are other upcoming stars like Chesca Orolfo, Archie Alcantara and Lyra Sloan. They will talk about love and courtship topics, music, concerts, videos, games and other trends millennials have an affinity with.

Chesca said she ignores bashers because "they really can't be avoided. In a way, they also motivate the artist to strive more and improve."

Aside from "Millennials Lifestyle," MPJ Network is also launching two other shows on the same date on Kumu and their YouTube Premium channel. These are "Kids Toy Kingdom" which will be aired every Thursday from 6 to 7pm and the "Simply Exquisite Show" airing from 8 to 9 p.m.

"Kids Toy Kingdom" is hosted by talented young artists Tom Leano and Hannah



MPJ Network artists (from left) Sofi Fermazi, Chesca Orolfo, Pearl Gonzales and Nicky Gilbert

Ortiz. It will talk about interesting toy collections of top collectors and will feature both modern and vintage toys.

On the other hand, professional host and streamer Nicky Gilbert is the face of "Simply Exquisite Show" which will put the spotlight on fashion trends, designers, interior designs, food, travel destinations and other lifestyle topics. For

the pilot episode, the guest will be model, entrepreneur and beauty queen Pearl Gonzalez who was last seen in the movie "Kuta."

All the hosts are part of the MPJ Angels Artists' Pool managed by filmmaker/director Perry Escaño and Noreen "Mommy Angel" Espejon, former handler of ExBatalion and Kuh Ledesma.

Nicky said she views bashers in a positive light because they make people curious about you and thus improve the recall or visibility of the artist concerned.

Tom and Hannah have had their share of negative interactions in their young age. They just choose to block or delete the comments for the sake of their mental health.

Lyra said she has not been bashed but when this happens, she will just use it to improve herself "Alam ko naman sa sarili ko kung sino ako at may mga tao kagaya ng family ko na kilalang ako," she noted.

Chesca's advice is to just ignore the bashing. "If ever ma-encounter ko ito, deadma na lang kasi wala namang mapapala sa kanila. Kahit saang industry may mga bashers talaga, hindi talaga yun maiiwasan. Ang magagawa na lang talaga is deadma and isa rin naman sila sa reasons kung bakit magsusumikap ang isang tao," she pointed out.



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T.O. KAPUSO LIONS

1. Shafii Buiyan talks about health at a Kapuso Lions seminar.
2. Kapuso Lions pose after the seminar.
3. Kapuso Lions pose with canned goods collected for charity.
4. Judith Gonzales' home becomes a warehouse for the canned goods collected for the Food Drive - Feed the Hungry Service to Humanity-Oshawa Food Banks



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Dominic Ochoa: Sense of ‘bayanihan’ stronger after nonrenewal of ABS-CBN franchise

After the nonrenewal of ABS-CBN’s franchise two years ago, not a few Kapamilya talents found jobs or projects in other networks. And this sense of “bayanihan” prevailing in show biz at the moment, Dominic Ochoa said, can only benefit the people in it. “I’m very thankful because what’s happening right now is good. We know the situation, and I’m grateful there’s bayanihan happening among networks... they have opened their doors to artists from other networks. Maluwang ba,” he said at a virtual conference for “Abot Kamay na Pangarap.”

Dominic, who has been with ABS-CBN for 24 years, did at least two guest appearances in GMA 7 shows back in the 1990s. But he has never starred in a full Kapuso show until now.

Opening doors
“They’re opening doors for artists like me and my colleagues. And it’s the same with other stations. It’s important that we’re helping each other out. It’s not just the artists who benefit, but also the production people ... those who work behind the cameras,” he said.

“Ang ganda. I’m excited to work with GMA 7 and with new actors. It’s something I look forward to... working with directors and people that we used to only see on television,” he added. Dominic, who was last seen in the Kapamilya soap “Huwag Kang Mangamba,” said GMA 7’s

offer came at the right time. “I had just finished doing a show and asked my bosses there if I was free to do shows in other networks. If there was something lined up for me there, I was willing to wait. But they gave me the approval to do this (‘Abot Kamay’),” he related. It wasn’t hard for me to make this decision.”

Some of the production people behind the show Dominic has already worked with; some of them he met for the first time. But he couldn’t have asked for a better welcome. “They received me so warmly... It was easy to bond with them,” he said.

While he’s still getting used to his new work environment, Dominic’s costars, like Richard Yap, made him feel at home. “I felt relaxed... People think that Richard is reserved because he has this look of a businessman, but he’s very kalog and accommodating,” Dominic said of Richard with whom he shot his very first scene.

“I had a blast, and everyone made me feel welcome during my first taping days,” he said. “And I look forward to spending more time with them.”

Virtual Playground adds singers to its stable of artists

Producer Dondon Monteverde’s Virtual Playground, the talent management outfit that first handled the careers of sports personalities, has also ventured into music production and started signing up artists in its stable.

Now in the line-up of Virtual Play-

ground’s new talents are Erik Allen de Leon, who recently released his debut single, Langoy, and singer-songwriter-instrumentalist Gwyneth Dorado, former finalist in the first Asia’s Got Talent (AGT) in 2015, who came out with her debut single, Tulala.

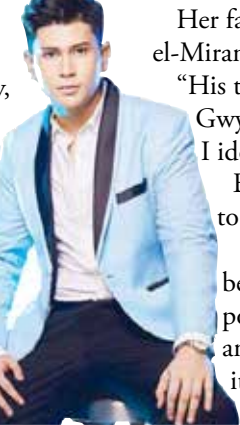
“This is the start of a new chapter in my life and my career,” Gwyneth said. “I’m actually overwhelmed, happy and nervous now that my new single is out. Tulala has an acoustic and sentimental vibe.”

Gwyneth’s favorite line from her debut single is “At ang araw sisikat din.”

“The song is more inspirational than love itself,” she explained. “This is kind of my personal experience. There were times when something really terrible happened. You least expected it and matutulala ka na lang. It’s a very overwhelming feeling.”

“I’m comfortable singing no matter how many songs. G (go) lang ako. I wouldn’t be tired like before. My taste in music, kahit ano ang trend now, I will experiment trying any genre,” she said. “Whatever is comfortable for me. Even rap, Moira (de la Torre)-style or theater style. I have songs that I want to release na tunog orchestra, may piano or violin.”

Gwyneth, however, can



Virtual Playground artists Erik Allen de Leon and Gwyneth Dorado have released their debut singles Langoy and Tulala, respectively. These songs are carried globally through Enterphil Entertainment under Ivory Music as initial offerings.

readily belt out The Movie in My Mind from Miss Saigon or render a mean rap of EZ Mil’s Panalo.

Her favorite musical artist is Lin Manuel-Miranda.

“His talent is really over the top,” Gwyneth said of Miranda. “That’s why I idolize him.”

Erik plays the guitar so it was easy to churn out tunes.

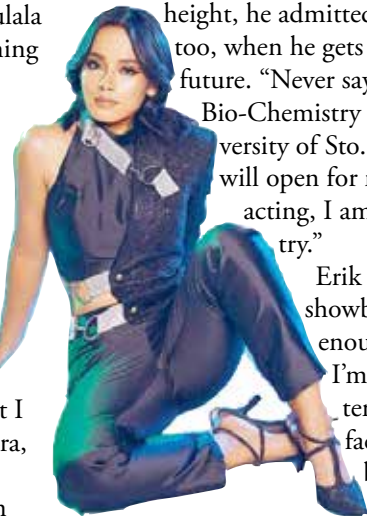
The 21-year-old artist has a number of unfinished songs in his music portfolio. “Whenever I thought of any tune randomly, I would record it on my phone,” Eric offered.

Eric also experienced being brokenhearted, not just once. “If I will be allowed to choose, if I want to experience that again, I will still choose the same,” he said.

Erik counts the likes of artists John Mayer and Steven Tyler as among his international idols and influences. “Locally, sobrang favorite ko si Ogie Alcasid,” Erik said.

Since Erik also got the looks and the height, he admittedly considers acting, too, when he gets the chance in the future. “Never say never,” said the Bio-Chemistry major from the University of Sto. Tomas. “If ever doors will open for me when it comes to acting, I am willing to give it a try.”

Erik is apparently ready for showbiz. “I think I’m mature enough to face showbiz. I’m ready even for the temptations that I will face. Hopefully, nothing bad will happen.”



CALAMITY from p1
it to allow emergency funds to be disbursed rapidly.

Cruz-Angeles said at a news conference that the state of calamity,



A girl receives her first COVID-19 Pfizer vaccination during the opening of classes at the San Juan Elementary School in metro Manila, Philippines on Monday, Aug. 22, 2022.

which was to expire September 19, may be extended by about three months, primarily to allow emergency purchases and provide hazard allowances for health care workers.

The Philippines, among the hardest hit by the coronavirus in Southeast Asia, imposed one of the longest lockdowns in the world, which caused its worst economic recession in decades and deepened poverty, hunger and unemployment.

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Joanna Ampil to play Engineer in Miss Saigon 2023

Joanna Ampil is returning to the 2023 version of Miss Saigon not as Kim, her previous role, but as the Engineer.

The portrayal of the Engineer by a woman is a first in the history of Miss Saigon—from its premiere in 1989 at the Theatre Royal in London to its debut in Broadway, various revivals and numerous restaging internationally.

Joanna will be launched as the Engineer—a hustler and owner of the nightclub Dreamland in Saigon that caters to American soldiers—in a new version by co-directors Robert Hastie and Anthony Lau.



She is currently playing the role of Bloody Mary in South Pacific during the musical play's 10-week UK and Ireland tour. Joanne then recalled her first meeting with Anthony Lau, the assistant artistic director of Miss Saigon.

She said, "Are you creating a new role in it like, a mother?" "Then Lau said, 'We want you for the role of the engineer!'"

She shared the message that she wants to impart through her character. "My goal personally is champion the Asian perspective and to hopefully give answers to the racial and misogynistic issues in this new staging.

"To execute a woman of strength, sensitivity, coloured with flaws, and a whole lot of heart.

"My engineer will be created from scratch so it's not as if I'll be trying to fit into the mold of what was done in the past.

"It will be a new character with a different background and back story."

For the most part, Joanna felt elated knowing that the theater culture in the UK has attuned itself to the changing times.

She said, "I am so happy that the theatre industry in the U.K. is also updating classic and beloved shows from previous generations, and bravely updating them to make them more relevant today, and using this platform to reeducate us who were misinformed in the past with the new knowledge that's available to us now."

Joanna has also appeared in the musicals Jesus Christ Superstar, Les Miserables, Hair, Rent, and Cats.

Fil-Canadian surgeon appointed to Manitoba Senate

CANADA - Winnipeg surgeon and assistant professor Dr. Flordeliza (Gigi) Osler has been appointed to the Senate for Manitoba, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's office announced Monday, Sept. 26. She will replace former Justice Murray Sinclair, who retired from the Red Chamber in January 2021.

"I feel like I have very big shoes to fill and I want to honor his shoes and work hard on behalf of all Manitobans. I love this province. Nothing makes me happier than to be able to represent Manitoba," Dr. Osler said. "So, I really feel like just an ordinary person lucky to live not only in this country but in this province."

She hopes her appointment can inspire others.

"I'd like to tell everyone to have big dreams. It can happen. It happened to me and I just feel so absolutely humbled, fortunate and ready to get to work. "I am excited and it is good news for our community and country to have a talented woman tapped by the Prime Minister,"



retired politician Dr. Rey Pagtakhan told philippinecanadiannews.com when asked for comment from his home in Winnipeg.

Pagtakhan was a trailblazer for Filipino politicians in Canada when he was elected to Parliament as a Liberal in 2008 serving until 2004. Like Osler, Pagtakhan was also

a professor at the University of Manitoba and was a practicing pediatrician when he entered politics.

Osler is the second Filipino Canadian to be appointed to the Senate. The late Senator Tobias Enverga was appointed by the Conservative government of Stephen Harper in 2012 for the province of Ontario. He died suddenly on November 12, 2017. Senators are appointed for life until age 75.

Rechie Valdez became the first Filipino Canadian woman to be elected to Parliament representing Mississauga-Streetsville in Ontario in 2021. With Osler's appointment, there are now two Filipino Canadian members of the Canadian Parliament.

Karina Bautista, Gello Marquez spark romance via a tweet in Love Bites

Social media platforms are "good conversation starters," according to Kapamilya talents Karina Bautista and Gello Marquez, who topbill a Love Bites episode titled One Post Away, currently streaming on YouTube.

ABS-CBN's Love Bites is a digital anthology, which is part of the Made for YouTube offerings and produced by RCD Narratives.

Ahead of the episode's streaming, Karina said in a virtual call that she hasn't tried dating apps but found a lot of friends through social media. "Because of these apps, nag-gain ako ng sobrang daming connections from all over the world. Actually, pag

nakaka-relate ako sa isang tao, mahilig naman ako mag-reply sa mga stories nila and duon nagsisimula yung mga conversations namin. So it's a really good conversation starter," she said.

"Siguro kasi ang unang intention ko talaga is maging friends and to further know that person, so I start it off like kung ano yung dati niyang tweet, I would react or say something about it," added the Viral Scandal actress when queried about her style in starting a conversation via the digital



platform.

Like Gello, she would make her approach "very humorous." "Para naman hindi siya masyadong nakakatakot and hindi aggressive yung dating. Parang may sense of comfortability ka agad na nag-o-open ka sa isang tao," she explained.

Former Idol Philippines contestant Gello shared he also got to know some people through social media but not "dating" per se.

From a Gen Z perspective, the young actor said if ever he would begin a conversation

through a tweet, he would, "Kasi siyempre kung may gusto ka sigurong tao hindi mo naman ipapakita agad na I'm very interested in you. Maybe I will send a random video or random meme or picture (at first). Siguro kung ako ha, ganun ang gagawin (ko) lalo na hindi kami magkakilala... Yun pwede din syang maging start ng conversation."

"Kung ganun ang atake mo, medyo funny lang or what, medyo mag-la-loosen up agad yung (tension) or anything na parang chill lang tayo," he added.

"The story was great," commented Karina. "I am super thankful to have been given this kind of material na sobrang nakaka-kilig and nakaka-relate sa maraming tao. So I am manifesting that more viewers will watch

this, learn lessons from it and of course, sana ma-touch din namin yung mga puso ng ating mga viewers."

"We really had a good time and I think this became a leeway for our friendship dahil nakapag-usap kami after the taping and we really enjoyed each other's company. So I'm really looking forward to working with Gello even more," she furthered.

Gello agreed, "We really hope that through this, Love Bites, more people will watch it para mas maraming ma-reach na tao and mas maraming makukuhang mga lessons from it. Through Love Bites, we get to share experiences and stories of people about various kinds of love. We hope that they will learn something through these experiences."

How Donnalyn Bartolome grew 7M Facebook followers in 1 year

DONNALYN from page 10

Tool, she figured that the most important tip she learned was knowing her audience, and it was not a surprise to know that a majority of her viewers are young women.

In fact, her 24-hour bathroom challenge were flooded with comments from mostly women viewers. It was then that Donnalyn decided to share more of herself, and even dish out occasional pieces of love musings and advice.

"At first I wondered kung okay ba yun, since it was really doing daily things or talking

about silly stuff, but the audience engaged with it, the more naka-relate sila, the more they engaged with my videos and posts," the singer said.

Tip 2: Be authentic

The less you edit yourself, the more authentic you come across. Basically, Donnalyn has no qualms making a fool of herself. She's a babe who appreciates a good laugh.

The Viva star shares videos that give her followers a glimpse into her daily life. She also does Facebook Live events several times per month to interact with her audience, and constantly updates her fans

through Facebook Stories and Instagram Stories to share what she's up to.

Tip 3: Interact with viewers

Her latest challenge is part of the #DareDonna challenge, where Donnalyn scrolls through the comments section and finds time to sift through possible "ganaps" on her channel. She also takes time to respond personally to viewers' comments.

Tip 4: Learn how to come up with great editing using the best tools



A great content sometimes can get ruined with poor video quality and haphazard editing.

Donnalyn reviewed the viewer retention metrics on her videos and realized that the videos people watched longest were those with better video quality.

Thus, the social media star advised to upgrade recording equipment for a more engaging viewing experience. She also advised to take particular note of how a video is being edited.

Tip 5: Develop a consistent content schedule

Donnalyn used to not have a schedule at all when she uploads her video. When she decided to set a schedule, her viewers became more engaged as they knew when to check her channel and page for a

new upload. She began posting videos more consistently too – which is up to four times per week.

"Kapag may steady following ka na, kailangan meron silang aabangan. You give them content at a consistent time and the viewership will follow," Donnalyn said.

Tip 6: Branch out

No man is an island, and this adage also applies to all content creators. Almost all of them have already interacted together in videos through collaborations. Donnalyn has collaborated several times with fellow content creators such as Zeinab Harake and Jelai Andres.

Donnalyn also suggests to cover other fun gimmicks, like doing pranks or hosting giveaways, noting that the latter is a surefire crowd

Why romance is not for Gretchen Ho at this time

“I’ve come to accept that now isn’t the time for it yet,” said TV host Gretchen Ho when asked whether she is now ready to make time for an active love life.

It has been over five years since Gretchen and TV host Robi Domingo, boyfriend for three years, broke up. She has yet to introduce anyone as a romantic partner since. “I feel everything has set time. I’m so busy these days I don’t even have enough time to sleep well. I chose to focus on work to protect my blessings and preserve the things that are coming my way. It’s hard for me to commit my life right now, especially during the virtual media gathering and travel in Manila. I don’t feel it’s fair to my would-be partner because I won’t have the time for a relationship. I feel that it will come when it’s time,” she declared. “By that time, I’ll be free enough



to have that commitment. I’m OK with my current status. I’m always on the go, so I predict that a new romantic relationship now will be very difficult.”

Mariah Carey impressed by Elaine Duran’s ‘My All’ rendition

Grammy-winning singer-songwriter Mariah Carey reacted to “Tawag ng Tanghalan” champion Elaine Duran’s rendition of her hit song “My All.”



In her Instagram account, Mariah posted a video of Elaine singing the hit song as part of the compilation featured in ‘They Have The Range,’ a fan page that features promising and popular vocalists or singers from around the world.

“She killed it!!! Wow!!!” Mariah wrote in the caption. Carey wrote “My All” for her sixth studio album “Butterfly” released in 1997.

Elaine then posted on her Instagram account the screenshot of Mariah’s comment on her performance. “As a lamb, this is a great achievement for me; to be noticed by Ms. @mariahcarey,” she wrote. Carey and her devoted fans call themselves “Lambs,” which dates back to the 1990s.

“Thank you @theyhavetherange for featuring me,” she added.

Elaine won the third season of “Tawag ng Tanghalan” in “It’s Showtime.” She is currently part of the ABS-CBN’s Sunday variety show “ASAP Natin ‘To.”

‘Praise God! Very normal’: Robin Padilla gives update about heart procedure

Senator Robin Padilla will return to work today after he underwent a heart procedure.

Padilla’s office said in a report that the actor-senator is cleared to return to work after undergoing a heart procedure in Asian Hospital in Muntinlupa City last Saturday.

“The senator will continue with his recovery during the weekend, and expects to return

to his work and normal routines soonest,” the senator’s office said in a statement.



Padilla also said in a text message that he has no heart ailment.

“Wala akong sakit na kahit ano,” he said.

He, however, said that he’s suffering from high blood pressure.

“Magmula sa Spain hindi na bumaba ang BP (blood pressure) ko,” he said.

It can be recalled that Padilla was hospitalized in Spain after suffering high blood pressure while enjoying in a park.

He said he underwent endoscopy, colonoscopy and pulmonary tests in Cardinal Santos Medical Center.

“Pasado lahat,” he said.

The doctors, however, “saw something that compelled me to see a cardiologist,” after he underwent 2D echo for the heart.

He then went to The Asian Hospital. “Praise God! Very normal,” Padilla said.

Dominic Roco arrested in Quezon City drug bust with 4 others

Actor Dominic Roco and four other individuals were arrested during a drug buy-bust operation in Quezon City in the early hours of Oct. 1, 2022.

Police were looking for a certain Reynaldo Sanchez, who was among the people caught in the operation in Barangay Holy Spirit.

The search was conducted by members of Quezon City Police District (QCPD) Holy Spirit Police Station (PS14) sometime after midnight, arresting the suspects in a townhouse.

Among the items confiscated by the police were 15 grams of alleged shabu and 10 grams of alleged marijuana.

They will be charged for violating Republic Act 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Roco is the son of actor Bembol Roco and the twin of actor Felix Roco. His film credits include “Liway” and “I’m Drunk I Love You.”



Jim Brickman, Sarah Geronimo collaborate on new version of ‘The Gift’

American pop songwriter, pianist, and radio host Jim Brickman was recently featured on Sarah Geronimo’s recent vlog.

There, the Popstar Royalty and her husband, singer-actor Matteo Guidicelli, could be seen talking to Jim over the phone.

He told the couple: “So I was thinking of doing a very special version of my song, ‘The Gift.’ Would you wanna sing it with me?”

An ecstatic Sarah replied: “We would love to! It will be our pleasure, Jim.”

Their rendition of the song then played. Many netizens praise the said “official

cover.” In fact, as of writing, it’s on YouTube’s Top 24 trending list for music. Among the comments: “Yan ang singing with a heart! Sarah G walang kupas!” “Sarah never fails to deliver. Soothing sa tenga ng boses. Maybe this time, Right Here Waiting, Won’t Last A Day, You Changed My Life and many more nasa playlist ko at idadagdag ko to. Sarap lang makinig sa boses nya all day.” “Such an angelic voice from one and only

popstar royalty. She knows how to fit her voice well. Matteo’s voice is glaring as well. They are really meant for each other. What a gift!” “Ang ganda ng rendition, pureheart lang talaga, inlove na inlove sila sa isa’t isa ramdam mo yung tinginan, grabe nakakinlove sila... thank you jim for the colab..im happy to see sarah back to singing again..hopefully live na soon.”



Lea Salonga named Time magazine’s TIME100 Impact Awardee

Lea Salonga has been recognized as one of the honorees of Time magazine’s TIME100 Impact Awards, which is given to personalities who have “gone above and beyond” to move their respective industries forward.

The actress-singer was called a “role model for children of color” for playing the singing voices of Disney’s Jasmine and Mulan from the 1990s animated films



“Aladdin” and “Mulan,” as per Time last Sunday, Sept. 25. Salonga was also described as someone who “prides herself on promoting representation in Hollywood and on Broadway, and showing underrepresented groups that their stories matter.” “All of a sudden, the people that look like me had a princess,” Salonga remembers thinking at the time she played Mulan. “She brings honor to herself and to her family... and she does it with grace.” Joining Salonga on the list of awardees are English singer-songwriter Ellie Goulding, American rapper Will.i.am, and former

director of NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope Program Gregory L. Robinson, among others. Aside from her work as a singer, Salonga appeared in various stage productions. Her first professional theatrical performance was for a Filipino production of “The King and I,” when she was 7 years old. She was also the first Asian woman to play Eponine in the musical “Les Misérables” on Broadway. Salonga is notably known for playing the Vietnamese prostitute Kim in the 1989 production of “Miss Saigon,” where she won a Tony Award. The singer currently appears as the overbearing mom Elodie in HBO Max’s “Pretty Little Liars: Original Sin,” the prequel series to the American drama series “Pretty Little Liars.”

Heart Evangelista to stay abroad ‘indefinitely’: ‘Hindi muna ako babalik’

Heart Evangelista, who is currently in Paris, revealed that she bought a new apartment and noted that she will be staying abroad “indefinitely,” amid her rumored split with husband, Sen. Francis “Chiz” Escudero.



The actress disclosed this after she was asked by a netizen to name the things she purchased recently, during Evangelista’s Instagram live last Wednesday, Sept. 28. The video has since expired on her Instagram page but it was re-uploaded by fan accounts on social media.

“I just got myself an apartment so I don’t really plan to buy anything else because I have all [these] nice furniture [so] I am saving up for that,” she said.

Evangelista also spoke about her work commitments in Paris, adding she “does not mind” not being in the Philippines for a long time.

“It’s really a full job and I’ve never really been the type to stay home and wait. I’m very creative with my time and I like to be very productive with my time,” she stated. “I’m a working girl and I’m not ‘Ms. Hingi.’”

Evangelista then admitted missing her fans in the country but she explained “everybody has to work.”

“I miss all of you but dito muna ako (I am going to stay here for a while),” she told fans. “Hindi muna ako babalik.” (I am not returning [to the Philippines] for some time.)

At the latter part of the video, Evangelista read a question that asked, “When will you come home?” — to which she answered by quoting Julia Roberts’ line in the 1999 film “Notting Hill”— “Indefinitely.”

Evangelista recently hinted about building a home in Paris, although it was not immediately stated if it is the same apartment the actress recently bought.

Meanwhile, speculations that Evangelista and Escudero have separated arose after fans noticed that she removed the surname Escudero from her Instagram profile name. Evangelista later admitted she has been dealing with “personal struggles,” although she did not state anything specifically.

The actress has also reportedly moved out of her shared home with Escudero and is now living in a condo unit, as per entertainment columnist Cristy Fermin.

Celebrities react to Mimiyyuuh’s ‘pogi’ snaps

Celebrities and regular netizens alike were amused with online content creator Mimiyyuuh surprising them with a set of photos of him looking a tad too hunky than usual with a slicked back hair style.

“Tago niyo muna mga girlfriends niyo mga



lodi! Baka retri gods ‘to. (woozy face emoji),” his caption read.

Online users quickly bombarded the comment section with praise.

Celebrities like Chie Filomeno and Michele Gumabao joined in on the fun.

There were more. Sanya Lopez wrote: “Omg (smiling face with heart-eyes emoji).”

Lovi Poe added: “(face with tears of joy and smiling face with heart-eyes emojis).”

Bea Alonzo related: “(face with tears of joy emoji).”

Maymay Entrata interjected: “(face with tears of joy emoji).”

Joross Gamboa prefers not to be the ‘bida’ both in his show biz career and personal life

“I just can’t let go of my funny side. It is who I am,” said character actor Joross Gamboa, who admitted that the Kapamilya network once planned to package him as a leading man, but he had to turn down the offer because it would require him “to be someone I’m not.”

“I never aimed for popularity. My goal in this business has always been longevity. My idol is the late Tito Eddie Garcia (whose show biz career spanned seven decades). It’s true that there was a plan to package me as a leading man before, but I just can’t let go of my humor, my kaku-litan. For that plan, I even had to change the way I speak, which had to be modulated. I thought I sounded weird and funny because of that,” he told reporters recently.

‘Overwhelming’

“I prefer making people laugh. I want to stay in this industry for as long as I can,” said Joross, who, unlike other actors, remained in demand even during the pandemic. He is part of the cast of the Kapamilya sitcom “My Papa Pi,” the action-thriller “Flower of Evil” and the family sitcom “Hoy Love You,” which will stream its third season on

iWantTFC starting on Sept. 30. “I feel so blessed to come from an accident that required me to have an operation because I tore my Achilles tendon. As a result, I had to let go of some movie and TV projects. I felt so bad, but my family and I simply prayed for it. Our prayers were never about requesting for things to happen but about saying thanks. Now, the blessings are overwhelming. It’s true that God never forgets. There might just be delays in our plans because God has other plans for us, but it’s true that things happen in his perfect time,” Joross declared.

Joross has been active in the industry since 2004. Asked to share the secret of his staying power, the 37-year-old said: “I consider acting as something that helps me provide for my family. I don’t mind doing small roles. I even enjoy doing cameos or being a bit player. I understand that my star doesn’t need to be shining all

the time. It’s also important to be there to support others. For example, in ‘My Papa Pi,’ the leads are Piolo Pascual and Pepe Herrera. I made sure to be there for them, to make them shine. Meanwhile, in our personal lives, we shouldn’t be the bida. It should be God.”

Joross said this is also the work dynamics on the set of “Hoy Love You,” where he plays Jules, husband to Roxanne Guinoo-Yap’s character Marge. The series also features Aljon Mendoza, Karina Bautista, Brenna Garcia, Keanna Reeves, Yamyam Gucong, Pepe Herrera, Dominic Ochoa and TJ Valderrama.

“Everyone will be able to relate to the show. It is a collaboration of all the cast members. We sit down to share personal experiences before the script gets written. It’s a collective experience,” he said, adding that Season 3 is all about Jules and Marge’s journey to becoming new parents.

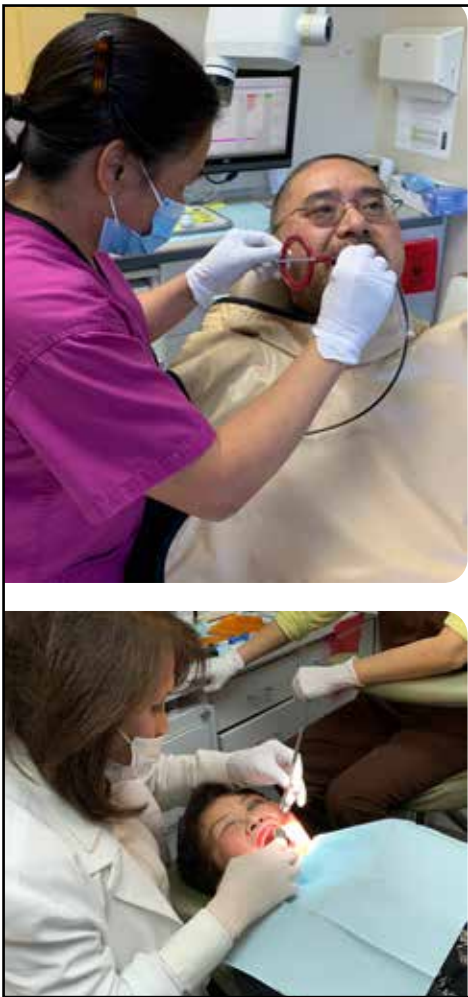
“I think I’ve experienced paglilihi before,” said the father of two. “When my wife was pregnant, I would bring her food from outside, like sinigang na hipon. But when I get home, she will say she doesn’t like it so I will

end up eating it. I later realized that it was me who was craving for sinigang.”

For program director Theodore “Ted” Boborol, the aim of Season 3 is to teach the audience all about love and sacrifice. He explained: “The pregnancy journey of Jules and Marge will test their faith, love and willingness to sacrifice. Generally, Season 3 is a reflection of what is currently happening in our society. I feel that there’s an urgent need for us to reintroduce our core values to the audience. We want to remind them that Filipinos are God-fearing, family oriented and are people of faith. You will see these in a lot of subplots.”

Sacrificing personal interest

Joross further said: “Jules has the core values that Direk Ted is talking about, those that we hardly find in most Pinoy today anymore. Let’s admit it that we’ve become too influenced by other cultures, especially those of us who live abroad. We are known for our willingness to sacrifice our personal interest for the sake of our families. This show will remind us of this.”



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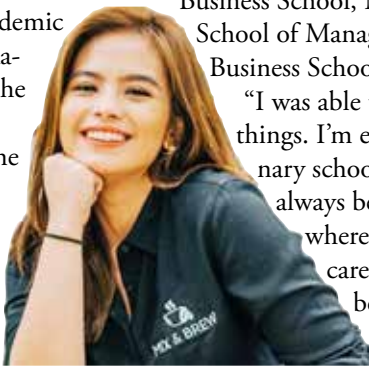
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BEA from page 2

The initial phase of the pandemic was frightening for Bea. “Naka-kapanibago at nakakatakot,” she recalled. “I still feel privileged because I was able to stay home with my family.”

“Of course, hindi naman natin alam ang mangyayari. I took it also as my time to have a break. Since I started in showbiz in 2004, tuloy-tuloy ang work. I was able to rest.”

She actually enrolled in an online school and learned Korean and Mandarin. Even-



tually, Bea took online courses at Harvard Business School, Northwestern Kellogg School of Management and London Business School.

“I was able to accomplish a lot of things. I’m even about to finish culinary school soon.” Bea said she will always be very thankful to GMA, where she started her showbiz career. “Even now that I’m being managed by VAA, I will stay being a Kapuso. My friends are all there. Kasama ko silang naka-trabaho. Ang dami kong tita at tito all throughout my career. They will forever be part of who I am.”

Now that Bea has wider opportunities

after signing up with VAA, she is looking forward to appearing on the streaming platform, Vivamax. “Hindi nakatali ang Viva with any network,” she pointed out. “Independent siya. As long as there’s work, we’re okay.”

“Viva can help me strengthen my online presence through its streaming platform. But if there are good projects that I can do with GMA, I am always open. We can always talk about my projects and their decisions. They will forever be a part of me.”

Bea, nevertheless, still wants to become a news reporter or a news anchor in the mold of veteran Kapuso broadcasters Mel Tiangco or even Vicky Morales. “I grew up with GMA News and Public Affairs,” she

said.

“I’ve been active with volunteering for Kapuso Foundation. As long as that dream is still there, hindi ko kayang maging very daring. We can talk about my projects.”

Bea simply prayed for the right timing to resume her showbiz career.

“I’m very grateful that VAA is there to welcome me. I just took a rest this pandemic. I think everyone else did because we were just all at home,” she said.

“Pero nakaka miss din mag-taping. ‘Yung mapupuyat ka. I miss seeing the fans who will go to every mall show or taping. Going back to showbiz is not something I did na biglaan lang. I also needed to work. I just waited for the blessings.



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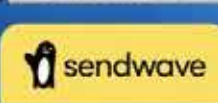
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5. Philip and his family – and all his siblings and their families, work hard every year to make the stay of their visiting former town mates from elsewhere in Canadian provinces and those south



6. Philip and his family – and all his siblings and their families, work hard every year to make the stay of their visiting former town mates from elsewhere in Canadian provinces and those south



7. Philip and his family – and all his siblings and their families, work hard every year to make the stay of their visiting former town mates from elsewhere in Canadian provinces and those south



8. Philip and his family – and all his siblings and their families, work hard every year to make the stay of their visiting former town mates from elsewhere in Canadian provinces and those south



'Drag Race Philippines' judge Paolo Ballesteros: Filipino drag queens among world's best

With no one eliminated and Marina Summers' fan favorite Snatch Game performance at last week's episode, "Drag Race Philippines" continues to trend week after week of its airing since its premiere last August 17.

The Snatch Game is a highly anticipated popular challenge in the "Drag Race" franchise where the queens do celebrity impersonations.

Show host and judge Paolo Ballesteros commented on how Filipino drag queens are considered among the best in the world in an email interview with Philstar.com.

"I can certainly say yes because we have charm, uniqueness, nerve, and talent haha. And wit and humor. Our queens are never afraid to look silly and gorgeous at the same time. Having said that, of course, everyone is on some kind of a pressure but it's a good thing because it pushes everyone to strive for the best," said the "Eat Bulaga!" host.

In the main round, the queens were made to wear their version of the Philippine terno and the jurors selected Minty Fresh as the first week's main winner and received the RuBadge with P80,000.

"Drag Race Philippines" is judged by Ballesteros, Kalad Karen and "RuPaul's Drag Race" alumna Jiggy Caliente.

Past guest celebrity judges included actress Nadine Lustre, Pops Fernandez, Pia Wurtzbach, Patrick Starr and Vice Ganda.

The winner of the 1st season of "Drag Race Philippines" will receive a one-year supply of One Size cosmetic products from Patrick Starr and a P1-million cash prize from World of Wonder USA.

"Drag Race Philippines" was launched last year but the global pandemic halted its initial shoots, thus, affecting its original airing. It streams on Discovery Plus and HBO

Go or watch the show's highlights on the World of Wonder Presents channel on YouTube.

Manita trains in Manila

We all know how Filipinos are considered a "major-major" force to reckon with in the international beauty competition scene, with our representatives and even fans always making their presence felt on and off the pageant stage. Reason why the Filipinos' expertise on pageantry is also fast becoming an export product for the country. Foreign countries are now tapping on Filipino pageant coaches, managers and organizers to put together their own local searches for them in the hope of somehow achieving better results in international beauty derbies.

Take the case of our neighboring ASEAN country, Cambodia, whose Miss Universe delegates since 2017 have been selected and trained by a Filipino Pageant Director. While the country has yet to penetrate the first cut of the universe's most prestigious pulchritude Olympics, its delegates have so far been getting good notices from the global pageant community. Aside from having a Pinoy pageant director, Cambodia also sends its representatives to the Philippines for proper preparation and training. This year's Cambodian representative, 24-year-old Manita Hang, was recently in Manila to train with the Kagandahang Flores camp for her grand appointment with the universe.

"We believe in the training here.

Despite enjoying the love and support of Filipinos at this time, Manita is also well-aware that her countrymen also find themselves knocking heads and in a heated word war (specially online) with the passionate Pinoy fans. She has this to say about potential rivalries that may arise when the actual Miss Universe pageant season finally unfolds: "I do hope that our bond will grow beyond better in the future. However, I do know that there might be some intensity in some fans and that can be understood. I encourage everyone

to have an open mind because if we are coming to train in the Philippines, that means that we are recognizing the fact that the Philippines has this good sash factor and is actually able to build queens."

Manita plans to kick-off her Miss Universe journey—not from Cambodia, but from the Philippines.

'Convenience is priceless': Why Toni Gonzaga accepted Shopee endorsement despite backlash

Host-actress and new Shopee ambassador Toni Gonzaga has a long history with the e-commerce platform due to the convenience it offers customers like her.

"I've been a Shopee customer for almost six or seven years now," shared Gonzaga. After being introduced to the platform, Gonzaga realized how much convenience the platform gave, particularly convenience of time and energy from going out and having to spend on gas. Gonzaga said upon learning two months ago that she was approached to be a part of the brand, she called up her sister Alex Gonzaga, who was a previous Shopee ambassador.

"When I told her the news, sobrang tuwang-tuwa siya. Dubbed the "Ultimate Multimedia Star," shoppers can look forward to watching Toni belt out the brand's new jingle as she stars in its latest TV commercial.

In the days leading up to Gonzaga's reveal as a Shopee ambassador, the hashtags #BoycottShopee and #ByeShopee became trending topics on social media, with several platform users expressing their disappointment and even resorted to deleting Shopee from their phones.



Painter Frank Cruzet gives pointers at The Filipino Centre Toronto Wednesday art painting class.

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Kelsey Merritt stars in James Reid’s newest steamy music video

Filipino-Australian actor-singer James Reid had an angel on his side after Filipina model Kelsey Merritt appeared with him on the music video for his latest single “u & i.”

The video sees a blond Reid picking up Merritt in a wedding dress as they hop on a stretch limousine to enjoy the night life, intercut with scenes of the two being intimate and lip-locking with each other. The clips and colors are reminiscent of Wong Kar-wai movies.

The track is the first single off his sophomore album coming out in October, which will be the follow-up to his debut album “Palm Dreams,” released under his own record label Careless.



It is currently the second most trending music video on YouTube and has nearly 1 million views since it was uploaded on September 29.

The label called the single an “upbeat pop track that depicts two people connecting and knowing that they’re drawn to each other... enjoying each other’s company and taking action to experience themselves – because when they’re with each other, nothing else matters.”

Dating rumors between Reid and Merritt sparked after images of the two went viral online, with Reid himself posting a zoomed-in photo of him with Merritt on his Instagram account.

The picture turned out to be the cover photo for “u & i” as it appears on various streaming platforms.

In 2018, Merritt became the first model of Filipino descent to walk in the last-ever Victoria’s Secret Fashion Show, which also happened to be her first runway.

Coleen Garcia surprises husband Billy Crawford on ‘Dancing With The Stars’

Couple Goals indeed!
Billy Crawford was indeed shocked as he was surprised by his wife Coleen Garcia on the recent episode of “Danse Avec Les Stars,”

ATLAS D’AOUST 3RD BIRTHDAY

FROM LEFT, Winterra, Atlas, Joy, Warren, Skyea, Oceana.



the French version of “Dancing with the Stars.” On the video that was uploaded by a fan account named crawford.squad, Billy and his dance partner Fauve Hautot were being interviewed by the hosts before hitting the stage.

Coleen was introduced as the “Mystery Dancer” wearing a pink suit and a mask.

As they danced to Calvin Harris’s song, “Stay With Me,” Coleen joined them in the middle of the performance,



Coleen Garcia, Vicki Belo, Billy Crawford, and Hayden Kho on Danse Avec Les Stars

which gave his husband a surprised face while performing.

The two shared a hug after performing. Hayden Kho and Vicki Belo were in the audience who saw their performance live. Hayden also took the time to post on his Instagram congratulating Billy on the show.

“We’re very proud of @billycrawford who’s making a huge impact on French television. He’s so admired, respected, and celebrated here it’s unbelievable,” Hayden wrote in his caption.

James Reid to Mimiyyuuuh: ‘You ready for mature roles?’

James Reid has reacted to the request of online content



creator Mimiyyuuuh for them to work together. On James’s recent

post featuring his steamy music video with Fil-Am model Kelsey Merritt, Mimiyyuuuh commented: “SIR JAMES NEXT TIME AKO NAMAN I LEADING LADY MO ... Kimmmyyyyyy.”

James gamely replied: “okkkk you ready for mature roles?”

Mimiyyuuuh like the idea. He answered: “WAG MO PO AKONG HINAHAMON SIR JAMES! I WAS BORN READY.”

So are we going to expect a collaboration soon? Let’s just wait and see.



Mika, Jarius, Camille and Marco perform at Vaughan Mills Outlet Culture days.

SCENES IN THE CITY



TOP, Flor Martinez (LEFT END) and husband Ariel (4TH FROM LEFT) pose with Aegis. RIGHT, Ariel chats with guitarist Rey Abenoja. FYI, Ariel is not Filipino but is a loyal fan of Aegis.



Happy 16th birthday to Mikachu and Happy 13th birthday to Aaron Perez.



Josie de Leon is teasing us for something exciting that involves Peyton Garcia and Mikachu! Stay tuned with the Josie de Leon Performing Arts Talent & Entertainment!

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1. Thank you so much to the vice chairman of Toronto Catholic District School Board, a very hard working and reliable trustee, Mr. Frank D’Amico, and his wife Relina, who’s running for TDSB Trustee at Ward 6, and their very behaved boy. I invited Frank to the seminar to share the benefits of being a resident of Ontario in terms of education, and they ended up staying to also ask questions about their next purchase of property
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DOH reminds public: Be doubly careful vs COVID-19

MANILA, Philippines — With the coming of the holiday season, the Department of Health (DOH) has reminded the public to be doubly careful to avoid getting infected with COVID-19.

DOH officer-in-charge Maria Rosario Vergeire said the people must stay cautious and strictly observe health protocols to prevent

the rise in COVID-19 cases nationwide. “We just want to remind the public this Christmas when there are parties, company outings and other activities that the COVID is still with us. There are still those vulnerable to it, especially the elderly,” Vergeire said in Filipino during a public briefing. “We should be doubly careful. We must always see if the situation is for us

to have activities, and always remember the safety protocols,” she added. Although the country is slowly easing restrictions and the situation is better than the past two Christmas holidays, Vergeire said the public must keep in mind that the virus is here to stay.

As of October 2, the DOH recorded 2,117 more new cases, bringing the total number of COVID infections in the country to 3,953,886.

Bb. Pilipinas Intercontinental Gabrielle Basiano makes history without her knowing

MANILA, Philippines — The “Best in Swimsuit” and “Best in Gown” awards are two of the most coveted special distinctions in any beauty pageant, and only a select few were able to snag both on the Binibining Pilipinas stage, Catriona Gray in 2018 and Gabrielle Basiano this year.

But when Basiano romped away with both sashes across her body, she did not know at that moment that she had accomplished such a huge feat.

“I only learned about it when I went backstage because people were telling me ‘you made history, you followed Catriona,’” she told the Inquirer in an interview at the Owner’s Circle at the Araneta City in Quezon City after she had already received the Bb. Pilipinas Intercontinental crown at the coronation night in July.

“Oh my God, Catriona’s level is really way up there, and I was able to pull it off?” continued the two-time Bb. Pilipinas aspirant from Borongan City in Eastern Samar.

the Best in Swimsuit award.

“I had huge trust in my designers, and the pressure [to get Best in Gown again] was really on them. But for swimsuit, it was just me, my solo performance, so [getting Best in Swimsuit] shocked me,” Basiano confessed.

She hopes to duplicate not only what Catriona accomplished on the Bb. Pilipinas stage, but also what the former Miss Universe winner did on the international arena.

“I will just do the same thing, or even more than what I showed in Bb. Pilipinas this year,” said Basiano, who is aiming to score a back-to-back win for the Philippines in the Miss Intercontinental pageant this year and inherit the global crown from Filipino queen Cinderella Faye Obeñita in Egypt next month.



Ryza Cenon receives P120,000 water bill despite service interruptions: ‘Ano kami may carwash?’

Ryza Cenon aired her frustration over receiving a water bill amounting to P120,000 despite experiencing water service interruptions.

The actress showed the said bill notice and compared it from their previous water consumption, through her Facebook page last Friday, Sept. 16.

“Ano kami, may carwash? 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. nawawala na ng water [sa amin tapos] ang hina-hina ng tubig namin from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.,” she said. “So paki-explain [Maynilad Water Services, Inc.], from 1,101.02 last month ngayon 120k?”

(Do we look like we have a carwash [business]? We have no water supply every 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. then we have low water supply from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. So please



explain Maynilad Water Services, Inc. [how our bill went up] from P1,101.02 last month to P120,000 this month?)

Cenon then got a response from the water company, vowing that personnel will reach out to the actress regarding the matter.

Some consumers expressed the same sentiments and narrated similar experiences with that of the actress, via the comments section. They also lamented how they encountered difficulties in processing their complaints over sudden increases in their water bills.

Barbie Imperial answers mean comments: “Grabe naman makalaspag, tehl!”

Hindi inurungan ni Barbie Imperial ang mean comments sa kanya ng ilang netizens.

Matapang niyang sinagot ang mga paratang sa kanya—katulad ng pagiging “malandi,” “laspag,” at “kabit”—sa kanyang September 28, 2022 vlog.

Sa paratang na malandi, sagot ng Kapamilya actress: “Malandi lang talaga ako sa isang tao pag in a relationship ako. Nilalandi ko talaga nang sobra yung boyfriend ko.

“Pero hindi ako malandi. At proud ako sabihin na hindi ako yung babae na agad-agad, kerengkeng agad-agad.

“Hindi ako ganoon.”

Hinamon din ni Barbie ang netizen na nagkomentong “sadyang malandi” siya.

Aniya, “Mag-DM ka sa akin sabihin mo kung bakit ako malandi, ‘tapos magre-reply po ako sa iyo.”

THIRD-PARTY ALLEGATION

May pagkagulat sa boses ni Barbie sa paratang na siya umano ang dahilan ng paghihiwalay nina Carlo Aquino at Trina Candaza.

Paglililaw ni Barbie, “Last year pa [sila hiwalay]. ‘Tapos nagka-movie kami ni Carlo this year lang.”

Sina Carlo at Barbie ay nag-shoot ng isang pelikula, ang I Love You Lizzy, noong May 2022.

Sundot pa ni Barbie sa paratang, “Ako na naman sinisisi niyo.

“Parang yung mga tao gigil na gigil maging kabit ako, ‘no.

“Parang every time na may nagbi-break, ako talaga [ang sinisisi], pero wala namang proof na ako talaga iyon.”

Giit ng aktres: “Hindi nga ako kabit, okay. Hindi.”

BARBIE SLAMS “LASPAG” CLAIM

Bakas na tumaas ang dugo ni Barbie sa paratang na “laspag” siya.

“Grabe naman makalaspag, tehl!” sabi ni Barbie, na sinabing pinipigil niyang magmura. “Laspag talaga?!

“First of all, hindi naman ako laspag, hello! Hindi ako laspag and I’m proud to say that, hello.”

May pahayag din siya sa sundot na komentong wala raw lalaking seseryoso sa kanya.

Sabi niya, “Meron naman, mga first three months seseryosohin naman nila ako. After niyan wala na.”

Hindi na dinagdagan ni Barbie ang sagot niya sa huling paratang na ito.

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