APRIL 2025 ittle Manila Confidential` LA L'Onfidential

TARIFF TURYY

Canada and Mexico excapes Trump's Tariff war but Philippines get caught

Like the making of Casablanca, the script kept changing. Until recently, many people had nev-

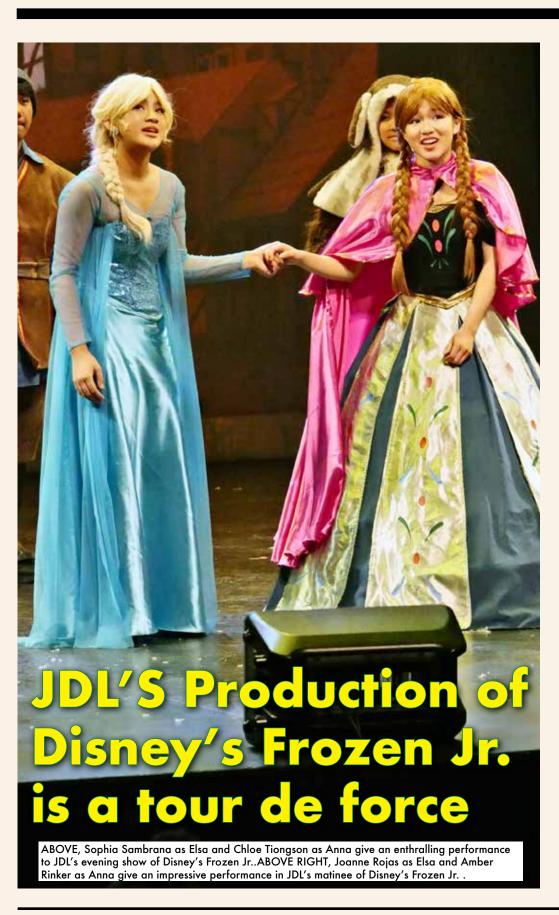
NDEOSPERAMUS

er even heard of tariffs. Now, there's been rolling live international coverage of so-called

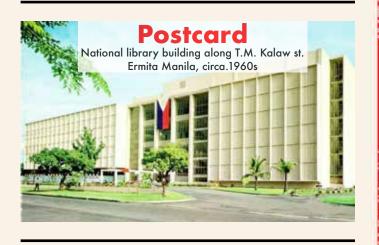
"Liberation Day", as US President Donald Trump laid out tariffs to be imposed on coun-

tries around the world.

Trump announced all imports to the United States will be subject to a new "baseline" 10% tariff. This is an addition-**TARIFF** page 16







No to Pampanga as Culinary Capital by Froy Boking

MANILA, Phl - President ga the "Culinary Capital of Bongbong Marcos Jr. has vetoed Senate Bill No. 2797 / House Bill No. 10634 that would have named Pampan-

the Philippines."

legislation—au-The thored by Pampanga Rep-PAMPANGA page 21

Jollibee Expanding in Canada & USA by Nimfa Lim

Even though this restaurant segment is quite crowded, one well-known chain is making some exciting moves toward an enormous expansion

in the U.S. and Canada.

The Filipino fried chicken chain Jollibee announced in a press release that it plans to open a whopping 350 new locations in the U.S. and Canada in coming years, a massive jump from the 76 American and 28 Canadian stores it cur-

JOLLIBEE page 18

Businesses will absorb cost to avoid passing tariff cost to Customers by Jose Baking.

that hold?

But for how long will ness owners in Toronto if the tariff issue will affect their business, or if they **BUSINESSES** page 15

I asked some Filipino busi-

Kathryn Bernardo affirms she is 'happy, still single'

Kathryn Bernardo said she is "happy and still single" amid the rumors that she is dating a politician.

Bernardo seemingly put the rumors to rest at last night's ABS-CBN ball where she was asked if she is single or taken.

"I'm very happy. And yes, still single," she told journalist Gretchen Fullido at the red-carpet interview.

Speculations about Bernardo's relationship status made head-

lines recently after talent manager and showbiz insider Ogie Diaz claimed, citing an anonymous source, that the actress was dating Lucena City Mayor Mark Alcala.

At the time, netizens on X also alleged that Kathryn's mom, Min Bernardo, had

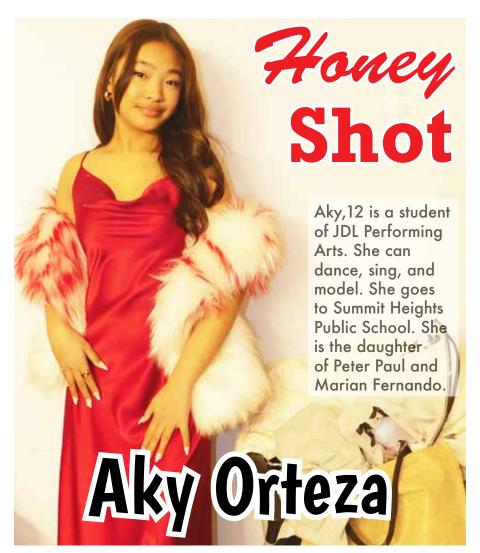


followed Alcala on Instagram, fueling the dating rumors. However, the celebrity mom unfollowed the Mayor after the screenshots went viral online.

Min has yet to confirm if she had indeed followed Alcala in the first place. On the other hand, as of writing, Alcala is following Kathryn on Instagram,

while the actress is yet to follow him back.

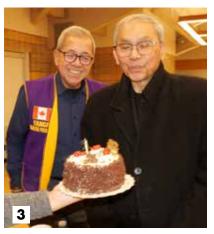
Min had earlier set the record straight about her daughter's relationship status when she told MJ Felipe in an interview that Kathryn has "many suitors but is currently still single."



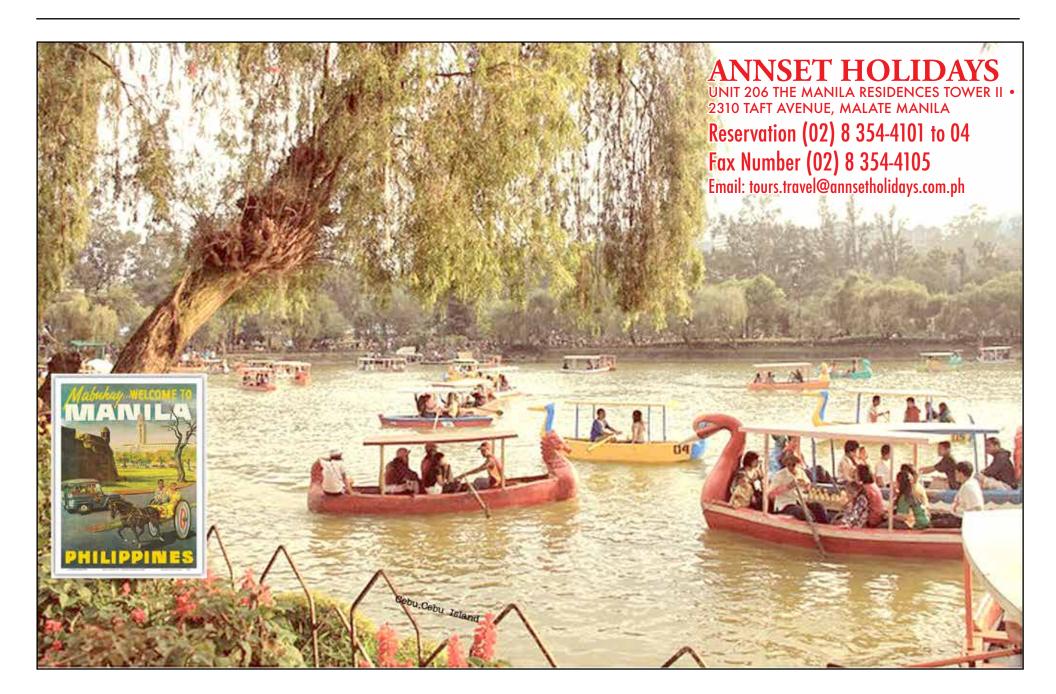
Toronto Kapuso Lions prepares for their gala & 2025 District Convention







1. Lions Kapuso officers check the tickets to their upcoming gala; 2. Lions Kapuso pose for a group picture after their March meeting; 3. Manny Yanga looks on as celebrant Lions Jose "Jo" Nolasco prepares to blow the candle on his cake.



PERSPECTIVE AND PERCEPTION:

Glimpses on Significant Developments in the Philippines



Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

FILIPINO FAMILIES HUNGER RATE.

According to the Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey released on January 14, 2025, the number of Filipino households experiencing "involuntary hunger has increased to almost 26%, for December 2024, the highest since the Covid pandemic." These Filipino families "have experienced being hungry and without food at least once in the previous 3 months." As defined by SWS, Moderate Hunger is hunger experienced by families "only once or a few times and Severe Hunger refers to hunger experienced "often or always". The survey revealed that among those 26% hungry Filipino families, 18% experienced "Moderate Hunger" while the rest, or 7.2 % of Filipino families experienced "Severe Hunger". By area, Mindanao has the highest hunger rate at 30.3%, followed by Luzon at 25.3, Visayas at 24.4 and Metro Manila at 22.2%. "Talagang hindi maipag-kakaila na sa ating bansa ay may marami pa rin tayong mga kababayan na wala halos makain o pagkain sa araw araw. Maliwanag na dumarami ang nagu-gutom sa atin. Hindi dapat kalimutan at pabayaan ng ating gobyerno at ng mayayamang kababayan natin ang ganitong nangyayari o hindi mabuting sitwasyon!"



BIGGEST THREATS TO THE PHILIPPINES.

In its Global Risks Report 2025, the World Economic Forum(WEF) said "Economic downturn and poverty are the biggest threats to the Philippines in the next 2 years." Based on an Executive Opinion Survey administered from April to August 2024, the report showed that an economic recession or stagnation was identified as the top risk to the country and poverty and inequality as the second top risk. Identified in the report also as top risks are inflation, food supply shortage, and unemployment or lack of economic opportunity. Globally, "state-based armed conflict emerged as the top risk and other top risks expected to affect the world this year are "extreme weather events, geoeconomics confrontation, misinformation and disinformation, societal polarization, economic downturn, critical change to Earth systems, lack of economic opportunity or unemployment, erosion of human rights and/or civic freedoms and inequality." Other global risks are

"cyber espionage and warfare, pollution, inequality, and involuntary migration or displacement." By identifying risks, the WEF aims to provide leaders with foresight to address emerging challenges to build a more resilient future. "Maaring tama ang nasabing WEF report. Pero sa ordinaryong Filipino, ang lumalabas na mahigit at malaking banta at hamon sa Pilipinas ay sa takbo ng mga hindi magandang pangyayari at nangyayari sa kasalukuyan lalo na ang mga sakuna, bagyo, tagtuyot, krimen, korapsyon at iba pa. Ang isa pang malaking problema ay tungkol sa away pulitika at hindi matigil na habulan at agawan sa pagiging makapangyarihan sa puwesto sa gobyerno at tamang pamamalakad."

PHILIPPINE BUSINESS TOP CONCERNS.

According to the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP), "Corruption, Education and Dealing with local government units (LGUs) are top concerns for businesses in 2025. MAP

president Alfredo Panlilio, speaking at the business group's inaugural meeting on January 15, 2025, said a survey conducted among MAP members in the fourth quarter of 2024 showed "corruption as the top concern of businesses for this year." Other concerns identified by MAP members in the survey are "education, the economy, ease of doing business, climate change, cybersecurity and dealing with LGUs. Concerns on dealing with LGUs "involve the delays in issuance of permits to undertake projects, including those in the telecommunications and power sectors", said Panlilio. In terms of Philippine competitiveness, for its part, MAP would "continue to push for policy reforms that will eliminate corruption, improve the ease of doing business, ensure food security through agricultural productivity and sustain an enabling business environment for both local and foreign investors. Panlilio added that MAP would "pursue other advocacies and programs aimed at helping businesses adapt to developments in the domestic and global landscape." Ang korapsyon sa gobyerno ay nangyayari sa buong mundo, Ngunit sa Pilipinas ay talagang talamak na ang sakit na ito. Ano nga kaya ang dapat gagawin para masugpo at matigil ang malawakang epidemyang ito? Parusang kamatayan o bitay sa mga nagkakasala? Mangyari kaya ito sa ating bansa? Depende siguro kung ang ilang mambabatas sa atin ay matino at malinis din, ano!(Tony A. San Juan, OCT)

Klarisse de Guzman comes out as 'bi' in 'Pinoy Big Brother'

Singer Klarisse de Guzman has come out as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community.

The current housemate of "Pinoy Big Brother Celebrity Collab Edition" opened up about her gender preference in the Wednesday episode of the reality TV show.

Klarisse opened up during a session facilitated by houseguest Michelle Dee, who also came out as bisexual in 2023

"Tingin ko ito na
'yung time para
sabihin sa inyong
lahat and to tell
the world that I'm
not straight. I am bi
[bisexual]," Klarisse said to
her housemates and Dee as they sat
in the living room.

"'Yung kinekwento ko sa inyo na may four years akong partner — yes, I have a partner for four years. Her name is Trina," the singer added.

Klarisse said she is lucky because her parents knew and accepted her. "Hindi ako nahirapan sa phase na 'yon. Even most of my relatives, alam [nila]."

"I am proud! Love wins!" Klarisse exclaimed to her housemates who call her "Ate Klang."

In the confession room with Kuya or Big Brother, Klarisse explained why she hid her preference. Only her family knew about her being bisexual, but she kept it from her showbiz colleagues and the public. "Natatakot po ako na baka hindi po ako maintindihan ng ibang tao, na baka magbago ang tingin sa akin ng mga sumusuporta sa akin or maapektuhan po 'yung career ko," she said.

"For years, ilang years ko pong tinago. Public and industry na lang ang hindi nakakaalam. I think this is the best time.

> "Napakasarap po sa pakiramdam na — ito pala 'yung feeling ng malaya. Kumbaga free. Walang akong najisin kuna hindi

naiisip kung hindi finally nasabi ko na," she said. Big Brother noted how

Klarisse's coming out was a generally happy affair, one that is not emotionally charaed.

"Para sa akin po ito 'yung bagay na dapat sine-celebrate. Ayoko pong masyadong maging emosyunal kasi sobrang saya po ng nararamdaman ko kuya. Alam n'yo po 'yung ang tagal-tagal nang nakakimkim dito sa dibdib ko and now nasabi ko na po 'yung totoo," she said.

Apart from Klarisse, another celebrity housemate opened up about his gender preference. Rustom Padilla, the '90s male leading man and ex-husband of Carmina Villaroel, came out as Bb. Gandanghari in the 2006 "PBB Celebrity Edition."



IMB LIVI Gonfidential 25

Say hello to new P-Pop group Raya



Raya, a fresh addition to the P-Pop scene, brings contemporary flair and confident energy to the ever-growing industry. Formed through the Viva Artists Agency and Viva Music Group's V-Next talent auditions in 2024, Raya is a carefully curated group of young and promising artists.

The group consists of Abel, Anna, Ash, Aviona, Jemima, Kash, Priscilla, Rona, and Sofia, each bringing their own distinct style and presence. For their pre-debut release, they put a new spin on the classic hit "Bongga Ka Day." Infusing the track cheekiness, swag, and a sprinkle of nostalgia, their version highlights their strong vocals, sharp choreography and vibrant energy.

Beyond entertainment, Raya aims to inspire with a fresh sound that resonates across generations. Their music is bold and dynamic, with performances that leave a lasting impression. Their cover of Sarah Geronimo's "Kilometro," released on their official YouTube channel, further showcases their talent and stage presence.

As they step into the spotlight, Raya is set to make an impact in the industry. With each performance, they are carving out their place in P-Pop and pushing Filipino music forward.

Viva Music Group and Viva Artists Agency continue to support OPM and P-Pop talent, and Raya stands as one of their most promising new acts, alongside GAT and Mutya. Bringing fresh energy and undeniable talent, they contribute to the growing recognition of Filipino artists on the global stage.

Get ready to be dazzled — Raya is here to stay!

Ruru Madrid's success is another manager's heartbreak

AN artist manager must be reeling from sheer embarrassment over the well-deserved success which Ruru Madrid has been reaping in his career.

Ruru's snagging the Best Supporting Actor plum in last year's MMFF only reaffirmed he's the next important actor to watch out for this 2025.

As promised, GMA has released the Book 2 of "Lolong" — and this makes a well-known career strategist green with envy for her ward.

Transparency, accountability from TUP administration sought in student's death

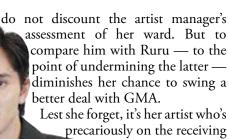
It is only but natural for her to push her talent to the point of calling out the network's attention that the latter be accorded the same, if not far higher importance by casting him in a regular series.

Frustratingly though, her repeated plea has fallen on deaf ears.

To be fair with her artist, he's never the whiningtype who badgers nor hounds his manager no end for regular showbiz work.

Aware of his competence (and there's no doubt he possesses tons of it), he simply waits on the wings until the right TV project comes along. He believes that if it's meant for him, then it's meant for him.

At the moment, the versatile actor has a regular gag show to contend with. But again, his manager who he looks up to as his second parent won't settle for anything less than a long-running, widely followed series his fans and audience will go crazy about.



end.
Lucky for Ruru,
fat chance for her
ward.

PCCF helps Missionaries of Charity

"It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35) Toronto, you are helping to make a difference in the lives of those in need.

As PCCF's Celebrates its 15th Anniversary this year, we invite you to

THE POOR

(2025): The Missionaries of Charity, Philippines was founded by Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Its objective is to love and serve the poorest of the poor by providing services to the poor including food, shelter, education and medical care. PCCF proudly visited its residents and

donated goods.

PCCF IN ACTION



Members of the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) and the Pageant with A Cause travelled to the Philippines with a mission to "Have Fun While Helping Others!" Their journey was a testament of the true spirit of compassion and community service.

The trip proved to be a humbling experience, leaving a lasting impact on both the participants and the communities they visited. By supporting PCCF events like the Pageants with a Cause and the Pinoy Fiesta & Trade Show sa

join us at the Pinoy Fiesta & Trade Show Toronto on June 7 & 8, 2025 at Albert Campbell Square, 150 Borough Drive (behind Scarborough Town Centre Mall).. Surprise Star(s) will be announced soon!

For more information, email: PhilippineCanadianFoundation@ gmail.com

Visit www.PhilippineCanadianFoundation.com

LIKE www.facebook.com/PhilippineCanadianFoundation, www.facebook.com/MissPhilippinesCanada, www.facebook.com/PinoyFiestaToronto

Shaira Diaz hints at revealing more skin after Bench fashion show stint

Sparkle artist and TV host Shaira Diaz teased the public about revealing more skin after participating in the Bench "Body of Work" underwear fashion show on Friday, March

The 29-year-old actress was among the celebrities who strutted down the runway for Bench's iconic fashion show after its eight-year hiatus.

While the occasion was meant to highlight Bench's underwear collection, Shaira was among those who did not wear a skin-baring ensemble.

Instead, she opted for a pink corset tank top and flared denim pants.

"Thank y'all for appreciating me just the way I am!" she wrote on Facebook on Saturday, March 22 with emojis of folded hands and a purple heart.

She also teased the public with the possibility of revealing more skin following her Bench stint.

"Thank y'all for appreciating me just the way I am! Maybe I'll wear less next year! HAHA," Shaira said in the comments section of another post with a winkingface-with-tongue emoji.



Sparkle artists EA Guzman (left) and Shaira Diaz (right) at the Bench "Body of Work" fashion show

Meanwhile, her fiancé, Sparkle artist EA Guzman, turned heads when he flaunted his butt while walking the runway in purple boxers.

too conscious to show some skin.

The exposure shocked Shaira, whose reaction went viral.

garnered about 1,800

likes and reactions, with

some Filipinos compli-

menting her on her look

described herself as a

conservative person and

admitted that she feels

previously

at the show.

Shaira

"PWETMALU KA, EA Guzman. Lintek na 'yan! Sabi mo sa'kin sasayaw ka lang, nagulat ako, nagsigawan sa labas, tanong ko pa sa FD [floor director], 'Bakit nagtilian? Si EA ba 'yun?? Ano ginawa??' *nagpakita daw* siyempre ako *HA??* pagbalik backstage.. Me: Babaa ano ginawa mo? Bakit sila nagtilian?

Baba: *ngumiti lang* ABA, AYON PALA GINAWA. MAGALING," she said in a Facebook post.

"Mygooodnessssss! 'Yung pwet ng asawa ko. Alam na ng lahat itsura. Sus Ginoo! Hindi ko talaga alam! I'm

Her comment has shookt!!!" Sharia added in another post.

The couple made headlines before for practicing celibacy in their 12-year relationship.

Shaira explained that remaining celibate before marriage was a promise she made to her parents.

Gardo Verzosa feels blessed portraying a baddie on TV after heart attack

Veteran actor Gardo Versoza is back on the small screen playing the villain Judge Benito Balmores in TV5's "Lumuhod Ka Sa Lupa."

During a recent conversation, Gardo excitedly shared how much he enjoys his job.

"Sobrang nag eenjoy ako (kasi) ramdam na ramdam ko yung excitement ng audience," he said.

Gardo expressed gratitude to TV5 for trusting him with the role.

"Kasi after nung atake [ko sa puso], kinabahan din ako kasi hindi ko alam kung makakapag work ulit ako agad," he said.

Gardo underwent angioplasty in 2023 after suffering a heart attack.

"Thankful rin ako sa Viva at TV5 kumbaga galing na galing pa lang ako dun sa atake sa puso pinagkatiwala nila agad yung role ni judge na mainitin ang ulo, palaging gusto ng away,"

(I'm also grateful to Viva and TV5 because, right after my heart attack, they immediately entrusted me with the role of a judge who is hot-headed and always ready to fight.)

What he likes most about his role is that he himself hates the character he plays.

"Maraming mga bits and pieces about Judge Benito Balmores na kaiinisan ko talaga in real life," he said.

(There are many bits and pieces about Judge Benito Balmores that I would hate in real life)

Heading to its last four gripping weeks, Carlo J. Caparas' "Lumuhod Ka Sa Lupa," is to unveil shocking revelations meant to keep viewers on the edge of their seats.

Cast of Lumuhod Ka Sa Lupa (Facebook)

The series is led by Kiko Estrada, as Norman dela Cruz.

The cast also includes Rhen Escaño, Sid Lucero, Ryza Cenon, and Althea Ruedas.

"We are incredibly proud of how 'Lumuhod Ka Sa Lupa' has become one of TV5's standout original drama offerings. This wouldn't have been possible without our talented cast.

the creative minds at Sari-Sari, as well as the sustained support of every Kapatid here and abroad," said TV5 President and CEO Guido R. Zaballero.

Kim Chiu billboard face covered in Mindanao

This is what actress-host Kim Chiu said after a neighborhood bakeshop chain reached out to her following viral posts showing her face being covered in some of their branches in Mindanao.

Kim is a brand ambassador of the bakeshop chain. Her sister, Lakam Chiu, is also a Julie's Bakeshop franchisee.

Meanwhile, the bakeshop in its letter referred to viral posts that featured some of their reported branches in Davao covering her face in its tarpaulins.

Davao is a bailiwick of the Dutertes.

'It's Showtime' spiel

The covering of Kim's face in tarps was reportedly a response to her spiel in the March 11 episode of ABS-CBN's noontime show "It's Showtime" in which she said the following:

"Para naman sa mga feeling nila ay hindi pa dumarating ang tamang panahon para sa kanila, ang masasabi namin [ay] deserve... Wait, 'di pa ako tapos deserve niyong rumesbak sa buhay, tulad ng ating grand resbakers na deserve mahangaan sa kanilang giting at tapang!"

The host was referring to their "Tawag ng Tanghalan: All-Star Grand Resbak 2025" segment. "Resbak" is a word commonly associated with the segment.

But a social media user claimed Kim appeared to be taking a dig at the arrest of former president Rodrigo Duterte in accordance with a warrant issued by the International Criminal Court for charges of murder as a crime against humanity.

The charges were related to his administration's "War on Drugs" campaign that left thousands of people dead. Duterte was arrested on the same day the particular "It's Showtime" episode was gired.

Kim clarified that she was just "reading" their script for the show at that time.

"Hoy! Kaloka kayo. Binasa ko [lang] 'yung script namin na spiels. Kayo talaga! GV GV [Good vibes, good vibes] lang tayo, spread kindness and good vibes," she wrote on the X (formerly Twitter) platform on the following day.

"Busy ako sa ibang bagay. Dyosko, 'wag [niyo ko] isali sa ganyan. Parang awa [niyo] na. Ang gulo na po ng [mundong] ibabaw. 'Wag na tayo dumagdag. Dyos-



ko [na lang] talaga," Kim said in another post.

She also shared a copy of her script to prove that she was following a script.

"My piece. Please read full context bago maniwala sa FAKE NEWS na pina-

pakalat dito sa Facebook," Kim said.

'Napaka-arte ko': How Ivana Alawi chooses political candidates to vote for

Actress-vlogger Ivana Alawi shared her criteria for selecting electoral aspirants ahead of the 2025 midterm

Ivana said that she is "very particular" and "very choosy" when it comes to politi-

"Kasi hindi rin naman 'yan para sa'kin or ikakaganda ko or para sa pamilya ko. Ito ay para sa Pilipinas," she responded in a video posted by Manila Bulletin Entertainment.

"And you have to be very picky kasi para ito sa mga kababayan



natin. Ang dami-dami natin. Ano 'yung makakapagpaganda sa bansa natin? Kasi kung pera, edi sana lahat, kinuha ko, ang yaman-yaman ko na!" the influencer said, referring to political endorsements.

"Pero hindi eh. Hindi siya sa pera, eh. It's what you believe in and who do you think will make the country a better place? So 'yung sa mga senator, congressman, lahat 'yan, napaka-choosy ko kasi, baka gusto niya lang umupo para sa sarili niya, hindi naman para sa ating mga kababayan," Ivana added.

"And ako, wala naman akong alam sa politika pero alam kong mamili sa tamang leader," she said.

"Siyempre, pinag-aaralan ko din, anong mga batas ang natutupad, ayun. Very important to me," the influencer added.

In the last elections, Ivana endorsed former vice president Leni Robredo who ran for president in the 2022 national polls.

Last year, content creator-pharmacist Arshie Larga reminded fellow influencers to do their "research" before accepting political endorsements.

"Alamin nyo ang mga plataporma ng mga kandidatong ito. Let's be responsible content creators. Don't do it just for the money. Future natin ang nakataya dito," he wrote on the X (formerly Twitter) platform before.

PCCF Provides Scholarship in the Philippines

PCCF Provides Scholarships to 10 students at the Sisters of Mary Girlstown Complex

Thanks to the success of its events, the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) was able to provide scholarships to 10 students, ensuring their education at the Sisters of Mary School Girlstown for the next four years until graduation.

Led by President Rosemer Enverga, members of the PCCF were warmly welcomed by hundreds of students and enjoyed performances by many talented



individuals. It was a heartwarming and memorable experience that left a lasting impact on everyone involved. The genuine smiles and enthusiasm of the students created an atmosphere of joy, making the event feel truly special.

This charitable visit is just one of many that PCCF will be participating in during their annual trip to the Philippines, where they continue their mission of giving back to those in need.

Having fun while helping others!

For more info, e-mail PhilippineCanadianFoundation@gmail.com, visit: www. philippinecanadianfoundation.com

ABOUT PCCF

The Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) is a non-profit organization who's mission is to promote the arts, culture and heritage of Filipino culture. PCCF is the proud organizer of events like the Pinoy Fiesta and Trade Show sa Toronto and Pageants with a Cause.

PCCF was founded by the late Senator Tobias C. Enverga Jr., the first Canadian of Filipino descent elected in the City of Toronto and the first Canadian of Filipino descent to be appointed the Senate.

Our motto, "Having fun, while helping others!"

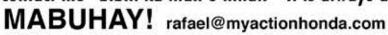
For more info, e-mail PhilippineCanadianFoundation@gmail.com, visit: www. philippinecanadianfoundation.com



ACTION Honda

"WHERE CAR OWNERSHIP IS MADE EASY" Your Filipino friends, ready at your Service!

To all my kababayans, Feel free to contact me "bibili ka man o hindi." It is always a pleasure to talk to a kababayan.





General Manager



Gani Gregorio

Don Luche Accountant

Honda Accord 2025



Jose Sarte Service Manager



Ronaldo Aquino Assistant Service Manager



Service Advisor



Joseph Redoblado



Roland 'Regi' Geraldez Sales and Leasing Consultant



Ramon Bayani Sales and Leasing Consultant



Pio Regio Senior Lot Attendant

Rafael Nebres



Honda Pilot 2025



Ramon Miranda Lot Attendant



Marie Miranda Service Appointment Coordinator







Honda Passport 2025



Honda Odyssey 2025

NEW & USED CAR SALES • CAR PARTS • BODY SHOP • CAR SERVICE

Honda Civic 2025

4334 Kingston Rd., Scarborough ON (south of Lawrence Ave. East) Tel. (416) 281-1234

FROM THE EDUCATOR'S DESK:

The Burden of getting sick in the Philippines: Rsising Health Costs



Juan, OCT

The Philippines' healthcare system is currently characterized as a "blend of public and private sectors that are facing challenges in providing equitable and comprehensive care." The system "varies with private, public and rural municipalities or barangay health centres. It is a fact that "Most of the national burden of health care is provided by private health providers, with the cost shouldered by the government or by patients."

Economically and socially speaking, it is a hard and accepted truth that the increasing cost of healthcare poses a "major threat " and challenge to the well-being of Filipinos. "Bawal magkasakit o mahirap magkasakit sa Pinas!" This is a common comment and persistent sad story as many know, unfortunately, is too familiar for Filipinos. "Opo, mga kababayan." This harrowing comment is all too commonplace for many Filipinos. Countless families have experienced the devastating impact of those who are sick or going to get sick. More so if one is hospitalized, especially staying in a private hospital.

When faced with seeing a

By Tony A. San doctor and being admitted to a hospital, one of the biggest challenges that Filipino patients and their families face is the resulting financial strain and impact on their livelihood. For them, beyond the physiological effects of getting sick, they naturally complained that the condition has deeply affected their emotional well-being and mental health. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), every Filipino spent nearly PHP 10,000 a year for health-related goods and services in 2021. Although government health programs accounted for the biggest chunk of health spending in the country, Filipinos still are the second largest contributors with out-ofpocket expenses.

A leading Filipino insurance company estimates that the cost of managing an acute heart attack, for example, can reach approximately PHP 1 million within the first ten years. This estimate includes: PHP 98,300 for initial diagnosis, PHP 540,000 for treatments, including tests, procedures, and hospital admissions, and PHP 342,000 for post-attack rehabilitation, which may involve physical therapy and maintenance medications. For stroke patients, the "economic burden is equally, if not more, significant." "SusMariaJose, naku po! Sa presyong ito na babayaran o gagastosin ng pasyente



ay madadali talaga ang buhay mo! Maaaring mabubuhay ka nga, pero mababaon ka naman sa utang! Bangkarote ka. Paano na kaya ang mga kapos palad at mahihirap na walang pera o pambayad, ano?"

Currently, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) provides limited financial assistance, for instance stroke patients, covering only PHP 28,000 for ischemic stroke and PHP 38,000 for hemorrhagic stroke. These amounts, which include payments for medical professionals and hospital services, often fall short of the actual treatment costs. In private hospitals, the cost of thrombolysis for acute ischemic stroke ranges from PHP 136,688 to PHP 228,678 as found in a survey by the Stroke Society of the Philippines. In contrast, government hospitals offer significantly lower treatment costs, ranging from PHP 3,239 to PHP 35,903.

"The expenses incurred in

the private hospitals alone can cost several months of salary based on the average annual Filipino family income of PHP 313,000. These "costs can even become catastrophic, particularly in families belonging to the lower-income classes," said Dr. Maria Epifania Collantes, who co-authored the study "Current State of Stroke Care in the Philippines." Adding to the grim reality of the economic toll of cardiovascular events, these costs cover only medical-related expenses and do not account for any lost income during recovery or the inability to return to work, adding another layer of stress for patients.

Recently, the WTW Global Medical Trends survey "forecasts rising medical costs in the Philippines." WTW said, the Philippines is "poised to experience an 18.3 percent increase in medical costs in 2025, the second-highest in the Asia Pacific region. This is an alarming trend that will undoubtedly put an additional financial strain on Filipino households already grappling with the high cost of living.

In a study, Ateneo de Manila University Development Studies Program Research Associate Vincen Gregory Yu said "the health financing experiences of ordinary Filipinos can be summed up in 4 "Ps"—pagtitiis, pangungutang, pagmamakaa-

wa, and PhilHealth. "Pagtitiis", which means enduring symptoms of health conditions, involves refusing to seek treatment and resorting to self-medication or alternative or traditional medicine."Pangungutang" or borrowing money often becomes their first resort in addressing their medical needs, which often leads to "mababaon sa utang." The third "P" is "pagmamakaawa" which refers to the process of soliciting help from state and private institutions and individuals. This often happens as a last resort when no friend or family can lend them money, or one has exhausted donations from them. And 4th, PhilHealth, referring to the state health insurer, is the last "P" in health financing. This is accessed only when Filipinos are already hospitalized.

Many concerned people believe that expanding access to quality healthcare and mitigating the financial burden on Filipino families, is "not only a matter of public health, but also a crucial step towards improving the overall quality of life and promoting the social and economic development of the nation." Continuing concerns about rising medical costs resonate deeply in a country where healthcare access is a matter of life and death for many that demands immediate attention. (Tony A. San Juan, OCT)

Kylie Verzosa happy for Jake Cuenca and Chie Filomeno

Suportado ng beauty queen-actress na si Kylie Verzosa ang relasyon at pagmamahalan nina Jake Cuenca at Chie Filome-

Si Jake ay ex-boyfriend ni Kylie.

Sa Instagram nitong Linggo, April 6, 2025, nag-post si Chie ng mga larawan nila ni Jake mula sa naganap na ABS-CBN Ball 2025.

Maakasama silang rumampa at naglakad sa red carpet.

Sa caption ng post ni Chie ay tanging orange at brown heart emoji ang kanyang inilagay, bagay na naglalarawan sa kulay ng suot nilang dalawa ni Jake.

KYLIE PROVES THAT BEING HAPPY FOR YOUR **EX-BOYFRIEND IS POSSIBLE**

Sa comments section ng post ni Chie ay kapansin-pansin ang pagkukomento ng ex-girlfriend Jake na si Kylie. Saad nito: "Happy for you guys." Agad a m a n itong replayan ni Chie:

"Thank you Kylie! Happy

for you as well." Dahil sa interaksiyon

nina Kylie at Chie sa comments section, marami sa kanilang tagahanga ang natuwa.

Ayon sa mga ito, hindi lahat ng dating kasintahan ay kagaya ni Kylie na masaya sa kung sino ang bagong karelasyon ng kanvana ex.

Hindi lingid sa kaalaman ng iba na tat-

long taong naging magkasintahan sina Kylie at Jake.

Ayon kay Jake, hindi naging madali ang desisyon nilang maghiwalay ni Kylie.

"I'll hold on to all our precious memories together with so much value.

"This past 3 years of my life have certainly been the best.

"I say this with such a heavy heart but me and Kylie have decided to go our separate ways," pag-anunsiyo ni Jake.

Hiwalay man ang landas nila ngayon, sinabi ni Jake na nananatiling mabuti sil ang magkaibigan ng ex-girlfriend.

Saad niya: "I'm still so proud of us because we didn't want to break up in anger.

"We both wanted to be able to look back on our relationship with no bitterness, no anger, and no regrets, only the good memories. Certainly that's what I will be holding on to. "I will still be here to support you because in so many ways I feel a part of your journey and I will always pray for your

"I'm happy we were able to finish this chapter of our lives the same way we started it. As friends."

Dagdag pang mensahe ni Jake para kay Kylie: "Wherever you are or what ever your doing I will always be sending you love and

"Know that you will always have a person in me who will always be proud of you. I'll see you around Kylie."

Sa ngayon ay mayroon na ring napapabalitang idine-date si Kylie.

Sa panayam sa kanya ng ABS-CBN News noong November 2023, sinabi ni Kylie na non-showbiz ang nasabing lalaki at hindi

Saad ng Miss International 2016: "I'm so happy, I'm so happy. "Honestly, I want to keep it private this time, so it's a private relationship and it's so much more peaceful.

"It's really, really peaceful."

Kailan naman kaya niya ipakikilala sa publiko ang boyfriend?

Tugon ni Kylie, "I don't know.

"Siguro ano, when I would want to show it. But right now, I'm so happy."

Marcus Adoro steps away from Eraserheads following rape claims

Marcus Adoro, lead guitarist of Eraserheads, will be absent from the OPM rock band's upcoming activities after fresh allegations of rape surfaced on social media.

Reddit user @NMomThrowaway12345 took to the platform Reddit to accuse Adoro of raping her while in high school, titling her post as "the beloved Marcus Adoro of the Ergserheads raped me when I was in high school."

In her post she said the musician told her at that time that she was "lucky" because he didn't "go all the way," and that he also assaulted several other individuals.

At the same time, Adoro's alleged rape victim likewise lambasted Eraserheads and



Marcus Adoro and Syd Hartha.

Diane Ventura, director of the documentary film about the group and ex-wife of lead vocalist Ely Buendia, for "helping Adoro wipe his disgusting history clean so she can profit from the band."

"It's also saddening — but not surprising — to see that Ely Buendia, Buddy Zabala, and Raimund Marasigan have no principles. They previously stated that they did not condone abuse. Pera lang pala ang katapat ninyo. Pa-Spolarium Spolarium pa kayo, mga ipokrito," the reddit user further said.

Responding to the post, Buendia said on Twitter that Adoro will be stepping back from the band's upcoming set of activities on his social media platforms on Sunday,

Adoro has yet to publicly address the rape accusations, as of this writing.

It can be recalled that the musician was embroiled in a controversy after he was accused by his daughter, singer-songwriter Syd Hartha, and his ex-partner actress Barbara Ruaro of alleged physical and emotional abuse in 2019.

"Hinding hindi ko makakalimutan iba't ibang klase ng abuso na dinanas ko sa kanya. Kaya pala ako nilalayo ng nanay ko at iba pang mga kamag-anak ko sa kanya. Kaya pala (I can't forget the different kinds of abuse I experienced from him. Now I know why my mother and other relatives

> made me stay away from him. That's why)," Syd Hartha said on Facebook.

Adoro penned an open letter to his daughter three years later where he appealed for a "second chance for redemption," adding that he had lost contact with the indie singer-songwriter.



7 @LM Confidential

9

SEVEN FILIPINO CANADIANS RUN FOR FEDERAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT By Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

The dust has barely settled and the smoke had just snapped out, as they said, in the recently held February 27, 2025, Ontario provincial election and now, the newly- designated Canadian Prime Minister dropped the Writ on April 6, 2025 calling for snap elections on Monday, April 28, 2025. The latest reports showed that 7 courageous but determined Filipino Canadians have entered the political arena for the coming Federal elections. The "Fantastic Seven", as reported, have been nominated, declared or acclaimed by their respective political parties in their electoral district ridings across Canada.

Running for a Member of Parliament seat in the House of Commons are 4 Filipino Canadian ladies and 3 gentlemen from the Liberal Party of Canada, the New Democratic Party, the Conservative Party of Canada, Green Party, and People's Party of Canada. By geographic area, there are two candidates in the Greater Toronto Area(Ontario), 2 in Vancouver (B.C), and one each in Montreal (Quebec), Calgary(Alberta), and Winnipeg(Manitoba). Here are the Pinoy and Pinay federal candidates:

RECHIE VALDEZ.

Rechie Aillen Salazar Valdez, PC, MP, politician, and entrepreneur, is running for re-election as a Member of Parliament for Mississauga Streetsville. Valdez was born in Kitwe, Zamia, of Overseas Filipino Workers parents in Kitwe, Zambia. She and her family immigrated to Canada in December 1989 and lived in Erin Mills, Mississauga, where she grew up. Valdez attended St. Joseph Secondary School and completed her

secondary education at Holy Name of Mary College School in 1998. She obtained her bachelor's degree in Computer Science from the University of Windsor in 2003. From 2003 onward, she spent more than 15 years as a corporate banker with BMO Financial Group. She has been married to Christopher Valdez since 2007 and is the mother of 2 children. After winning in the 2021 federal election, she became the first federally elected Filipina Canadian member of Parliament. As a member of the Liberal Party of Canada, she represented the riding of Mississauga-Streetsville in Ontario. In 2023, she served as the first Filipino woman to serve as a Cabinet minister, having been ap-



MP Rechie Valdez (MIDDLE) with JDL

pointed Minister of Small Business.Rechie expressed

great pride in her Filipino heritage when, in 2022, she noted how many Filipino immigrants like her mother came to Canada "to build a better life for families." As an MP, she advocated for foreign-trained workers and for offering them pathways to permanent residency, particularly for caregivers. Valdez also called for investments for women entrepreneurs by sponsoring a bill in 2022 to establish a National Women's Entrepreneurship Day. In March 2025, Valdez became Chief Government Whip as part of Prime Minister Mark Carney's Liberal Cabinet.

BENJAMIN ABIS.
Benjamin Abis is the NDP-New

Democratic Party MP candidate for Etobicoke North, Toronto. Before immigrating to Canada, Abis practiced law in the Philippines and provided free legal aid to those in need. In Ontario, he became a paralegal practitioner and instructor, helping others navigate the legal system. A retired public servant, he worked at the Toronto South Detention Centre (TSDC) as a Correctional Officer. He was a strong advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion, actively speaking out against racism and supporting rehabilitation programs for inmates at TDSC. As an OPSEU officer, he fought for better wages, benefits, and safer working conditions for his colleagues. He earned recognition from the Toronto Police Service and the Toronto Fire Services for his self-



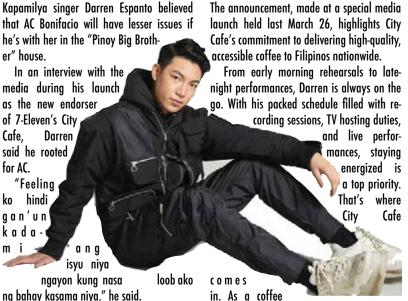
less contributions.. As a parent, he served on school councils, working to strengthen ties between families and schools. He understands the challenges facing working-class families and the importance of strong public service. Benjamin is fighting for real and meaningful solutions for Canada, especially for Etobicoke North — lowering the cost of living, protecting public healthcare, and creating stronger schools and safer communities. Abis has called Etobicoke North home for 20 years. His rallying call: "Etobicoke North, Benjamin Abis is ready to stand up for you!"

MARGIE RAMOS

Margie Ramos is the official candidate for Member of Parliament for Ahuntsic- Cartierville in Montreal, Quebec, un-

FILIPINO CANDIDATES page 14

Darren Espanto defends AC Bonifacio over 'Pinoy Big Brother' controversy



"Pero, of course, we're all rooting for her," he added.

Darren said that his close friend AC was just misinterpreted by social media users.

"I feel like a lot of people just misinterpret a lot of the things that — not just AC — like, a lot of the things that the housemates say within the house, and their actions.

"Kasi, ayun nga, tina-tag kami ni Niana sa maraming tweets tungkol kay AC na parang, 'Hindi niyo ba kilala 'yung friend niyo?'

"Siyempre, ako, eight years ko nang best friend si AC, so I know her inside and out. So I know the backstory to what she's doing inside the house."

7-Eleven City Cafe is making waves once again with its latest celebrity endorsement, officially welcoming singer, performer, and host Darren as the new face of the brand.

lover, Darren turns to 7-Eleven City Cafe to keep up with his fast-paced lifestyle, enjoying its freshly ground coffee that's available wherever, whenever.

For someone like Darren, who's constantly juggling multiple projects, a reliable coffee fix is essential. City Cafe is the perfect match, offering quality coffee at an affordable price, no matter what time of day.

Beyond the stage and studio, Darren is now stepping into an exciting new role—as the ambassador of 7-Eleven City Cafe. The collaboration was a natural fit, given his dynamic personality and strong connection with young audiences. The brand's campaign highlights his journey, from behind-the-scenes moments in the recording studio to grabbing his go-to cup of coffee.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SINE INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES FULL LINEUP FOR THE 2ND ANNUAL SINE FILM FEST

'Sunshine', 'Nurse Unseen' and 'The Kingdom' Headline the festival on April 11-13 at Hotel X Toronto



TORONTO, ON - The 2nd Annual Sine Film Fest returns to Toronto, celebrating the rich and dynamic presence of Filipino cinema on the global stage. Curated by the Sine Institute, this year's festival will showcase 12 outstanding films, highlighting the Filipino film industry's growing influence and artistic contributions to world cinema.

Audiences can look forward to an electrifying lineup, featuring the highly anticipated films, 'Sunshine', 'Nurse Unseen', and 'The Kingdom'.

Open to both industry professionals and the public, the three-day festival will take place at Hotel X Toronto from April 11 to 13, 2025, offering an immersive experience that celebrates Filipino storytelling, culture, and talent.

Fresh off its triumph at the 2025 Berlin International Film Festival, where the film won the prestigious Crystal Bear for Best Film, and after selling out four advance screenings at the Toronto International Film Festival, 'Sunshine' continues to captivate audiences worldwide.

Starring acclaimed Filipina

actress and singer Maris Racal, 'Sunshine' follows the gripping journey of a young gymnast who discovers she is pregnant just days before the national tryouts. This poignant and powerful coming-of-age story promises to be a festival highlight, showcasing Antoinette Jadaone's signature storytelling and Racal's compelling performance.

Filipino-American stand-up comedian Jo Koy (Easter Sunday, Jo Koy: Coming In Hot) serves as executive producer on 'Nurse Unseen', a documentary that uncovers the little-known history and humanity of Filipino nurses who risked their lives on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic—all while confronting a resurgence of anti-Asian hate."

Directed by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Michele Josue (Happy Jail, Matt Shepard Is a Friend of Mine), 'Nurse Unseen' sheds light on the sacrifices and resilience of this often-overlooked community, bringing their stories to the forefront of global conversations on healthcare and racial equity.

Following his win as Best Director at the 50th Metro Manila Film Festival, Michael Tuviera (The Janitor, Imagine You and Me) presents 'The Kingdom'. The film depicts an alternate timeline where the Philippine Is-



lands were never colonized.

Award-winning actor and television host Vic Sotto (Eat Bulaga, Iskul Bukol) makes his dramatic acting debut in this alternate world, the Kingdom of Kalayaan, ruled by Lakan Makisig (Sotto)—a leader believed to be a direct descendant of Bathala, the supreme god in the ancient Tagalog indigenous

FULL LINEUP OF FILMS AT THE 2025 SINE FILM FEST FEATURE FILMS

- Sunshine
- Nurse Unseen
- The Kingdom
- Canadian Adobo
- The Gospel of the Beast
- Kisapmata (Digitally Restored)
- John and Marsha '85 (Digitally Restored)

SHORT FILMS

• Vox Humana

- A Fermenting Woman
- 15 Ways My Dad Almost Died
- Return to Country
- The Man with an Iron Heart

This year's festival promises a dynamic and thought-provoking cinematic experience, celebrating the creativity and storytelling of Filipino filmmakers worldwide.

In addition to film screenings, Sine Film Fest offers industry panel talks with filmmakers Shasha Nakhai, Priscilla Galvez, Enrique Baniqued, and Roselle Lorenzo. These discussions provide a platform for sharing insights, experiences, and challenges while exploring Filipino representation in filmmaking. Designed to inspire and educate, the panels foster networking, Knowledge exchange, and a deeper appreciation of both the artistic and business aspects of cinema, especially for aspiring filmmakers.

In partnership with Toronto

Film School, Sine Film Fest will also host educational workshops providing valuable insights to the world of film and offer participants a chance to explore various career possibilities within the industry.

The festival will also see the return of the 48-hour Siné Challenge, an exciting competition open to participants of Filipino descent worldwide. The winning film will be awarded and screened at the 2025 Mabuhay Festival at Nathan Phillips Square in August.

More festival details, including interview opportunities with filmmakers and actors, will be announced in the coming weeks.

Tickets for the 2025 Sine Film Fest are now available here.

Media accreditation is now open and will close on April 8, 2025.

Festival founder Michaelangelo Masangkay is available for interviews ahead of the 2025 Sine Film Festival to discuss this year's lineup, the evolution of Filipino cinema, and the festival's impact.

For media inquiries, interview requests, or coverage opportunities, please contact us at info@kalamansicommunications.com

Contact:
Kris Pangilinan
Founder of Kalamansi Communication
Kris@kalamansicommunications.com
647-867-3657



WHAT do Nora Aunor, Snooky Serna, Janice de Belen and Maricel Soriano share in common?

It's already a given that all four are acting stalwarts. But apart from this, they undeniably have an ear for music most especially one that tugs at anyone's heartstrings.

Separate videos taken presumably in the comfort of their homes are going the rounds of social media, showing them intently listening to Jojo Mendrez's revived version of "Somewhere in My Past."

If it rings a bell, if not a belfry, it's the late Julie Vegas' original song recorded in the late 80s.

Nora, Snooky, Janice and Maricel were made to listen to it, and later asked what they felt about it.

Here are their individual thoughts about the ditty:

Nora: "Gusto kong maiyak (I was moved I wanted to cry)" Maricel: "It makes me wanna cry"
Snooky: (Her up-and-down head movements say it all)

Janice: "It sounds very much R&B. I like the arrangement!"

Of the quartet made to pass their musical judgment on Jojo's distinct interpretation of a love song gone by but never forgotten, it's Janice, in real life, who was the closest to its original artist.

The early 80s bore witness to Janice's and Julie's raging yet healthy competition on the boob tube — Flor de Luna and Anna Lisa, respectively.

Who'd ever forget their photo taken together as Julie lay on her sick bed at the hospital with a consoling Janice on her side?

Grieving fans can only shake their heads, wishing that if Julie were still alive to this day, she would have turned nearly 58 — and yes, still active and visible on TV as much as lange

Thanks to Jojo, touted as the 'Revival King.'

Not only did he immortalize an iconic melody, he also relished Julie's fond memories and relive the late artist's meaningful life lurking somewhere in her past.

Buboy Villar admits financial struggle, failing to provide for kids

Even though Buboy Villar stressed that he is doing his best to provide financial support to his two children with ex-girlfriend Angillyn Gorens, Villar admitted that he has been struggling to fulfill his required amount due to financial-related concerns.

Villar revealed during a "Fast Talk with Boy Abunda" interview on Friday, April 4, that he and Gorens agreed that he would provide financial support worth P120,000 every month to their children but he struggled in giving his share due to job insecurity during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Gusto kong linawin na bago po mabawasan ang sustento ko, nagbibigay ako ng P60,000 every 10th and 25th [of the month] or P120,000 monthly," he said while noting that it is what Gorens "wanted him to do."

"Ito na po 'yung nagbago. Hindi po ako perfect sa pagbibigay ng sustento. Bilang isang artista, hindi naman ako merong regular. Minsan, nagkukulang po talaga ako kasi talo sa trabaho and naibibigay ko lang po talaga [ang kaya ko]. Nagra-range from 45k to 60k," Villar further explained, although he didn't disclose when he started struggling in providing his needed amount.

Reiterating his struggles during the pandemic, Villar stated that he is doing his best to manage his savings for his children. This, according to the actor-comedian, is what allegedly led him and Gorens to seek help from the Violence against Women and Their Children (VAWC), in terms of settling the required amount of financial support.

"For the record, dumaan din sa pandemic... pinagkakasya ko lang po ang ipon ko para sa mga anak ko. Nangyari po [ang VAWC] noong nagaalangan ako sa sustento... hindi ko na kaya ang P120k monthly dahil dumaan ang pandemic, nawawalan ako ng trabaho, lumalaylay din ang ['Tahanang Pinakamasaya']," he said, adding that it had nothing to do with his child with his current partner Isay Sampiano.

"Hangga't kaya ko po, sasabihin ko na kakayanin ko at gagawan ko ng paraan. Kung anong binitawan kong salita, pilit kong gagawin 'yun," he continued.

(For the record, the pandemic happened. I would stretch out my savings for my children. Our meeting at the VAWC happened because I struggled to give financial support. I can't provide P120,000 monthly due to the effects of the pandemic, I lost certain jobs, and "Tahanang Pinakamasaya" was struggling. As much as I can, I would say if I can handle providing financial support and I would do my best. I stay true to my word.)

Buboy's revelation

During the interview, Villar also revealed that Gorens had a child with another man before they started dating. However, he didn't reveal further details about his earlier discovery.

"Nakakalungkot man sabihin pero sana nirespeto niya kung sino ako. Kasi nirerespeto ko siya eh... bago po ako nagka-anak,



nag-anak na rin po siya doon po sa Amerika. Hindi ako nagalit (It's sad to say but I hope she respected who I am because I respected her. Before we had a child, she had a child with another man in the US. I didn't get mad)," he said.

The actor-comedian also claimed that he tried to get more information about Gorens' other children, although he didn't outright state how many they were or when she gave birth.

"Ako po 'yung nag-reach out na sino 'to kasi nakita ko siya sa isang Story. Hindi ako para pakialaman ang buhay niya... para alam ko din ang sasabihin ko kapag nagtanong ang anak ko (I reached out to know who he is because I saw it in a Story. I didn't meddle in her life. I just wanted to know what to say in case our child would ask questions)," he said.

Villar and Gorens' spat has been making headlines since March after the latter accused the "Tahanang Pinakamasaya" host of allegedly abusing her, and for not fulfilling his responsibilities as a father.

Former Filipina Beauty Queen turned despair into Seeds of Hope by Yona Harvey • www.mabuhaycanada.org

When Maria Sherry Lacson-Tan won the Mrs. Philippines Canada Ambassador title in 2022 at the age of 61, she wasn't just celebrating a crown—she was celebrating a new beginning.

After years of heartbreak and personal struggles, Tan channeled her pain into something greater, creating a non-profit organization called Seeds of Hope Pinakbet International.

Through this initiative, she not only connected with her Filipino roots but also uplifted communities in Canada, the Philippines, and beyond.

Seeds of Hope

Tan's journey to community advocacy was not a straight path.

As an OFW (Overseas Filipino Worker) in Canada for over 34 years, she brought her five children and her mother with her under the Live-in Caregiver Program, ensuring they had a better life.

But behind her sacrifices was a crumbling marriage and a heart weighed down by challenges.

"My marriage life was falling apart...but I thank God for the courage and strength to keep going," she shared.

It was during her visit to the Philippines in 2018 that a divine spark ignited her purpose.

Through a series of unexpected encounters, Tan was introduced to a local agribusiness corporation that provided her with seeds.

She took those seeds supplied



by Harbest Agribusiness Corporation, and brought them back to Canada, planting the idea that would later grow into Seeds of Hope.

"Those seeds gave me purpose. They distracted me from focusing on my pain," she said, revealing that she doesn't have a background in agriculture.

Cultivating a Garden of Change

Seeds of Hope offers small packets of seeds containing ingredients for the traditional Filipino dish pinakbet, a healthy and indigenous vegetable medley from Northern Luzon.

Each packet contains seeds for eggplant, squash, okra, bitter melon, and other vegetables.

Sold for \$10 per packet, the proceeds support community gardens, an orphanage, and educational initiatives in the Philip-

pines.

Despite facing logistical challenges, including difficulties shipping seeds and securing permits, Tan's determination never wavered.

She tapped into her connections, even having friends hand-carry packets of seeds from the Philippines to Canada.

Tan encourages the Filipino community to do vegetable gardening.

Empowering Communities Globally

Tan's work extended beyond Canada and the Philippines.

She adopted 100 mothers in Pakistan, sending them seeds to cultivate their own gardens.

Her Seeds of Hope program also reached Uganda, Jamaica, Zambia, and other communities, where children learned to grow vegetables and sustain their families.

Her dedication was recognized by the Philippine Independence Day Council (PIDC), which led to her nomination and eventual win as Mrs. Philippines Canada Ambassador.

"At 61, I never thought I could wear a crown," Tan said with a smile.

Although her publishing journey faced setbacks, including falling victim to a scam, Tan remained undeterred.

Her book is now being published in the Philippines, and she hopes to make it available in Canada soon.

A Festival of Dreams

Looking ahead, Tan envisions



"But God lifted me up when I was down. He gave me a new purpose."

Legacy Through Literature

Tan's advocacy continues to flourish.

She recently authored a children's book that personifies the six vegetables of pinakbet as a family, teaching young readers about Filipino culture and the importance of growing their own food.

a Pinakbet Festival in Scarborough, where Filipino restaurants can showcase their best pinakbet dishes and local gardeners can present their harvests.

Through these initiatives, she hopes to keep the spirit of Filipino culture alive in Canada while continuing to fund her advocacy work.

"Seeds of Hope is my happiness," Tan said. "Even without funding, I keep going. This advocacy is a gift."

Julie Anne says sleepover not allowed in relationship with Rayver

Julie Anne San Jose talks about happy setup with boyfriend Rayver Cruz.

Sagrado para kina Julie Anne San Jose at Rayver Cruz ang mga bagay na ginagawa lamang ng totoong mag-asawa.

At dahil magkasintahan pa lamang sila, tinitiyak ng dalawa na huwag gawin ang mga bagay na hindi pa dapat.

Saad ni Julie Anne: "Parang ano po kasi, very... ako po, personally po talaga, kasi yung family ko, very traditional talaga.

"Tsaka, very conservative.

"And ako po, parang ako, tanggap ko

naman po yun na, siguro in time, magagawa naman namin yung mga bagay na yun. "Like, mag-travel, ganyan.

"Siguro ano, ako, wala naman po kaso din sa akin, di ba?

"And for me, yung bagay kasi na yun, talagang nirerespeto po ni Ray.

"Sobrang wala po ako masyadong masabi, talagang sobrang laki po ng respeto niya sa akin and sa family."

Kahit sleepover?

Natatawa niyang sagot, "Wala po. Wala po!"

NO MAJOR MISUNDERSTANDING

Halatang nag-uumapaw ang kaligayahan sa puso ni Julie Anne tuwing mapag-uusapan ang masayang relasyon nila ng bovfriend.

Katunayan, sinabi ni Julie Anne na never pa silang nagkaroon ng matinding away ni Rayver.

Kung nagkaroon man daw, ito ay mali liit na tampuhan lamang.

Pagbabahagi ng singer-actress: "May mga ano, may mga petty.

"May mga petty stuff, but it's wala, e,



wala talaga.

"Parang walang something heavy, wala.
"Kasi, everything is just so easy with him.

"Parang, kunyari misunderstanding lang, nare-resolve namin siya agad ng minuto lang.

"Hindi na namin pinapatagal ng araw or days, di ba?

"So talagang, I think, pareho naman na kaming... hindi naman na kami mga bata. "Hindi na kami teenagers, di ba?"

Nakausap si Julie Anne noong nakaraang linggo sa presscon ng Slay, ang pinagbibidahan niyang murder-mystery series na napapanood na ngayon sa GMA Prime

JULIE ANNE SAN JOSE IS NO. 1 DEFENDER OF RAYVER CRUZ

Si Julie Anne din ang No. 1 na tagapag-

tanggol ng boyfriend kapag may bashers ito.

Aniya: "Ako, lagi ko kasing sinasabi sa kanya na, 'Hindi mo dapat pinapakinggan yung mga ganito.'

"And minsan, minsan lang naman, minsan lang naman na may nangyayari na kunwari, napanghihinaan siya ng loob.

"I always make sure that I'm there to console him and to make him feel better.

"Parang, para kasi sa kanya, motivation yun para maging better siya as a person and as an artist, di ba?

"Pero minsan kapag sobrang, like, under, below the belt na, talagang, like... "Di kasi talaga ako pumapatol talaga, di

"Di kasi talaga ako pumapatol talaga, di talaga ako nagsasalita.

"Pero if I have to, sobrang, as in, sasabihin ko in a nice way pa rin naman.

"Kasi ano naman yun, e, at the end of the day, you always have to be the bigger person.

"Intindihin mo na lang because baka mamaya may pinagdadaanan din sila or something, di ba?

"So I always reply. I always say in a nice way pa rin.

"Kahit paano, kahit masakit yung mga sinasabi nila, I always, you know, I always reply to them nicely."

Inton-Lawrence COOPER C

Filipino volunteers like Jackie Cristinie and Mayoral candidate Willie Reodica celebrate Michelle Cooper's win as Provincial Conservative MPP for Eglinton-Lawrence.



Joey Baking Social Control of Social Control of

End of Summer Festival?

The following is the caption of Durham community leader Li Eron's caption of

Timmy's after a SUCCESSFUL MEET-ING WITH NINE DEPARTMENT HEADS FROM THE CITY OF OSHAWA MAN-AGEMENT LEVEL- In preparation of our upcoming 'End of Summer Festival' this September 13, 2025 at historic Memorial Park in Oshawa.

Durham Filipino Fest's Executives attended the meeting: Li Eron (Executive Director and Founder), Teresa Jawa (Executive Secretary), and Jhel Kopp (Fi-

A very fruitful discussion with four others from the city attended via video link. We are set for SATURDAY, SEPTEM-BER 13, 2025.

Good news for our vendors. The city has reduced licensing fees and permits. More details to follow...

End of summer festival?

We can't even start spring and Li is already planning their end of summer festival. Just kidding. Summer flies by so fast that I am a bit flummoxed when I read the words "end of summer." Anyway, good for Li to plan this far ahead. Before we know it, summer is already

Rhett Dela Cruz has spent years caring for others as a registered nurse, but last March 8, he held his debut concert at the People's Theatre for the Performing Arts in Markham, Ont.

My friend, Toronto Kapuso Lions officer Fe Taduran had some tickets and she invited me to go with them.

The Toronto-based Filipino-Canadian artist finally made his dream a reality—his very first solo concert.

After years of balancing patient care and his passion for music, Dela Cruz shared his talent with the world.

"You know, this concert is something I've been wanting to do for a long time now," he said, his excitement palpable.

"People have been asking me for years to have my own solo concert, and now it's finally happening."

I've been seeing Rhett perform in the community in different events. Last November, he performed at the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation gala where he entertained the capacity

"Be yourself; everyone else is already taken." OSCAR WILDE



crowd.

Congratulations to Rhett.

Anyway, JDL held an Encore presentation of their Disney musical Frozen Jr at City Playhouse. As expected, JDL presented an entertaining and wonderful musical. However, if I have to say so myself, the story is bittersweet for me. It's the story of two sisters where one has the power to freeze anything she touches.

To avoid killing her sister, she stops playing with her younger sister but she never tells her. The younger sister keeps knocking on her door to her bedroom, asking her to play but she never answers. The younger sister wonders why she wouldn't play with her anymore like they used to. They both grow up never having played while they were young. Like I said, it is bittersweet.

Anyway, I did enjoy the show.

JDL'S Production of Disney's Frozen Jr is a tour de force

'For the First Time in Forever'... well ever! Withe the success of the January presentation of JDL's presentation of Disney's Frozen Jr, the much awaited encovre came at the City Playhouse last month.

children, are soon torn apart at such a young age. by Elsa's Ice Powers and the accidents they can cause.

This only leads to their separation and a palace closed off to their kingdom; but when their parents are lost at sea, it's Elsa's responsibility to take her place as Queen and there can only be a rocky road ahead. Despite its dramatic plot, the musical offers lessons of love, friendship and bravery; something every child watching should embrace and feel inspired by.

And this 65 minute compacted junior version of the

As the show progressed we eventually met our leading ladies; Sophia Sambrana's mature and heartfelt Elsa, with an outstanding voice, and Chloe Tionsgson's lovable Anna who's enthusiasm was unmatched and an equally outstanding voice. Of course, the matinee's Joanne Rojas as Elsa and Amber Rinker as Anna gave an equally impressive performance as my friends who watched it earlier.

Of course we cannot forget some of the most iconic characters; Olaf played by the

In addition to the fabulous principal cast, we had individuals who stood out for their incredible characterization. One of which was the Duke of Weselton, Johan Lucentales, who played the character perfectly.

The, there's Marco Landicho who played the conniving Hans convincingly.

Of course, we are not going to skip Mark Rivera who is one of the stars of CBC's Son of a Critch. He played Bishop and Palace guard.

Do You Want to Build a Snowman?

The soundtrack is as wonderful as ever and features all the much-loved classics: 'Do You Want to Build a Snowman', 'Love is an Open Door', and of course the iconic 'Let It Go' spectacularly performed by Sambrana.

I'm trying to remember why that song 'Let It Go' is so familiar with me until the end of the show and it's picture-taking with the cast at the lobby. It was Canada's Drake spoofing our Philippine boxing hero Manny Pacquiao singing 'Let It Go'. The video co-starred NCIS's Gary Cole acting as the manager.

Big ensemble numbers like Olaf's 'Summer' and act two's FROZEN page 12



And we can always rely on JDL Production to bring the highest standard of talent with each new production, and Frozen was no different - magic was truly in the air.

I watched the evening showing of JDL's production of Disney's Frozen

I would be very surprised to find anyone who has not heard of the blockbuster movie that is now celebrating its 12th anniversary this year. But for those not familiar with it, the Disney musical follows two princesses, sisters Anna and Elsa, who despite being best friends as

successful stage show, was performed by the highest caliber of talent. We first meet the adorable Young Anna (Arabella Co) and Elsa (Phoemela Hernandez), who opened the show with amazing energy – unwavering confidence

sweet Liam Diaz got a warm welcome from the audience as he emerged onto the stage. It is no easy feat both acting and being a puppeteer yet they did so with ease. I think some non-leading roles are always welcome.



up about her thoughts on joining beauty pageants, saying she doesn't see herself taking the beauty queen route.

In an interview with

Boy Abunda, Max ex-I didn't take." plained that after spending many years in the entertainment industry, pageantry isn't something she envisions for self-care herself, as she wants to emphasizing continue on her path as an actress.

"To be honest because I've been in showbiz for so long parang I feel like... that's not my route

queen, I was never in that world, so parang sayang lahat ng pinaghirapan ko bilang artista if I were to enter a beauty pageant," she said. "It's just a different route that

During the same interview, the actress also spoke about her routine, the importance of regular exercise and healthy eating.

"Workout every day or as much as you

can, eating healthy, kasi it starts from within eh. If you work out consistently, even if it's not a hard work out, you are taking care of your body and

that's gonna show outside," she said.

The actress further highlighted the importance of mindful eating, saying: "Ganun din naman sa pagkain like bawas carbs, bawas sugar. Not saying taking it out totally, but it's good to eat healthy

and then stop eating early. I try to stop eating at 7pm para may time to digest."

When asked about her concept of being sexy, Max said: "Being powerful, kasi then iba 'yung confidence eh and that doesn't just mean sa hitsura, di ba? [It's also about] your finances, your job, your family, and if alam mong you're taking care of so many things, then parang I am so powerful pala, di ba? And that's sexy."

Max was previously married to actor Pancho Magno. They finalized

their divorce in October 2024. They have one child.

When asked about her current relationship status, the actress replied: "I have been on dates, but I'm not dating. I'm single."

As for what she's looking for in a future partner, Collins replied: "The way I am treated, parang that's a big thing for me — somebody who really loves me, would take into consideration my career, my son, a lot of things."



JDL'S Production of Disney's FROZEN JR is a tour de force

FROZEN from page 10

upbeat 'Fixer Upper', were excellent opportunities to see the cast come together for pure Disney fun.

The choreography is prefect and you can see how hard every cast member has rehearsed to bring this excellent choreography to life. The staging itself may have been simple, with projections helping to

what was presented on it was not - the entire cast and creatives have produced a heartwarming show.

Whilst the Junior version of Frozen may not feature special effects to show Elsa's powers, I enjoyed watching these all-Filipino talents who helped bring this magic to life. I even felt the choreogra-

emphasize the changing of location, but phy and their delivery was some of the best work JDL has ever produced. JDL namesake founder Josie de Leon and the mentors behind the scene should be extremely proud of the exceptional standard of dance they are offering within this pro-

> Sai Velasco says, "what a superb performance, Congratulations to all."

I can only congratulate the whole team led by director Maria Cabillan-Marasco for yet another successful and sell-out production.

Congratulations to JDL, the students, the mentors, the parents, families, relatives, friends, for helping create another high-caliber, enjoyable musical.































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

in 1565.

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



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

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



dolphins.

A black coral foreast is among its main

attraction, Cabilao is renowed for the

attractions but virtually anywhere you drop in is sure to be rewarding, another major

hammerhead sharks that shoal arround the

clear waters. Large pelagics are very common

here. And if you are really luck, you can find

yourself swimming with a passing school of

When in the Philippines, call



ANNSET HOLIDAYS

UNIT 206 THE MANILA RESIDENCES TOWER II • 2310 TAFT AVENUE, MALATE MANILA

Reservation (02) 8 354-4101 to 04 Fax Number (02) 8 354-4105

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

Email: tours.travel@annsetholidays.com.ph

JDL Entertains at Oriental Centre

Josie de Leon (JDL) Performing Arts students were the exclusive entertainers at the Oriental Centre Family Show. JDL's different singing and dancing groups entertained the crowd at the mall.

These are some of the photos from that show.













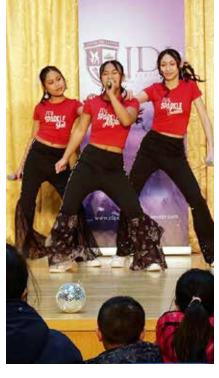






















LEFT, Joanne Jade Rojas, Raelyn Cajuigan, and Rianneh Greeley are among the back up singers at the Rhett dela Cruz concert.



JM Ibarra, Fyang Smith on their relationship: 'Masaya kami 'pag magkasama'



"PBB Gen 11" housemates Fyang Smith and JM Ibarra were put on the hot seat during a recent press conference.

Being one of local show business' rising love teams known as #JMFyang, the two former "Pinoy Big Brother" housemates have been known to openly display their closeness inside and outside the PBB house

About their "special relationship," JM said, "Syempre po, sa amin, ang focus talaga namin career at trabaho. As long as may pagpapahalaga at respeto sa isa't isa sapat na po sa amin yun."

(Of course, for us, our focus is really on our career and work. As long as there is appreciation and respect for each other, that's enough for us)

Sharing different milestones and sweet moments together, fans can't help but wonder if there's something much deeper going on between them.

"Ang masasabi ko lang po ay pinahahalagahan namin ang isa't-isa, at masaya po kami tuwing magkasama po kami," Fyang related.

(All I can say is that we appreciate each other, and we are happy whenever we are together.)

Building rapport inside the PBB house, JM, and Fyang mentioned they are genuinely happy where they are at the moment in terms of their relationship.

"Masaya kami 'pag magkasama may work man o wala, masaya kami. Siguro the way magkasama kami everyday, doon po," JM said.

(We are happy when we are together, whether there is work or not, we are happy. Maybe the way we are together every day, that's it)

"Sa loob ng bahay ni Kuya, doon nag-start maging comfortable sa isa't isa. Nadala ko sa labas ng bahay at nagtuloy-tuloy po... Kahit wala kaming ginagawa basta magkasama kami," Fyang shared.

(We started to get comfortable with each other inside Kuya's house. I brought the same outside the house and it continued... Even when we aren't doing

anything, as long as we are together)

The media teased JM if he would let another man court Fyang.

"Hindi po sila makakasingit," JM declared. (They wouldn't be able to)

"Walang makakasingit. Bawal" Fyang added.

(No one can. It's forbidden.)

JM and Fyang were chosen as voice actors for the Tagalog-dubbed version of the 2024 South Korean drama film "Picnic." The project, produced by Lotte Entertainment and brought to local audiences by Nathan Studios, is set to premiere in cinemas nationwide this May.

Fyang shared her experience on the challenges of dubbing: "Kapag nag-

da-dub, kailangang pumasok sa ibang mundo... kami mismo ang nag-aadjust upang maipakita ang tamang emosyon nila (characters)."

(When dubbing, you have to enter another world... we adjust to show the right emotions need by the character)

Maja Salvador is back on track

Maja is back on track following an extended career lull brought about by marriage and pregnancy. The



37-year old actress returns with news about a couple of new TV projects and some endorsements.

Her management company recently signed an agreement with MediaQuest and TV5 for the following: Season 5 of Emojination opposite Chad Kinis, a dance show, Isayaw Mo, a

teleseries, and possibly, a movie, too.

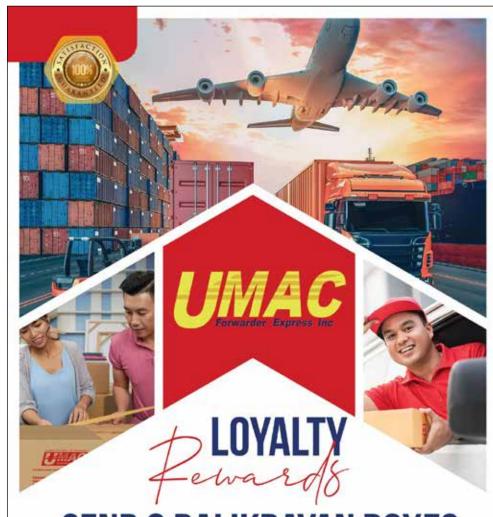
At the same time, Maja renewed her contract with Beautederm, her fifth year under Ms. Rhea Anicoche Tan's company.

Maja endorses Blanc Set, a top-selling skincare set that includes Tretinoin (acne treatment) and Hydroquinone (hyperpigmentation treatment). Blanc Set prevents acne and pimples while brightening one's skin Maja gave birth to her firstborn, Rambo Nuñez, in Canada on May 31, 2024. She said it had been a difficult pregnancy. Birthing Maria Reanna alone took all of 30 hours.





LEFT, Chinky del Mar (ON THE RIGHT), Rain or Shine, we the UNITED MINDANAOAN in CANADA and Zambosurians in Canada joined the Prayer Rally and the 80th Birthday celebration of Tatay Digong, former Philppine President Duterte! Bring Him home!



SEND 9 BALIKBAYAN BOXES AND THE 10TH BOX IS FREE

416-298-8622 WWW.UMACTORONTO.CA



THE FILIPINO CENTRE, TORONTO

4395 Shepard Avenue East TELEPHONE: 416-335-0485

Join our WEEKLY WEDNESDAY PAINTING CLASS • 11AM-3PM



Businesses will absorb cost to avoid passing tariff cost to Customers

BUSINESSES from page 1

will increase their prices.

Gerald Aquintey of Tinuno just laughed it off but followed it up with the bittersweet reply.

"I can't. The custyomers cannot afford to play any more," said Aquintey.

His answer was echoed by Ron of Rhonrose Printing.

"We're charging the lowest price we can because the customer cannot affor to pay more," he said.

Republika Restaurant owner said the same.

"No, we're not increasing prices," said Jannie Luz-Benico.

As Canada and the U.S. continue to trade tariff blows and experts warn of rising consumer costs on both sides of the border, some Ontario businesses say they're refusing to pass added costs onto consumers — at least



Rony of Rhonrose Printing, Maria Geroche of Rembrandt Banquet, Gerard Aquintey of Tinuno, JannieLuz-Benico of Republika Restobar, amd Annie of Rhonrose Printing

for now.

Chapman's Ice Cream, one of Canada's largest independent ice cream makers dating back to 1973, admit that they been forced to cut ties with some American suppliers and are actively seeking international alternatives for ingredients not avail-

able in Canada.

Despite rising costs, in a post to Facebook, the company assures customers they will "absorb all immediate increases" for the rest of the year.

In Burlington, Precision Record Pressing, one of North America's largest vinyl pressing plants, has taken a similar stance. CEO Shawn Johnson revealed that he will not be adding "additional charges, price increases, or hidden fees."

What experts think

Dan Kelly, president and CEO of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB), suggests that businesses attempting to absorb tariff costs are in the minority.

"It's just too big a hit to be able to absorb for most businesses," Kelly said.

'We just don't feel it's right to profit'

While a few businesses choose to absorb tariff costs outright, Soccer World Central, based in Oakville and London tells CTV News Toronto, they are taking a different approach.

"We just don't feel it's right to profit off of a terrible, terrible act," Owner and CEO Chrys Chrysanthou said. "We're doing whatever we can to keep costs as low as possible."

How long can businesses hold the line?

Despite efforts by companies like Chapman's, Precision Record Pressing, and Soccer World to ease the burden on consumers, Kelly warns that while customers won't see an immediate impact it could be troublesome down the line.

He suggests price hikes could be inevitable if both countries fail to come to an agreement in the near future.

Advising businesses, Kelly says, to "try to make sure you keep your customers in the loop... don't try to surprise them with price hikes."

Rechie Valdez's Campaign is in High Gear as it nears election day April 28







1.JDL talents entertain the crowd; 2. Community leaders Philip Beloso and Corie Coutts show their support; 3. Philip Beloso with candidate Rechie Valdez; 4. JDL talents with Rechie Valdez



Former SexBomb Sugar Mercado claims 7-year romance with Willie Revillame

Former SexBomb Girls member and dancer-host Sugar Mercado revealed that she had been in a relationship with veteran TV host Willie Revillame.

In a recent interview with entertainment vlogger Ogie Diaz, Sugar confirmed that she had a seven-year relationship with Willie, years after they were romantically linked during their stint on the variety show "Wowowin."

"I'm not sure. He never admitted it. I'd be so shameless if I were the one to admit it when he never did. Maybe we just bonded who knows," Sugar quipped but admitted her feelings were genuine.

"I never regretted anything that happened in my life, and I also admit that I truly loved that person—deeply. You know he's



a private person," she continued.

The dancer also shared that her two children had formed a close bond with Revillame, describing him as a consistent and caring presence in their lives.

"Until now, that

will always be a part of our lives—me and my children. He'll always have a place in our hearts for life. I have nothing bad to say about him because he truly loved the kids," Sugar added.

Sugar and Willie co-hosted "Wowowin" for several years, fueling speculation about their relationship. Both had previously denied any romantic involvement.

Willie has yet to comment on Sugar's statements publicly.

CELL=MASTER SALES - REPAIR - INSTALL

IN FRONT OF FOOD COURT 1550 S. Gateway Rd. Mississauga ON L\$W 5J1

647-469-9889 3JS.CELLMASTER@GMAIL.COM



Canada and Mexico excapes Trump's Tariff war but Philippines get caught

TARIFF from page 1

al tax charged by US Customs and Border Protection when products cross the border.

The baseline tariff is expected to take effect from April 5, and then higher reciprocal tariffs on individual countries from April 9. That leaves no time for businesses to adjust their supply chains.

What might the next "episode" hold for the rest of the world? We can expect many countries to retaliate, bringing in tariffs and trade penalties of their own. That comes with risks.

Tariffs on the whole world

Vietnam will be among the hardest hit by reciprocal measures, with a 46% tariff. China, South Korea and Japan will also feel the brunt of the newest announcement – all subject to new tariffs of between 24% and 34%. The European Union is subject to 20%.

Many countries had already vowed to retaliate.

In a recent speech, the president of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, said "all instruments are on the table". She also stressed that the single market is the "safe harbour" for EU members.

Canada was apparently spared from the baseline 10% tariff. But it still has to contend with previously announced 25% tariffs on the automotive and other sectors.

Canada's new prime minister, Mark Carney, has said "nothing is off the table" in terms of retaliation.

Major tariffs on Asia

The 34% new tariff on China will be on top of the 20% tariff previously imposed, bringing the total to 54%.

That's a further aggravation to already fractious relations between the world's two largest economies.

Vietnam is especially reliant on the US market, and has been trying to negotiate its way through tariff threats. This has included unprecedented agreements to accept deported Vietnamese citizens from the US.

Until this point, Vietnam had benefited from tensions between the US and China. These new enormous tariffs will have large ripple effects through not only Vietnam, but also less economically developed Cambodia (49% tariff) and Myanmar (44% tariff).

As this reality TV-style trade drama continues to unfold, the world should prepare for more episodes, more cliffhangers, and more uncertainty.

Escudero urges Tariff Code fix, trade shift amid US sanctions

Senate President Francis Escudero proposed a series of strategic responses to soften the blow of the new 17 percent tariff imposed by the United States on Philippine exports, urging the government to act swiftly to protect the country's economic interests.



Escudero called on the country's economic managers to consider immediate amendments to the tariff and customs code and explore options such as currency devaluation and market diversifi-

'The President has the authority to amend our tariff and customs code while Congress is in recess. This power must be exercised to respond promptly and decisively to this challenge," he said.

Escudero warned that failure to act could weaken one of the Philippines' strongest trade relationships.

The United States accounts for nearly 17 percent of the country's exports, amounting to over USD1 billion in January 2025 alone.

"We're looking at a trade surplus that could easily be disrupted," Escudero said.

He added that while retaliation through counter-tariffs — as done by other countries — is an option, it must be weighed carefully since this has global consequences and drives up the cost of goods.

Beyond policy tools, Escudero suggested long-term structural responses, including identifying alternative export markets to reduce dependence on the US and currency devaluation to keep exports competitive despite higher tariffs.

Escudero, on the other hand, noted that despite the looming threat, the Philippines may be less exposed than others due to its services-based export economy.

"We're not as heavily reliant on manufactured goods as countries like Japan or Vietnam," he noted.

Kris Aquino reveals she now has nine autoimmune diseases

Former television host and actress Kris Aquino revealed that she now has a total of nine autoimmune diseases.

In an Instagram update on Wednesday, Aquino disclosed that she is suffering from Autoimmune Thyroiditis, Chronic Spontaneous Urticaria, EGPA (Eosinophilic Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis), Systemic Sclerosis/Scleroderma, Lupus, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Fibromyalgia, Polymyositis, and Mixed Connective Tissue Disease.

She emphasized that she has been large-

ly confined to her "safe zone bubble" in Bonifacio Global City due to numerous food, medicinal, and environmental allergies. Exposure to sunlight is also strictly prohibited.

Despite her condition, Aquino remains hopeful and determined.

"Please don't give up? The odds are against my survival, but I have faith in the power of prayer. Jesus healed so many. Autoimmune has no cure. But I still believe the Holy Spirit will guide my doctors. And I don't break my promises, I said I'd return for you to watch me - I am hoping to be strong enough before Mother's Day," she shared.

"I will be so happy thanking all of you

for being #TeamKris. For Kuya and Bimb, for those who show genuine concern and continue praying, I promise #bawalsumuko #tuloyanglaban," Aquino added.

She also expressed excitement about her son Bimby's future, saying she looks forward to meeting his first girlfriend.

"Bimb's got me, but it's not fair to expect him to always be by my side. I'm excited to meet whoever his first girlfriend will be, there's someone I really like for him - but when you push too much it's already meddling. I am praying he will end up with someone smart, articulate, kindhearted, pretty, loving, with a mom I'll get along with, and most of all someone who will love my son equal to the love she has for herself," she said.

Aquino recently shared videos documenting her struggles with a lupus flare, showing visible bruises, red spots on her face, and a fever reaching 38.5 degrees Celsius. She expressed her desire for the public to witness her bat-

tle, emphasizing that she wants people to understand the strength it takes to endure



such an illness.

"This is my now... I wanted you to see the pain and struggle so that you will continue to pray. I have a lupus flare fever now. It's been more than two weeks," she wrote.

In February, Aquino made her first public appearance in months at the People Asia People of the Year 2025

awards night to support designer Michael

6 REMARKABLE FILIPINO ONTARIANS HONOURED WITH KING CHARLES III CORONATION MEDALS by Tony San Juan

Filipino Canadians in Ontario criteria: "To be eligible for

ful news that notable Kababayan Filipinos in Greater the Toronto Area(GTA) happy recent recipients presti-"King gious Charles Coronation III Medals". The Royal coronation medallion is a commemorative medal created coronation of the United Kingdom's King Charles

Marites Beloso

The recipients for the medals were nominated by partner organizations chosen by the government of Canada, which presented the medals to individuals

who meet the medal's eligibility

III on May 6, 2023.

proudly welcomed the wonder- the Canadian medal, a



to mark the MP for Scarborough Centre Salma Zahid Philip Beloso & wife

person must: have made a significant contribution to Canada or a particular province, territory, region of, or community in, Canada, or attained an outstanding achievement abroad that brings credit to Canada; and have been alive on 6 May 2023, the date of

the Coronation."



luan with MP for Scarborough North Shaun Chen Those who were awarded the medals various appropriate



Jennifer Rabanillo, King Charles III Coronation Medal



King Charles III Medal

ceremonies were Filemon "Philip" Beloso & Mary Ann S. San Juan from

Scarborough, Toronto, Yolanda Ladines from Markham-Thornhill, Ignacio "Mogi" Mogado & Marlene Mogado from Markham-Stouffville, and Jennifer Rabanillo & Jose Isaac Torres from Mississauga, Ontario.

The Federal Members of Parliament who presented the respective recognition were the Member of Parliament for Scarborough Centre, Salma

Zahid; Member of Parliament for Scarborough North, Shaun Chen; Member of Parliament for Markham-Thornhill, Mary Ng; Member of Parliament for Markham-Stouffville, Helena Jacsek; Member of Parand liament for Mississauga-Streetsville and Chief

Government Whip, Rechie Valdez. Maligayang bati mga kabayan sa inyong natamong



Markham's Yolanda Ladines displays her King Charles III Coronation Medal Coronation Medal Awardee.



Awardees Ignacio and Marlene Mogado with MP for Markham-Stouffville Helena

parangal!!! (Tony A. San Juan, OCT.)

Chadd Solano on

SAYING SORRY TO HIS FEMALE CO-STARS
Ang unang project ni Chadd Solano sa VMX ay
ang pelikulang Virgin Forest na nag-streaming noong Hunyo 24, 2022. Idinirek iyon ni
Brillante Mendoza.

Sa istorya, ginahasa ni Chadd si Robb Guinto. Hubo't hubad si Chadd sa eksenang hinahabol niya si Robb na nakaputing kamison.

"Naka-plaster po ako nun. Pero muntik na po akong hindi mag-plaster," pagbabalik-tanaw ni Chadd.

"Kinausap ko si Direk Brillante. Ang sabi niya, nasa sa akin daw po kung magpa-plaster ako o hindi.

"E, sabi ko naman, first time kong movie yon, sabi ko, parang nagdadalawang-isip ako nun na mag-plaster ba o hindi.

"E, nung time na napag-isipan ko, nag-plaster na po ako."

Sa mga sumunod niyang project ay lagi na siyang naka-plaster, maliban sa pelikulang Bata Pa Si Sabel na nag-streaming noong Disyembre 2022.

Pagtatapat ni Chadd, totoong private part niya yung nag-hello sa eksenang niluluray niya si Micaella Raz. Hindi raw iyon dildo o prosthetic penis. Naka-plaster daw si Micaella pero siya ay hindi.

So, totoong may erection siya sa eksena? OK lang iyon kay Micaella?

why he keeps saying sorry to female co-stars

"Hindi ko naman po mismong tinutok sa ano niya. Naka-plaster po yung buong ano niya," sabi ni Chadd.

Naramdaman pa rin ni Micaella na telag ang ari niya sa eksena?

Pag-amin ni Chadd, "Halos lahat naman po ng nakaka-bed scene ko,

nararamdaman po nila. Kasi naka-plaster po ako.

"Ang unang-una kong sinasabi sa babae, 'Sorry.' Nagso-sorry ako na ganito yung ano ko, na nakaramdam ako ng konting ganun. 'Kaya pasensya ka na.'

"Nagso-sorry po ako. Humihingi po ako ng pasensya. Sinasabi naman ng mga babaeng nakaka-partner ko, OK lang naman."

Kabilang sa VMX stars na nagpakislot sa kanyang pagkalalaki at hiningan niya ng paumanhin ay si Ayanna Misola na nakaeksena niya sa pelikulang Bugso.

"Nasa shower po kami. Ang ganda ng spotlight po dun, e. Talagang kita mo lahat," pakli ni Chadd.

"Pasabog po talaga yun, kaya dun po ako ng nakaramdam."

Mas gusto niya na naka-plaster siya, kesa sa posible siyang makitaan ng maselang parte ng katawan?

"Depende rin po sa partner ko yun kung papayag po siya o hindi. Pero pag pumayag naman siya, OK lang na hindi mag-plaster," kaswal na tugon ni Chadd. Kabilang sa mababait na mga babaeng nakatrabaho niya sina Angela Morena, Micaella Raz, Stephanie Raz, Angeli Khang, Ayanna Misola, at Robb Guinto.

'Namamansin pa kaya ang isang Nadine Lustre?' Here's how she responded

Nadine Lustre posted the photo below on her Instagram on April 4, 2025 (nadine via Instagram)

Actress Nadine Lustre playfully responded to a TikTok user who had randomly commented asking if she would notice her.

The actress, on Sunday, April 6, shared a transition video of her look before and after attending the ABS-CBN Ball 2025, which took place on Friday, April 4, at Solaire Resort North.

"Try lang," she wrote in the comments.

The first look showed Nadine Lustre post-shower, with unstyled hair and a bathrobe.

She the

swipes her hand in front of her face, revealing her glammed-up appearance after getting ready for the highly-anticipated ABS-CBN Ball.

The actress then strikes a pose and then smiles at the camera.

Her video has earned 1.1 million heart reactions and over 6,000 comments, including one from a particular user who wrote:

"Namamansin pa kaya ang isang Nadine Lustre."

It was a comment of TikTok user Sam (@_ursam01) that was liked by 22,900 other users.

"suplada 'yun eh," Nadine responded, garnering 44,300 likes so far.

The actress' comment received several responses from other users who dropped "sana all" remarks to user Sam after being noticed by Nadine.

"Bukod kang pinagpala sa lahat," another TikTok user told Sam.

Sam noticed the comments and replied on Monday, April 7, "Kinikilig pa nga hanggang ngayon eh."

Actress Kylie Versoza also made her presence known in the comments section.

"Ganda mo naman," she commented on Nadine's look.

Heads up, US shoppers! CBSA collecting tariffs as surtax

For goods exceeding personal exemption limits, you may be required to provide proof of origin for items coming back across Canada-U.S. border

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and the Canadian Snowbird Association remind Canadians who have spent the winter in warmer climates to plan ahead for a smooth return home.

In response to U.S. tariffs on Canadian-made goods, Canada has imposed a 25 per cent counter tariff on certain U.S. products brought into Canada. The CBSA is collecting the tariffs on behalf of the Government of Canada in the form of a surtax.

This means you may need to pay a surtax (as well as any applicable duties and taxes) on some of the goods you have purchased and are bringing back with you from the U.S. The lists of these products is on the Department of Finance website: products surtaxed as of March 4 and as of March 13.

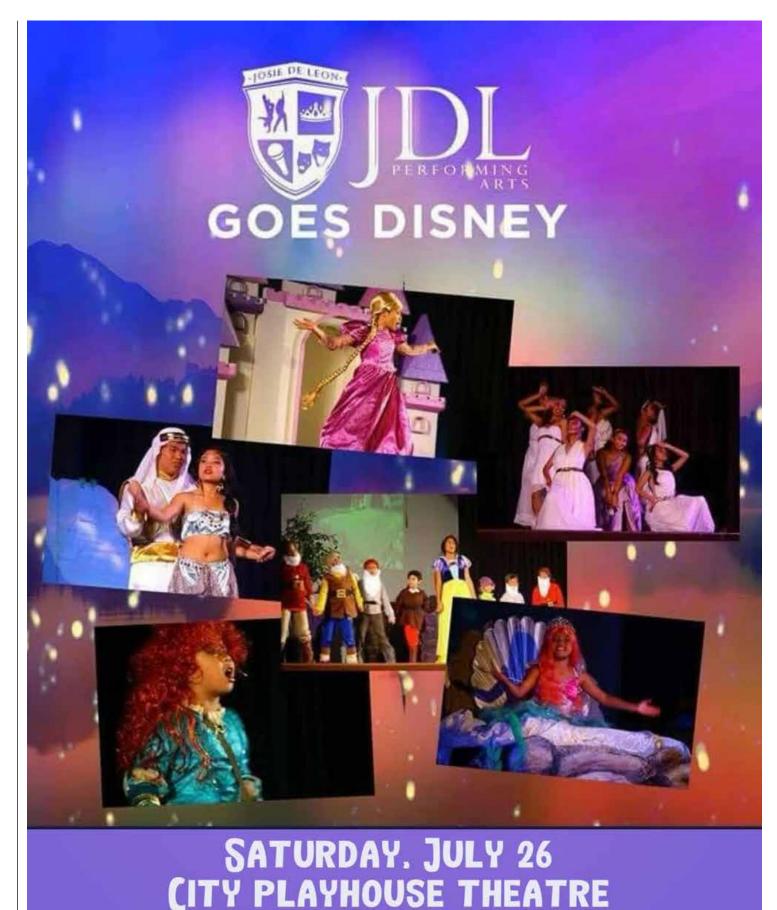
The surtax is assessed by the CBSA at the port of entry and must be paid before you enter Canada.

Remember that residents of Canada have personal exemptions that allow them to bring goods, including alcohol and tobacco (up to a certain value), back to Canada without paying regular duty and taxes.

For example, if you have been away for 48 hours or more, you can claim goods worth up to CAN\$800 without paying duties or taxes, including the new surtax. The surtax only applies on the amount of goods that exceeds your personal exemption.

Be sure to have your receipts readily available for any goods you are bringing with you. For goods that exceed your personal exemption limits, you may be required to provide proof of where the goods were made, produced or originated from (proof of origin).

Whether travelling by land, air or water, you can help speed up processing times by having your travel documents handy. We encourage you to read and follow our travel tips before arriving at the border.



102-1000 NEW WESTMINSTER DR.

THORNHILL . ONTARIO

Kathryn Bernardo opens up on feeling 'lost' as she turns 29

Kathryn Bernardo admitted to feeling the onset of birthday blues, saying that she has been having feelings of being lost or getting overwhelmed by the prospect of adulthood catching up with her. The award-winning

actress, who is set to celebrate her 29th birthday on March 26, opened up about becoming sentimental on her birthday during the media con of "Pilipinas Got Talent" Season 7. During the interview with reporters, she was asked about the bravest thing she did for herself.

"I'm turning 29 in a few days. I'm at a point in my life where I feel so lost and I felt this when I

gave a message during our Thanksgiving party for 'The Hows of Us.' This was the same feeling," she said.

"I didn't expect na mafefeel ko 'to ulit. Siguro it's part of adulting and growing, and nararamdaman ko siya just like everybody else," she continued.

Bernardo said she started feeling the same emotion after wrapping up promotions for "Hello, Love, Again," which is currently the highest-grossing Filipino film. She nonetheless said that acknowledging these feelings is a brave thing for her. "I don't know kung nararamdaman talaga 'to kapag [nasa] ganitong age ka na but it's hitting me hard. To be honest, I'm so scared and I'm so lost."

"But I think it's so brave that every day, I show up and I choose to grow and accept the uncertainties," she continued. "Parang meron lang akong feeling na iba and siguro birthday blues na 'to, may quarter-life crisis na ako. I'm feeling all these emotions. I think it's just brave na tinanggap ko 'yun. I'm allowing myself to be vulnerable. I have my days and hindi ko rin 🟲 tinatago sa mga tao."

Adult-like steps

The actress also shared that she got a place of her own which has been a period of adjustment for herself and her family.

"Getting my own place is a big adjustment for me and my family, especially my mom, but it's my way of getting to know myself more and growing. I don't know if I can do it but I'm just here for it. I'm just very open and I'm open for growth," she said.

Bernardo has been basking in her solo era since confirming her breakup with long-term boyfriend Daniel Padilla in November 2023.

Alodia pokes fun at her 'evolution' from 'Jejemon' days

Content creator Alodia Gosiengfiao poked fun at a social media user's comment about her evolution ever since her early internet days.

The online personality on Wednesday, March 26 posted a comment made by an Instagram user in one of her uploads which featured her getting fitted for a custom attire.

"From her jejemon era to demure and sophisticated lady. Really, [your] partner [influenced you]," the online user wrote.

The comment caught Alodia's attention, who shared a screenshot of it on her Facebook page with the caption: "Jejemon evoled into jejezard."

It was accompanied by emojis of a face-holding-backtears and a melting face.

Alodia's post has earned 7,200 likes and reactions and over 230 comments, with the content creator replying to some online users.

"Izha KaPalA JeJeMOn DaTi Mam AlODia hiHihi," a

Facebook user wrote with a grinning emoji.

Alodia responded with a screengrab of her from her old "Gwiyomi" video in which she makes an exaggerated cutesy expression.

When someone commented that they needed a "Gwiyomi" video remake, Alodia only responded with

a GIF of an awkward look monkey puppet giving a side-

"IsHa NgA PoWZz Gw1yUMee nA nAkA eLeGanTz DrEzz BoWzz AlODia," another user joked.

"Grabeng request naman 'yan," the cosplayer responded with a laughing-with-tears emoji.

A Facebook user joked that Alodia might be on a "bad trip" already because of the comments.

"Haha, bakit? True naman, ahaha," she responded. "It's Gwiyomi's fault, it's where it all started, HAHA-HAHA," another user commented.

Alodia replied with laughing-with-tears emojis. Last February, the content creator posted a photo of her taken ten years apart, from 2015 to 2025.

"Style has evolved... but bangs have not," she wrote.

Jejemon, 'Gwiyomi' explained

"Jejemon" is a subculture in the country that started in the early 2010s characterized by altered spellings in texts and messages in which words like "hello," for example, become "hElLoHwWz" in writing.

It also extends to fashion, which is inspired by scene style and gangster culture where teens wear high crown caps, oversized shirts with large prints, and wallet chains, among others.

> The subculture also includes posing with hand gestures like peace signs.

> Meanwhile, "Gwiyomi" was an internet craze in 2013 that uses the chiptune pop song by South Korean indie singer-songwriter Hari.

It went viral on all top music charts after it was released on the internet and inspired a par-

ticipatory video series where users perform a repertoire of cute hand gestures to the song. In 2022, Alodia made a remake of her famous "Gwiyomi" video with P-pop supergroup SB19.

The content creator rose to fame when she began cosplaying in her teens, attracting attention because of how she took it seriously, leading her to win awards.

Alodia eventually became known in the gaming community as she took another one of her interests — gaming — to heart and co-founded Tier One Entertainment, an agency aimed at helping individuals and groups succeed in the gaming industry.

She has since left the company and is now focused on being a first-time mom to her child with Calabria Company Limited president Christopher Quimbo.

Pistahan sa Toronto 2025

In Celebration of our Filipino Heritage.

The Filipino Centre, Toronto

Sunday, June 1, 2025 • 10:00 am - 6:00 pm • 4395 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto ON M1S 1T8

Arts & Culture, Food, Music & Dancing

Jollibee Expanding in Canada & USA by Nimfa Lim

rently has. Jollibee's aggressive expansion plans are founded on high hopes for its new franchising program, backed by strong sales at its company-owned stores in the U.S. and Canada.

Jollibee is targeting already-successful restaurant franchisees to open and operate new locations in a variety of configurations, including mall entrances, strip malls, and stand-alone stores with or without drivethrus. With enough franchising success, Jollibee aims to eventually expand to airports, college towns, and more high-traffic locales. If fried chicken isn't your thing, there's still reason to celebrate. The chain also offers some unexpected menu items like spaghetti, burgers, and the Filipino noodle dish Palabok Fiesta.

Jollibee's Future is Bright

Jollibee is one of the fastest-growing chain restaurants in the United States. But although it's a relative newcomer in Amer-



ica, Jollibee has decades of deliciously high quality behind these bold expansion plans.

The business that would become Jollibee started in 1975 as a popular ice cream parlor in Manila, founded by Dr. Tony

Tan Caktiong and staffed by his family. Three successful years later, Caktiong realized the bigger business potential that hot food offered and converted his ice cream parlors to new restaurants. Soon, the name Jollibee was born, along with a literal jolly bee for a mascot, and the business began to take its modern form. The first North American restaurant was opened in California in 1998, and the brand expanded from there. In 2024, U.S.-based Jollibee stores averaged gross sales of \$4.3 million, making further expansion in North America a no-brainer.

With Jollibee's big plans poised to change the landscape of U.S. and Canadian fast food, you may be planning your first visit sooner than you think. Make sure you brush up on and avoid common Jollibee ordering mistakes, like not trying the iconic Pineapple Quencher, so you can make the most out of stepping up to the register for the first time.

SEVEN FILIPINO CANADIANS RUN FOR FEDERAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT By Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

FILIPINO CANDIDATES from page 7

der the Conservative Party of Canada(CPC). Ramos proudly calls her Ahuntsic-Cartierville community home. After immigrating to Canada at age ten, embraced Quebec's Margie French-Canadian culture and language, deepening her love for the province that gave her family a new start. A seasoned tech professional and entrepreneur, Margie founded Tallowed and

Free, a natural skincare line she strating her ability to unite developed in her kitchen in Ahuntsic. Her passion for health, wellness, and supporting local businesses is a testament to her pragmatic approach to problem-solving. During her time in Toronto, she g brought together professionals at tech

demon-

events,

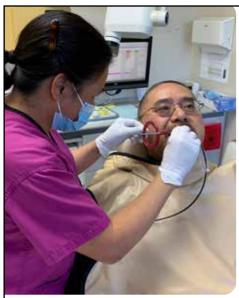
people around shared goals. Margie's priorities include 'reducing the cost of living, lowering taxes, and ensuring access to quality health care so that families and seniors can live with

dignity." She is committed to protecting pensions and strengthening support services for seniors. A staunch

defender of individual freedoms as well as the Quebec language and culture, Margie is ready to serve Ahuntsic-Cartierville with integrity, compassion and a vision of a united Canada, where each generation can flourish.

LITA CRUZ PINLAC-CABAL. Lita Cruz Pinlac-Cabal is the Conservative Party MP candidate for Vancouver East, B.C.. She was born and raised in Parang, Marikina City, Philippines, and is the 2nd youngest of seven siblings. Cabal pursued a career in computer programming and was involved in social activities during her college years, serving as the Club President of the Computer Management Society Club and as the Secretary of the Student Council. Lita worked as a Programmer Analyst at National Panasonic in the Philippines

FILIPINO CANDIDATES page 19











Call us to book your appointment

416-967-9272

Rosedale Medical Clinic (Across Sherbourne TTC Station) 600 Sherbourne St. - Suite 307 Toronto dr.vsliu@bellnet.ca

We offer complete dental care & are accepting new patients.

General Dentistry:

Dr. Victoria Santiago

Dr. Joy Y. Ho

Dr. Amy Fan

Dr. Jennifer Chen

Dr. Damian Yung

Dr. Myra Caballero

Registered Dental Hygienist:

Raymond Echavez Gayle Baylon

Specialty Dentistry:

Dr. Ali Adibfar Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon

Dr. Abbasali Hassanali Periodontist

Derrick Monasterio on past work issues: I was playing around too much

Derrick Monasterio further displays his acting mettle by portraying the meaty role of coach Zach, or Z, in the GMA-Viu murder-mystery series, "SLAY."

The Sparkle GMA artist described the character as someone who is an overly confident, wicked and arrogant playboy. But there's a reason behind his character being flawed, the actor implied.

Derrick is presenting an engaging and nuanced portrayal. That and the good comments or praise from a GMA executive are music to his ears.

"Naintindihan ko naman kung bakit nila sinasabi yun," said Derrick about delivering average performances before in a recent press conference.

"Naintindihan ko na... I was playing around too much. I was not serious. Yung ginagawa mo nag-re-reflect dun sa mga nakikita ng mga tao," added he.

Since artists aspire to be better in their work, Derrick had this to share on a career turning point or realization.

"So, siguro ang ginawa ko lang talaga,

mindset shift and nakakatulong din talaga ang pagtanda sa lang," totoo said he.

Following his train of thought, one could glean that through the years, the actor has learned to look at his personal and professional lives with maturity and objectivity.

"Ngayon, tinitignan ko na ang sarili ko kung ano ang mali. Ganun din yung ginawa ko sa career ko," said he.

Ano ba ang mali, ba't nila nasasabi kasi siguro hindi ko pa siya ganun ka mahal dati. Pero ngayon nalalabas ko ang lahat ng gusto kong sabihin at mga nararamdaman ko sa work ko."

And what has also brought that welcome change in him is girlfriend Elle Villanueva.

The Sparkle GMA artist Derrick Monasterio adds coach Zach to his list of interesting characters he has played on the small screen. His inspired portrayal is noticeable.

"Laki ng tulong talaga ni Elle kasi siya talaga ang nag-gu-guide sa akin," said Derrick, who also talks about his acting work with her away from the klieg lights.

His relationship with her has taught Derrick values that somehow come in handy in

"I'm paying more attention to her. Mas naging empath ako sa kanya na nag-reflect din sa trabaho ko," said Derrick.

'Saklap': Why Jennica Garcia is disappointed over closure of Japan surplus shop in Cainta

Actress Jennica Garcia expressed her disappointment after learning that a Japan surplus shop she had been eyeing to visit in Cainta, Rizal, has closed.

The "Saving Grace" actress on Thursday, April 3, posted about her experience commuting to 1RJAJ Trading Company Inc. in the area, which she later found out had been closed for three months already.

1RJAJ Trading Company Inc. describes itself as a supply store that sells assorted products, mostly imported from Japan and the United Kingdom.

"SAKLAP," Jennica wrote on a Facebook post with a loudly crying emoji.

"Commute lang po ako papunta Cainta. Ini-isa isa ko kasi mga JAPAN SURPLUS na kaya ko puntahan, mga idol," she added with a disappointed face emoji.

"I Googled 1RJAJ Trading Company Inc. Open daw until [9 p.m.] today pero matagal na po pala sarado. 3 [Three] months na daw," the actress further said.

She then sought surplus shop recommendations from her followers, lamenting that her effort to travel had been wasted.

"Itong araw na ito, si-net ko kasi talaga po sana for Japan Surplus," Jennica said, sharing a picture of her with an unamused expression.

In the comments, the actress said she was "hunting for vintage or antique furnitures, clocks, and lamps."

She also shared three posts about searching for Japan surplus shops in Metro Manila, Cavite, and

Laguna, expressing her intention to dedicate days to "hunt" for the items she wants.

On Saturday, April 5, Jennica shared her successful Japan surplus shopping trip in Laguna, where she had a friend drive and accompany her.

"Thank you sa recos, so babalik ko lang 'yung tulong niyo sa'kin," she wrote on a Facebook post.

The actress then listed the operational Japan surplus shops in the province for the information of her followers, as well as what to expect in each shop.

"Happy shopping po sa inyo!" Jennica

SEVEN FILIPINO CANADIANS RUN FOR FEDERAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT By Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

FILIPINO CANDIDATES from page 18

and participated in company initiatives such as tree-plantprojects and Alay Lakad (walkathon) events, showcasing her dedication to making a positive impact in the community. She immigrated Canada 2003 and

worked at the Canadian Cancer Society-BC & Yukon Division as a Database Administrator. Lita's passion for helping others extends beyond her professional and volunteer work. Married to Michael Cabral, they have 3 children.

She and her husband also lead a small group in their church and are dedicated volunteers at the City Dream Centre. Her passion for helping others and making a difference in her community is evident in her involvement in various charitable initiatives.

JAYDEN BALDONADO

Jayden Baldonado is a member of the Green Party of Canada and is running for MP in Calgary Centre (Alberta). Baldonado ran in his Calgary-East as a candidate for the Green Party of Alberta during the 2023 provincial election, and subsequently to take on the responsibilities of an Executive Council member for the provincial party. He is currently studying Environmental Science at Mount Royal University, where he served as a governor of his students' association and



participates in several socioeconomic and environmental activism-oriented student clubs. A graduate of the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology with a diploma in Environmental Technology, Jayden recognizes that "we must take action to avert the climate crisis, eliminate poverty, and reduce socioeconomic inequity by working to dismantle the interconnected systems of a successful lawyer and small supremacy, and patriarchy through a community-oriented approach."

RACHEL PUNZALAN

Rachel Punzalan is the Conservative Party of Canada Member of Parliament candidate for Winnipeg North, Manitoba. Her biodata described Rachel dedicated mother of four, and

colonialism, capitalism, white business owner. Rachel brings a wealth of experience and therefore intimately understands the challenges facing Winnipeg families, workers and business owners. To her supporters, Punzalan is "Dedicated, hardworking, and ready to make real change. If you're looking for someone who will fight for affordable living, safe community, and real support for working Canadians, Rachel is your right candidate." With a robust educational background, Rachel earned her Bachelor of Arts degree. Punzalan in her campaign sorties, said, "I'm excited to continue to spread the Common Sense Conservative plan and bring it home in

FILIPINO CANDIDATES page 22

Winnipeg North!"



Marcos bets tread tightrope after Duterte's ICC arrest

MANILA, Phl - In the 2025 senatorial elections, even administration candidates have been careful not to alienate the opposition vote.

It's a strange predicament made more complicated in the aftermath of the Marcos administration's decision to enforce an International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrant against former president Rodrigo Duterte

"I'll be honest with you, siyempre merong epekto, kasi hindi natin maikakaila na marami ring taga-su-porta si President Duterte, rightly or wrongly, siyempre nandoon 'yung kanilang sentimiento para sa kanya," said senatorial candidate Panfilo Lacson during a press briefing on Friday, March 14, ahead of the Marcos-backed Alyansa para sa Bagong Pilipinas' campaign sortie in Tacloban, Leyte.

Duterte, who had mostly retreated from public engagements after stepping down in 2022, remains a widely popular figure in Philippine politics. Political sources earlier told Rappler that his endorsement power remains high, despite public appearances that are few and far apart.

The 2025 elections have, in fact, shaped into a showdown between President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and the Duterte clan — led by the former president and his daughter Vice President Sara Duterte, with whom Marcos was once allied with but now faces an impeachment trial.

While Marcos is endorsing the 12-member Alyansa slate, Duterte has his own slate of 9.

Since the beginning of the campaign, Alyansa's bets — a mix of Senate return aspirants, reelectionists, and members of entrenched political clans — had skirted around the rift between the Marcos and Duterte clans.

When the campaign kicked off in early February, Alyansa bets avoided making a stand on the impeachment of Vice President Duterte — arguing that it was either premature to talk about the impeachment trial, or that it was not an election issue altogether.

The Philippines' embassy in The Hague earlier announced it was providing assistance to Duterte and his party, which includes former executive secretary Salvador Medialdea.



From Toronto to Montreal and other cities around the world, Duterte remains a popular figure. These photos show the thousands of people who flocked to prayer rallies for Duterte, despite

ACT CIS Representative Erwin Tulfo, who once held the solo top spot in preference surveys, asked the crowd in Tacloban to pray for Philippine leaders past and present — but did not name names. He specifically asked the Waray crowd to pray for Marcos, too.

But at least one Alyansa candidate made explicit her stand on Duterte's arrest — Senator Imee Marcos, the sister of the president, who skipped the sortie in protest. President Marcos made mention of his sister's absence, but only to regret it because, he pointed out, she's the one who can speak Waray.

Tacloban is the hometown of the President's mother, former first lady Imelda Marcos.

The best response? None

Tito Sotto, who is also seeking a Senate return, deflected by instead talking about the Senate's history in dealing with presidents — like Duterte — who want to pull out of international or bilateral agreements. In 2018, Duterte ordered a unilateral pullout from the ICC.

"Walang tama o mali na response diyan. Alam mo ang pinakamagandang response diyan is not to respond. Kasi kahit anong sabihin mo diyan, mayroong magpipintas sa 'yo," said Sotto, when asked about his stand on whether Marcos was right in complying with the Philippines' International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) commitments.

"Yung history books na ang magsasabi diyan, saka



pa lang malalaman kung tama o mali pagdating ng takdang panahon. 'Yung takdang panahon na 'yon, hindi 'yun ngayon," said Lacson.

(History books will be the judge of whether it was wrong or right. The time will come, but that time is not now.)

Marcos' unity message

As his bets tried to appease both the pro-Marcos and pro-Duterte crowds, the President made clear where he still stands: a Chief Executive who, he insists, is taking the country to a better path in contrast to his predecessor.



deadline for six months months, then later to another year until he admitted that the problem cannot be solved within his term.

Just like in previous iterations of his speech, Marcos sold his administration as one that "fight for sovereignty and our rights" through diplomacy. "Hindi natin isusuko kahit isang pulgada ng ating teritoryo at hindi tayo kailangan sumunod sa kahit na sinong dayuhan,"

Duterte wanted closer ties with Beijing during his presidency, and infamously refused to enforce the 2016 Arbitral Award, which affirmed the Philippines' sovereign rights in an area called the West Philippine Sea.

Marcos also lambasted "illegal" operations such as the Philippine offshore gaming operators that proliferated under the previous administration.

"Magkaisa po tayo. Ang kailangan po natin dito sa Pilipinas ay hindi makipag-away. Ang kailangan po natin dito sa Pilipinas ay maging Pilipino na nagmamahal sa kapwa Pilipino," he said.

A November 2024 Pulse Asia survey showed that Marcos and Vice President Duterte enjoyed almost the same trust and approval ratings — hovering at 50% or just below 50%.

A February 2025 Pulse Asia survey, meanwhile, showed that a plurality of Filipinos (45%) did not agree with the impeachment of the Vice President, 26% agreed, and 23% were undecided.

More than two-thirds or 35% of those surveyed believed the Senate would not be fair once it convenes as an impeachment court, 21% believed the Senate would be fair, 33% were undecided, while 11% said they don't know enough about the issue to give their opinion.

In a stunning turn of events, the Marcos-allied House of Representatives voted to impeach the Vice President on the last day of session before a long break for the campaign.

Marcos tried to distance himself from the actions of his allies in the House, including his cousin, Speaker Martin Romualdez and his son, Deputy Majority Leader Sandro Marcos.



been living

together,

have sepa-

rate rooms

because

they've

been used

to such a

setup. Kim

living inde-

pendently

while Jerald

is an only

been

has

still

they

What keeps KimJe together despite three breakups

Newly engaged couple Jerald Napoles and Kim Molina revealed that they've broken up several times but always find their way back to each other.

"He is my ex," declared Kim during the presscon of their upcoming movie "Un-Ex You." They were asked about their thoughts about their ex, which is the premise of the romcom flick.

"We broke up three times already," furthered Kim. The first time was during their stint in the musical "Rak of Aegis" but they got back together not too long after. They later separated and dated again after three months.

During the filming of "Ikaw At Ako At Ang Ending," they broke up again. "The next day, we had a bed scene, nagkabalikan kami."

But Kim quickly clarified, "It was just a joke, yung nag-love scene. That breakup was actually during the pandemic. That was the time that we were adjusting to living together."

She revealed that although they've



In 'Un-Ex You,' Kim and Jerald portray Zuri and Andy, respectively. Zuri, diagnosed with a rare case of premature menopause, is now scrambling to find a decent man with whom she can have a baby and build a family. Her last option is her ex, Andy.

child.

Kim explained, "Like what I said in our podcast,

yung masaya akong meron tayo kahit meron pa ring ako. So buo pa rin kami individually. And when we're together, we're stronger."

On what keeps her going back to Jerald, Kim replied, "Malaki yung ano... yung puso niya!"

On a serious note, she said, "I don't know. With Je, we're really friends. From 'Rak of Aegis' pa, tropa kami lahat. So he knows me more than I know myself. Wow! He's like that to me.

whenever, there were

times that I couldn't find myself, he would always be there to look for me. So maybe that's why I always go back to him."

 $A \quad n \quad d$ Joining Kim and Jerald at the presscon for 'Un-Ex You'

direk RC delos Reyes and Candy Pangilinan

are (from left) co-stars Kyosu Guinto, Vladia Disuanco,

"Masarap kasi si Kim...kasama!" chimed in Jerald. "But it's true. Masarap kasama si Kim. Usually, if you're in a new relationship, you will need to adjust. And I don't have time for that. And also, Kim has become my bestfriend. It's like, I will lose two relationships if we break up. So now, she will become my wife."

On his thoughts about exes, he shared, "'Pag ako naka-move on na, from what happened in the past, ex is ex sa akin."

Would he be friends with his ex? "My constant answer is not to a certain (point) na best friend. It can't be. Because nalagpasan niyo na yung intimate relationship ng bestfriends when you were together.

So you can't bring back that closeness. Maybe casual (friend) lang."

After collaborating on several projects, the reel-to-real-life partners still feel "kilig" every time they work together.

The VIVA Films' "Un-Ex You," directed by RC delos Reyes, is their newest offering following "Seoulmeyt," "Sa Haba ng Gabi,"

"Ang Babaeng Walang Pakiramdam," "Ikaw at Ako at Ang Ending" and "Jowable." The flick will premiere on April 9 in cinemas nationwide.

In "Un-Ex You," Kim and Jerald portray Zuri and Andy. Zuri, diagnosed with a rare case of premature menopause, lives in Sitio Halúpi where Andy resides. Zuri is now scrambling to find a decent man with whom she can have a baby and build a family. Her last option is her ex, Andy. She must work doubly hard and fast to make Andy fall for her again.

The cast of "Un-Ex You" also includes Candy Pangilinan, Vladia Disuanco, Kyosu Guinto, Bob Jbeili and Marnie Lapus.

PCCF participates in Celebrating Diversity & the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

PCCF was proud to participate in an event Celebrating Diversity & the Elimination of Racial Discrimination with the York Region Police

This meaningful occasion brought together community members, leaders, and organizations to foster understanding, promote inclusivity, and advance the fight against racial discrimination. We are proud to stand alongside those dedi-







cated to creating a more equitable and welcoming society for all

The PCCF group included Nancy Caladucan, Greatchen Griffiths-Mrs. Philippines Canada 2025, Rowena Abad-Mrs. Philippines Canada RU and Rystle & Reeza Enverga.

Having fun while helping others!

For more info, e-mail PhilippineCanadianFoundation@gmail.com, visit: www.philippinecanadianfoundation.com

PBBM vetoes bill to make Pampanga as Culinary Capital

PAMPANGA from page 1

resentatives Anna York Bondoc, Carmelo Lazatin II, Senior Deputy Speaker Aurelio Gonzales Jr., former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, and others—aims to formally recognize the rich culinary heritage of Pampanga to boost tourism and, in effect, drive economic growth within local communities.

Pampangueño Senator Lito Lapid, for his part, authored Senate Bill 2797 which "seeks to formally recognize Pampanga's unique contribution to the nation's culinary landscape by declaring it as such."

However, in his veto message, President Marcos raised concerns about the "declaration's lack of historical basis, the absence of a thorough study that shows key performance indicators for such designation, and the possibility that the bill may offend sensibilities in other provinces that are equally proud of their culinary contributions."

The President also stressed: "Our regional variants and their recognizable nuances are what make the palette that is truly Filipino." Therefore, to prevent "negative cultural implications, discrimination, regional bias, and loss of diversity," he decided to veto the bill.

'We were surprised'

The decision has polarized Filipinos from all over the world and has sparked an endless debate among food critics, food historians, lawmakers, and Kapampangans, who take pride in their province's deep-rooted gastronomic identity.

Robby Tantingco, director of the Center for Kapampangan Studies at Holy Angel University, echoed the sentiments of many Kapampangans, stating his surprise at President Marcos' de-

Tantingco b
lieves the recognitions from the
New York Times,
C o n d é
Nast, and
world-ren o w n e d

chef Anthony Bourdain c a n

be considered key performance indicators, given their positive assessments of Kapampangan cuisine. "The title 'Culinary capital' did not come from us. We did not create that title," he insisted. "It was bestowed on us. It's a reputation that was created by the very people who were impressed with our food. So kami naman, we accepted it graciously and gratefully."

'Our journey is far from over'

Chef Jam Melchor, Founder of Philippine Culinary Heritage Movement,

also expressed his disappointment over President Marcos' decision. "As a Kapampangan, I am deeply disheartened by the recent veto of this Senate bill. Having witnessed firsthand the tireless efforts of our province to champion this measure, I know the positive impact it could have

had—not just for Pampanga, but for the recognition and preservation of our rich culinary heritage," he told Esquire Philippines.

'Celebrate our culinary diversity'

Conversely, there are people like food writers Ruston Banal and Clang

Garcia, who oppose the decision to turn the "Culinary Capital" declaration into a law.

Banal said that the proposal submitted to congress by the Culinary Council under the Provincial Board of Pampanga lacked crucial information regarding the provenance of the tiplinary capital "a point be deemed."

tle "culinary capital," a point he deemed essential to the discussion.

Banal, a native of Pampanga, added that the proposal did not offer any explanation about a program on sustainability or key performance indicators. He was hoping to offer more information through his book "Pimamanan, A Taste of Pampanga's 65 Heirloom Dishes," but it unfortunately did not meet the deadline.

Banal objects to Senate Bill No. 2797 / House Bill No. 10634, which would name Pampanga the "Culinary Capital of the Philippines" because "billions of taxpayer funds will be spent on a divisive title. Besides, there is no historical basis, and no comparative research has been conducted. Before making such a claim, there should have been a study to see how your culinary culture is different from

other communities. No such study was carried out," he stressed.

For him, Pampanga can continue claiming the title. But "creating a law with no clear programs about sustainability and inclusivity may cause divisiveness among communities and would start a new wave of advocates that are purists and might use this as a sword to cut rather than as a torch to light the path for harmony and diversity."

For Clang Garcia, author of Philippine Food Holidays and Philippine Ambassador of World Food Travel Association (WFTA), there shouldn't be just

"Our regional variants and their recognizable nuances are what make the palette that is truly Filipino."

one culinary capital for the Philippines. "Our cuisine is extremely diverse; having a single capital would misrepresent our culinary heritage. Instead, we should celebrate our culinary diversity," she said.

Garcia suggested establishing a Culinary Capital for each province, with evaluations conducted every year to determine if they can retain their title. "It is a program that the WFTA implements in various countries they collaborate with. It encourages destinations to maintain their title while inspiring others to seek similar recognition," she said.

Kaila Estrada on grief, growth, grit

'I feel there is beauty in turning pain into power'

"There is beauty in turning pain into power," actress Kaila Estrada shared when Lifestyle asked her about Max Alvero, her character in the action-drama TV series "Incognito" and the latter's struggle with grief and healing.

Estrada plays a hacker and cyber-ops specialist discharged from the military for insubordination and desertion during an operation. That same mission took the life of her fiancé, a fellow soldier, leaving Max in deep, unresolved grief.

"Max isn't your typical female lead. She's complex and still very much in mourning," Estrada explained. When asked how she was able to find a personal connection with her character, she said, "We've all experienced grief in our lives. Maybe I didn't experience it exactly like Max did, but I definitely know what loss feels like. That made Max's struggles feel painfully real to me."

Without giving too much away, Estrada said that Max's healing journey will unfold gradually throughout the show. "Right now, you'll still see her grieving. But as the story progresses, you'll see how she copes. I really hope viewers who see themselves in Max also see her heal and get inspired by her journey," she told reporters during a recent media gathering.

"Incognito" also stars Maris Racal, Daniel Padilla, Richard Gutierrez, Ian Veneracion, Anthony Jennings, and Baron Geisler.

Grief, Estrada believes, is universal. "Whether it's the loss of a loved one or heartbreak in general, we all experience grief in life. But I feel there is beauty in turning pain into power," she "That's possisaid. ble, and it shows resilience.

Natural beauty

it for something good."

Her perspective on healing isn't just something she applies to her character; it's personal. Growing up, she struggled with insecurities about her skin and complexion. "I had so many pimples during puberty. My sisters al-

It's a great way to grow, heal, and use

ways had amazing skin, so I felt really insecure. Also, compared to them, I'm morena," she shared. "When I see f a c e d then, I didn't feel the same way."

She has since learned to embrace Casao-Roher natural beauty. "I'm so happy that beauty standards have evolved and that more Filipino women are proud to be morena. I'm one of them. I feel that this change has shaped the mentality of young girls now."

Estrada, the daughter of actors Janice de Belen and John Estrada, has three full siblings-Inah, Moira, and Yuan—as well as two half-siblings, Luigi Muhlach and Samantha Anechka Estrada.

As someone who grew up in an industry that often dictates beauty standards, Estrada is proud of how far things have come.

"The entertainment industry, print ads, and brands play a huge part in shaping how people view beauty. We need to be mindful of the impact we have," she said. "I know what it's like to see someone on screen and relate to them—that's what helped me embrace my own beauty. I hope to do that for young girls, too."

Her message to women, especially this past Women's Month, is clear: "I



recently heard this, as well, and it really stuck with me: 'Don't shy away from claiming your seat at the table. And if you don't feel like you have a seat, bring

with Bare your own chair."

She added: "Also, getting up and showing a morena woman, I find her beauti- Arriane up—this is really the best thing you can do ful. But when I looked at myself back Reyes-Recella and for yourself every day, no matter what that Eleanor looks like."

> And if she could send one message to her mom? "Thank you for being the best mom I could ever ask for. For being an example of a strong woman in my eyes. I owe my mom a lot for the person I am today."

Quality time

Estrada turned 29 on March 16 and is hopeful for more projects this year. But more than anything, she wishes for good health and quality time with loved ones. "Time is something you don't get back, and sometimes, when we're busy, we neglect that. That's something I really want to focus on," she shared.

As for "Incognito," Estrada is grateful for the love the show and her character have received. "We all really worked hard for this. We put a lot of heart into it, and as a group, we help each other make our characters and the action scenes better every week. I'm super grateful to those who love Max and appreciate her journey," she said.

The media gathering was to launch Estrada as the ambassador of two products from the local skincare product Barefaced. Also present were founders Arriane Reyes-Recella and Eleanor Casao-Roma.

SEVEN FILIPINO CANADIANS RUN FOR FEDERAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT By Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

FILIPINO CANDIDATES from page 19

DESIDERIO M. REYES (NO **AVAILABLE PHOTO)**

Desiderio Magtanggol Reyes's profile indicates that he is the MP candidate for Vancouver Fraserview-South Burnaby. Reyes is a proud supporter of the People's Party of Canada(PPC). He is "driven by a deep commitment to standing up for his community and defending the core values of freedom, personal responsibility, respect, and fairness. Desiderio Magtanggol believes that "Canada can restore its prosperity and give power back to the people if we have the courage of our convictions."

All 7 FilCan political candidates are reasonably qualified, have solid professional backgrounds & experience and have strong advocacy & volunteer service in their communities, as well. They have admirable people skills and divergent focus in working towards helping and organizing initiatives for the "common good". The 4 Pinays & three Pinoys are hoping and praying that if elected they pledge to uphold their political platform, goals & aspirations, to engage & advocate for local issues, and to serve as the relevant voice for their respective constituencies as well as the "long voiceless members" of the evergrowing Filipino Canadian community. Let "for a better tomorrow". (Tony A. San Juan, us all support our kababayan- candidates

RECHIE VALDEZ

Missisauga—Streetsville, let's keep building, together! With your support, we'll deliver results and keep moving forward. We're ready for this! If you want to come by and get some volunteer hours or just visit our campaign office, you can swing by 19 Pearl Street in Streetsville or call 905-LIBERAL(905-542-3725)



Candid CAMERA



Lorna Sigua and Mercedez Pamulaya prepare the punch during the Filipino Centre Toronto seniors painting class session.

Jay-R entertains capacity VIP dinner concert crowd Arielle Jay R and Mica Javier with the MH Producations talent; 2. Jay R and Mica Javier with the producers; 3. Jay R and Mica Javier with ethe Elarde family; 4. Jay R and Mica Javier with Marky Hugh; 5. Jay R and Mica Javier during the pre-concert presscon; 6 Jay R and Mica Javier with the Perez family

Ivana Alawi: 'Only God decides our fate'

ACTRESS-VLOGGER Ivana Alawi recently issued a vehement denial that contrary to a seeress' grim assertion, she isn't suffering from a life-threatening ailment - cancer.

Ivana admittedly went through a really tough period during the months of October and November last year.

Later diagnosed with PCOS (polycystic ovarian syndrome), the actress had initially experienced an unexplained bloating of her tummy.

Her condition made her family worried sick and anxious, but surprisingly

"Why should I be afraid of 'going ahead' when it's a fact of life? But sorry to disappoint [seeress' name], only God decides our fate!"

Only recently did Ivana host a get-together for the entertainment media. Her first ever generous treat since her successful vlogging began, Ivana — for all the luck that has befallen her from

says she isn't suffering from a life-threatening ailment. PHOTO FROM INSTAGRAM/IVANAALAWI

heaven — still wouldn't spill the tea how much her

"Basta marami akong pera (I have so much mon-

Wild guessers, got rough figures in mind?

Gela Alonte shows support for boyfriend

River Joseph

Gela reacts to "golden retriever energy" brand on her boyfriend.

Nagpahayag ng suporta ang Rise Artist talent na si Gela Alonte para sa boyfriend nitong si River Joseph.

Isa sa housemates ngayon sa Pinoy Big Brother: Collab si River at umaani ito ng mga papuri mula sa netizens at

Binansagan na ngang "golden retriever energy" at "green flag" ang ilan sa kanyang mga katangian.

Sa mga hindi pa nakakaalam, ang "golden retriever energy" ay isang sikat na slang na tumutukoy sa mga taong friendly, enthusiastic, at posi-

Ang "green flag" naman ay ginagamit para sa positive traits ng isang

Sa ABS-CBN Ball 2025 na naganap nitong Friday, April 4, 2025, nakap-

anayam ng Kapamilya DJ na si Jhai Ho si Gela tungkol sa kanyang boyfriend.

Dito humingi ng reaksyon si Jhai Ho kay Gela kung ano ang masasabi nito sa biglang pagdami ng fans at taga-suporta River ngayong mag-iisang buwan na



itong namamalagi sa loob ng bahay ni Kuya.

Sabi ni Gela, "Well, first of all, hindi ko sila masisisi kasi gets na gets ko naman talaga sila. Kahit sino naman mapo-fall at magugustuhan ang ugaling golden retriever ni River.

Kaya nga #goldenre tRIVER."

Toronto Lions Kapuso's donation builds 2 toilets in the Philippines by LI ERON





LABOR OF LOVE AND GRATITUDE

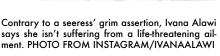
I requested Garcia Park Elem. School (GPES) Principal Sir Joel Casquejo to put Toronto Kapuso Lions Club logo at the completed toilet project donated by Toronto Kapuso Lions Club.

I just got these photos!

The logo is hand painted...amazing!

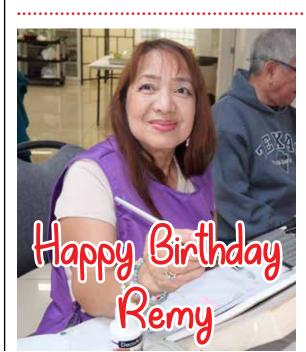
Yes, we're so blessed to help over 200 elementary students and teachers in Bohol. Last year Toronto Kapuso Lions Club build the same 2 toilets for Mangyan students and teachers in Mindoro.

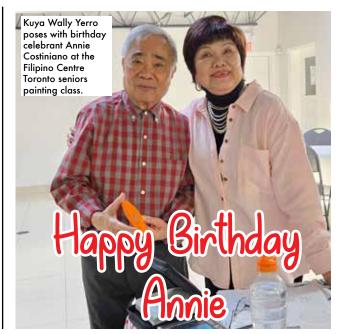




net worth has now reached.

ey)!" she declared.

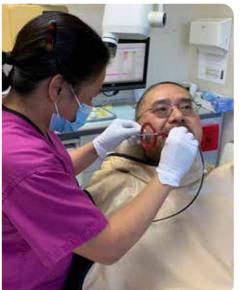




















We offer complete dental care & are accepting new patients.

General Dentistry:

Dr. Victoria Santiago

Dr. Joy Y. Ho

Dr. Amy Fan

Dr. Jennifer Chen

Dr. Damian Yung

Dr. Myra Caballero

Specialty Dentistry:

Dr. Ali Adibfar

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon

Dr. Abbasali Hassanali Periodontist

Registered Dental Hygienist:

Raymond Echavez Gayle Baylon

Call us to book your appointment

416-967-9272

Rosedale Medical Clinic

(Across Sherbourne TTC Station) 600 Sherbourne St. - Suite 307

Toronto

dr.vsliu@bellnet.ca

Website now live thefamilydentistry.ca



Green card holders, travelers caught in Trump's immigration crackdown

SEATTLE, USA - Lewelyn Dixon, a green-card holder who lives near Seattle, was detained when she returned from a trip to the Philippines in February.

When Madonna Cristobal landed at the airport near Seattle in February, she and her aunt waited in the same line for

Cristobal, a U.S. citizen, sailed through. Then she waited for her aunt. And waited.

"One hour, two, three hours," Cristobal said. "I started to worry, and then I'm like, 'Oh, what the heck is going on?""

Cristobal's aunt, Lewelyn Dixon, had been detained by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Dixon is a lawful permanent resident who has lived in the U.S. for 50 years, since the family immigrated to the U.S. from the Philippines. She has traveled internationally many times with her green card and never had any trouble coming back to the U.S. — until now.

"We had a great time visiting our homeland, visiting family," Cristobal said. "My aunt don't deserve this."

It was only after Cristobal and her sister hired a lawyer that they found out why Dixon, who is 64 years old, was detained.

A felony conviction for embezzling nearly \$6,500 from the bank where she worked more than 20 years ago is still on her record. At the time, Dixon pleaded guilty and paid a fine, according to her lawyer. She never served any jail time, though she did spend a month in a halfway house.

But now, any past infraction can loom large as immigration authorities ramp up enforcement at airports and borders crossings.

"It's maximum enforcement these days," said Benjamin Osorio, an immigration lawyer who is representing Dixon.



This is a photo of Lewelyn Dixon. She's wearing sunglasses and a sleeveless outfit, and she's standing in front of

Traveling to the U.S. from abroad has gotten riskier under the Trump administration's crackdown

even for people with valid visas and green cards, immigration lawyers say.

"There isn't a lot of explanation," said Ben Johnson, the executive director of the American Immigration Lawyers Associa-

'There isn't a lot of consistency on what they're doing except trying to find any and every reason to prevent people from coming back into the United States and any and every reason to try to kick people out of the United States," Johnson said.

Border officials are taking a harder line with green-card holders who have minor offenses on their records. That includes Fabian Schmidt, a New Hampshire man originally from Germany who was detained, possibly because of a decade-old misdemeanor charge for marijuana possession in California that was later dismissed.

International tourists have been swept up, too. Two German visitors were detained in California over suspicions that they were planning to work or stay permanently in the United States.

And a backpacker from the United Kingdom was held for three weeks because of a mix-up with her visa. Her father, Paul Burke, says she was transported to the airport for deportation in shackles.

"She's not Hannibal Lecter," Burke told the BBC.

In a statement, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) says it is simply enforcing immigration laws.

"Those who violate these laws will be processed, detained, and removed as required," CBP Assistant Commissioner Hilton Beckham said in a statement to NPR. "Green card holders who have not broken any U.S. laws, committed application fraud, or failed to apply for a re-entry permit after a long period of travel have nothing to fear about entering and exiting the country."

Border officers have always had a lot of discretion when deciding whom to allow into the country, says former CBP Commissioner Gil Kerlikowske, although he questions whether this heightened scrutiny is the best use of resources.

"Some of these detentions don't seem appropriate," Kerlikowske said. "Especially if it was a relatively minor charge. I mean, that's just a waste of taxpayer dol-

Several countries in Europe have updated their travel guidance for the United States. The German government warned that false information, past criminal records or even minor visa overstays could lead to arrest, detention and deportation.

It's hard to say how many green-card holders or travelers have been detained. But immigration lawyers say there are likely more of these cases that haven't been reported.

Lewelyn Dixon's detention has devastated her family.

"Auntie Lynn has been the rock of our family," said Cristobal, Dixon's niece. "She has been what you would call an older sister to us, more than an auntie, because she's been through our marriages, our divorce, our pregnancies, our children's birth."

Dixon left the Philippines when she was 14, along with Cristobal and her siblings, helping them build a new life in the United States.

Cristobal lives with her aunt in Edgewood, a suburb of Seattle. She had to call her aunt's boss at the University of Washington, where she works as a lab tech, to explain why Dixon wouldn't be able to make it in.

A few days later, Dixon was transferred to the Northwest ICE Processing Center in Tacoma, Wash., where she remains nearly a month later. Her next hearing in immigration court is scheduled for July.

Dixon's criminal record would likely not be reason enough by itself for authorities to arrest her and try to revoke her green card inside the U.S., according to Dixon's lawyer. But the rules are different at ports of entry.

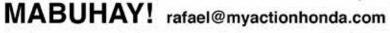
"If she had not traveled, she would not be having the issues that she's having," Osorio said.

Osorio says he's advising all his clients who are lawful permanent residents to become naturalized U.S. citizens if they can.

Some immigration lawyers are telling green-card holders not to leave the country, especially if they have any criminal record in their past - no matter how



To all my kababayans, Feel free to contact me "bibili ka man o hindi." It is always a pleasure to talk to a kababayan.





General Manager



Gani Gregorio Asst. Sales Manager

Don Luche

Accountant



Jose Sarte Service Manager



Ronaldo Aquino Assistant Service Manager



Joseph Redoblado Service Advisor



Roland 'Regi' Geraldez



Ramon Bayani Sales and Leasing Consultant Sales and Leasing Consultant



Pio Regio Senior Lot Attendant





Honda Pilot 2024



Honda Accord 2024

Ramon Miranda Lot Attendant



Marie Miranda Service Appointment Coordinator



Cherie Viernes **Accounting Assistant**



Terry Aquino Cleanup Associate



Honda CR-V 2024



Honda Odyssey 2024

Honda Civic 2024 Honda Passport 2024

NEW & USED CAR SALES • CAR PARTS • BODY SHOP • CAR SERVICE

4334 Kingston Rd., Scarborough ON (south of Lawrence Ave. East) Tel. (416) 281-1234

Little Lm confidential &

Atasha Muhlach wants to be good at playing the 'Bad Genius'



Atasha Muhlach steps into the role of Lin, a brilliant high school student who earns a scholarship at one of the country's top private schools.

After charming the audience with her hosting stint on "Eat Bulaga" and joining their family sitcom "Da Pers Family," Atasha Muhlach is now ready to carve her own path by leading Studio Viva's Philippine adaptation of "Bad Genius."

"I'm very excited but nervous because this is my first lead role," Muhlach declared at the show's official cast reveal event.

Originally a Thai blockbuster in 2017, "Bad Genius" follows a straight-A student who devises a high-stakes cheating scheme. The film became one of Thailand's most internationally successful movies, breaking box office records in several Asian countries.

Its 2020 series adaptation garnered multiple awards, including Best TV Drama Series and Best Screenplay. In 2023, India released its own version, "Farrey," while an American remake premiered last year.

Muhlach steps into the role of Lin,

a brilliant high school student who earns a scholarship at one of the country's top private schools. Coming from a public school background, she struggles to adjust but refuses to be intimidated.

Determined to maintain her grades, she soon turns her academic excellence into a lucrative enterprise.

As this will be her first starring role, Muhlach promised she will do her best.

"When I first heard about it, I already knew that by accepting it, I would give my 100 percent. I don't have any expectations about the outcome, but as long as I can promise myself that I gave my 100 percent, then I'll be super happy with that."

Her preparations included script work, acting workshops, character analysis, and studying

the original material and its adaptations. She also benefits from coaching and guidance from her parents, Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzales.

"We actually discussed it at home. They advised both me and Andres. And they're very excited and super supportive. If we have questions regarding the script or how to approach a certain sequence, they're more than happy to help, and for that, I'm so thankful," she said.

The highly anticipated series is directed by award-winning filmmaker Derick Cabrido, who was named Star Awards 2024 Movie Director of the Year for "Mallari" and won the International Film Fantasy Award 2020 Best Director for "Clarita."

Adapting such a widely acclaimed project came with challenges. Cabrido shared that when he was first offered the project, he took time to consider it carefully. Expectations were high, and he needed to find a way to make it his



Joining Muhlach (leftmost) in the local adaptation of 'Bad Genius' are (from left) Jairus Aquino, Hyacinth Callado and Gab Lagman.

own while respecting the original material.

"This is different from what I usually do, so how will I make it my own?" he recalled asking himself. "You have to meet expectations and also differentiate it from what has been done before."

Once he accepted, Cabrido immediately immersed himself in collaboration, working closely with production design, costumes, cinematography, and music scoring. The cast also underwent extensive workshops to prepare for their roles and understand the material in depth.

Reflecting on the series' global success, Cabrido noted that "Bad Genius" is more than just pop culture entertainment. It delves into social commentaries on the education system, adding depth to its thrilling premise.

"These are the aspects we also wanted to inject, making the whole series not just entertaining but also thought-provoking," he said.

What sets the Filipino adaptation apart is its deeper exploration of each character's background. Cabrido pointed out that while the original film focused on the mechanics of the scheme, the series expands on the characters' personal lives.

"I'm so proud of Viva for this because their approach is different — we had to bring it to a Filipino audience

with a Filipino flavor. Since we are family-oriented, we opened up parts of the series to explore each character's personality. Who are they outside of school? What are their relationships with their families? We went deeper, showing the other facets of why they are the way they are."

Muhlach leads a stellar cast alongside Jairus Aquino, Gab Lagman, and Hy-

acinth Callado, who are also part of Viva One's "University Series."

Aquino plays Bank, a top student who initially sees Lin as competition but joins her "business" due to financial struggles. Lagman portrays Pat, a privileged student whose wealth grants him access to the school despite his academic struggles; he becomes the networker for the scheme. Callado takes on the role of Grace, Pat's girlfriend and Lin's first friend, who seeks high grades to secure a spot in the school's theater group.

Rounding out the cast are seasoned actors Romnick Sarmenta and Yayo Aguila as Lin's parents, Vincent and Winona; Ruffa Gutierrez as the cold and calculating Principal Perez; Irma Adlawan as Bank's widowed mother, Nenita; and Joko Diaz as Pat's wealthy father, Philip. Keagan de Jesus, Alex Payan, and Gold Aceron play Lin's first clients in the scheme.

"Bad Genius: The Series" will stream soon on Viva One.



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

GADOTORE LTD. 940 Ellesmere Rd. (NE Kennedy) Toronto Ontario M1P 2W8

> 416-291-9501 www.roadsport.com

Bad Credit? New Credit? Bankruptcy? Divorced? Credit Counseling?

NO PROBLEM!!!

Come In And See More Choices Of Vehicles





**2017 Chevrolet Sonic LT Super low kilometers! FROM \$ 12,690



*2017 Hyundai Ioniq Electric Limited BRAND NEW CONDITION/LOW KILOMETERS! FROM \$ 14,646



*2021 Nissan Versa SR FROM \$ 16,590



*2021 Hyundai Elantra Preferred FROM \$ 16,690

Call Harold for Appointment Ca 416-578-7351

HAROLD GUARIN

Fleet & Leasing Manager

New & Used Sales haroldg@roadsport.com







"It takes time, pero as

"Áko, mahal ko si Nestor,

much as possible, sana hindi

niyo makalimutan na mina-

kahit hindi na kami together.

Kasi tatay iyan ng mga anak

naitulong niya sa akin as a

person, dahil marami akong

natutunan sa kanya."

niyang si Vince Teotico.

"And ang laki nang

SOLOMON'S

hal nyo isa't isa.



See Harold for details **All vehicles are plus \$10.00 omvic fee and HST, Licensing and \$40.00 gas extra. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. PRICES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

Chariz Solomon opens up for the first time about her failed marriage

"Siguro, I lost touch din doon sa role ko as a wife."



Sa unang pagkakataon, nag-open up si Chariz Solomon sa dahilan kung bakit naghiwalay sila ng kanyang mister na si Nestor Ng pagkatapos ng anim na taong pagsasama.

Ikinasal sina Chariz at Nestor noong 2012, at naghiwalay noong 2018. May dalawa silang anak-sina Apollo, 11, and Ali, 9.

Sa mediacon para sa pelikulang Samahan Ng Mga Makasalanan noong March 27, 2025, sinabi na comedienne na never pa raw nivana naikuwento ang tungkol sa paghihiwalay nila ni Nestor.

"Hindi ko talaga kinukuwento iyon. Hindi lang talaga ako masa PEP ikukuwer

Bakit sila nagkahiwalay?

'Sivempre, dumaratina sa buhay na maa-asawa na you both arow apart. Nag-iba na kayo ng mga plano sa buhay.

"Hanggang ngayon, okay kami ni Nestor. Kasi ang gusto namin talaga, yung lahat ng ginagawa namin, para sa mga bata na mahal na mahal namin."

Pareho na rin silang naka-move on.

Sa mga sumusubaybay sa social-media accounts ng StarStruck alumna, pati na rin sa mga nakabasa sa previous interview niya with PEP, nabanggit na niya ang tungkol sa kanyang blended family.

Sa paapapatulov ni Chariz, "Actually, meron na siyana partner, Ako din, meron na. Magkasama na lang noong nag-celebrate ng birthday yung anak niya sa partner niya.

We're very good friends. Tapos yun nga, na-finalize na rin yung annulment namin."

Na-grant ang annulment nina Chariz at Nestor nito lamang January 2025

THE TIME CHARIZ SOLOMON FILED THE ANNULMENT

Nag-file si Chariz noong January 2019, pero inabutan daw ng pandemic kaya tumagal na anim na taon.

Binalikang-tanaw niya ang sad moment na iyon.

"Noong pinirmahan ko na yung papers, naİungkot ako. Kasama ko nga si Buboy [Villar] that time.

"Umiyak ako.

"Sinabi nga ni Buboy sa akin, ang importante ay naging friends kami ni Nestor.

"Actually, I don't support yung mga marriage na nag-end. Hindi



Chariz Solomon and ex-husband Nestor Ng with their first- ang mga kinaharap nilang born Apollo. This photo was problema. taken in 2014.

"I think nag-try naman kami. Lahat naman na mar-

DIDN'T WORK

ba ana marriage nila.

pero nagpatung-patong

riage, meron talagang mga pinagdadaanan. Pero, yun nga, minsan lang talaga, may mga moments of weakness tavo.

"Madaming dumaan kasi sa buhay ko, e. Namatay tatay ko, ang dami kong sakit, nagsanga-sanga na sa sobrang lungkot.

"Na-depress ako. Pumayat ako sa depression bago ako magkaroon ng third baby. So yun ang time na we separated.

'Siguro, I lost touch din doon sa role ko as a wife. Hindi ko kayang i-share kung ano talaga yun, pero ako, sa tingin ko, yung nagawa kong pagkakamali, masyado ako nag-focus sa motherhood. Na siguro nakalimutan ko yung pagiging wife sa asawa ko.

"Madaming factors talaga. Siguro bata pa talaga ako. Kasi kinasal kami 21 years old lang ako "

CHARIZ HAS NO REGRETS. NO BAD WORDS FOR NESTOR

At sa kabila ng mga nangyari, hindi raw pinagsisihan ni Chariz ana chapter na vun na kanvana buhav.

"I will never regret our marriage," paglilinaw ng 35-year-old Ka-

"At the end of the day, I will always respect him, I will always advocate for him. "Ipagtatanggol ko siya. Wala akong sasabihing masama kay

Nestor kasi ayoko na paglaki ng mga anak ko, may mababasa sila na hindi maganda. So, open kami mag-uusap sa mga anak namin.

"Kasi ang mga bata, akala mo, hindi nila naiintindihan yuna maa nangyayari. Akala nung mga magulang, hindi alam ng mga bata yung nangyayari. Ginagawa nila sa harap mo, sinasabi nila sa harap mo, na parang wala kang naririnig. Pero lahat yun, matatandaan

"So open kami sa maa anak namin at wala kamina tinataao sa

Hindi na raw nila sinubukang magpa-marriage counseling. Ana reason ni Chariz: "Hindi kasi ako naniniwala sa counselina.

"Pero mas naniniwala ako sa prayers. Kasi iba-iba ang opinyon ng tao. Kasi feeling ko makakadagdag lang sa isipan namin.

"At saka, baka may mabubuksan pang mga ano na hindi mo alam, so mas nagpe-pray na lang kami.

Ano ang maipapayo niya sa mga couples na naghihiwalay?

"Ang importante, sana yung sa mga relationship na hindi talaga mag-work, lalo na kung may anak kayo, maging ano na lang kayo, maging, like, i-try niyo maging friends.



CHARIZ Solomon and FIANCE her fiance Vince Teotico, Ang nagpapangiti ngayon kay who is also the father of Chariz ay ang non-showbiz partner her third child.

Nag-propose daw si Vince sa kanya noong December 2023 pa. "Christmas siya nag-propose, December 25. Over breakfast

siya nag-propose. Nasa hotel kami kasi doon kami nag-Christmas. Kasi yung dalawang anak ko, nag-America kasama ng daddy nila. So Christmas morning siya nag-propose.

"Masaya at masarap sa pakiramdam. Pero wala pa kami sa usapang pagpapakasal. Kasi ang inuuna namin ay bibili kami ng house. So doon lahat ng pera namin nakalaan ngayon.

"Yung bahay namin ni Nestor, nakapangalan na sa mga bata iyon. On top of the separation, wala kami pag-aaway kasi, lahat ginawa lana namin para sa maa bata."

Sina Chariz at Vince ay may four-year-old baby, si Andreas.

Handa na ba si Chariz kung sakaling humiling ulit ng isa pang

"Bakit hindi? Kung ibigay ni Lord, okay lang. Pero kung hindi, okay lana din po. Paa-uusapan at paplanuhin namin. May ano na kasi, may bara!" sabay tawa niya.

"Okay lang naman sa akin, kaso may kapaa nagkakaanak ako. nakakalimutan ko ang magtrabaho.

"Hindi ko nagiging priority ang work. Kumbaga addict na addict ako sa anak ko. May malalang attachment ako sa baby.

"Hindi ko kaya yung dalawa priorities ko. Kapag may anak ako, anak ko lana talaaa."

CHARIZ'S PROJECTS Kaya naman thankful si Chariz na tuluy-tuloy ang trabaho niya.

Bukod sa regular shows niya sa GMA-7 na Bubble Gang at Pepito Manaloto: Tuloy ang Kuwento, kasama rin siya sa satirical comedy ng GMA Picture at Lonewolf Films na Samahan Ng Mga Makasalanan, kunsaan bida si Kapuso leading man at Pambansang Ginoo David

Pinasok na rin ni Chariz ang ibang larangan ng sining at ito ay ang paggawa ng sculptured art.

Nagsimula raw ito noong pandemic at natulungan siya ng comedian na si Jun Sabayton, na co-star niya sa Samahan Ng Mga Makas-

"Asawa ko sa movie si Kuya Jun Sabayton. Para talaga akong nilead ni Lord sa movie na ito, para ma-meet ko si Kuya Jun. "Kasi nung pandemic, I started doing sculptured art. So it's fulltime media art. So nag-aral lang ako sa mga videos. Tapos si Kuya Jun, sinali nga ako sa art exhibit.

Ipinakita ko sa kanya yung mga gawa ko during our shoot ng movie, tapos after that, nabuhayan yung loob ko na dapat i-post ko pala para alam ng mga tao.



"Gumagawa ako ng art para sa friends ko, para sa bahay nila. Pero nasa Instagram ko ang sculptured art. Sa canvas siya, tapos parang

clay, 3D art siya. "Hindi ko pa nga iniisip yung mabebenta siya. Ang gusto ko lang, validation. So yung sinali nga ako sa exhibit, yung mga kasama ko, mga veterano na sila. Ako lang yata ang babae na

Chariz Solomon's artwork May Dusa

"Tapos may nag-message akin. Meron siyang

. Nakuha ni Chariz ang hinihiling niyang validation dahil nitong

April 4, nag-debut ang kanyang sculptured art na May Dusa sa Kontra

Bida exhibit sa Faculty Projects sa Kapitolyo. Pasig City.

Ginamit ni Chariz sa kanyang gawa ang real name niyang Charyze Paaotan

. Tampok din sa exhibit ang mga artworks nina Bijan Gorospe, Jeje Santos, Lourd De Veyra, at Ryan Sandagon.

Ang ivory sculpture

ni Chariz ay nagpapakita ng babaeng may screaming face sa gitna at may mga ahas sa kanyana

Samahan Ng Mga Makas-buhok. Parang modern twist alanan stars (from middle, ito sa mythological character 1st row, clockwise) David Licauco, Liezl Lopez, David na si Medusa. Minemoto, Betong Sumaya,

On Instagram, ni-reveal Joel Torre, Chariz Solomon, ni Chariz na si Michael V. ang Buboy Villar, Sanya Lopez. nagpangalan sa kanyang obra.

Pinuri naman nina Carla Abellana, Chynna Ortaleza, Mikoy Morales, Sheena Halili, at Ashley Rivera ang pinost niyang sculpture sa

Kontra Bida opened on April 3 and will run until May 3.



Benedict Cua expresses support for best friend Mika Salamanca

Sa isang TikTok video nitong Huwebes, April 3, 2025, ibinahagi ng Sparkle GMA Artist Center talent na si Benedict Cua ang kanyang buong suporta para sa kaibigan niyang si Mika Salamanca.

Si Mika ay isa sa mga kasalukuyang housemates ng Pinoy Big Brother: Celebrity Collab edition, at ang ka-duo ng kapwa housemate na si Bianca de Vera.

BENEDICT CUA'S FRIENDSHIP WITH MIKA SALA-MANCA

Sinimulan ni Benedict ang kanyang TikTok video na may birong palabasin na si Mika sa bahay.

Sabi niya, "Palabasin niyo na si Mika Salamanca sa bahay ni Kuya, guys. Dahil masyado na siyang matagal diyan. Hindi siya nag-attend sa binyag ng anak ko!"

Kasunod nito, hinikayat ni Benedict ang kanyang social me-

dia followers na suportahan si Mika sa journey nito sa loob ng bahay ni Kuya.

Ibinahagi rin niya kung paano nagsimula ang kanilang pagkakaibigan.

Ayon kay Benedict, una niyang nakilala si Mika noong 2019.

Pagbabalik-tanaw niya, "Parang nakilala ko ata si Mika nung 2019, nung gumawa kami ng meet and greet-slash-performance. Sabay-sabay kaming na-scam."

Nang dahil sa kanilang naging experience sa nasabing event, naging close na sila.

BENEDICT CUA ON MIKA SALAMANCA: "SHE'S MIS-UNDERSTOOD"

On a serious note, ibinahagi ni Benedict kung bakit sa tingin niya ay naging swak ang kanilang personalities at naging tunay



silang magkaibigan.

Para kay Benedict, nakita niya ang sarili kay Mika, lalo na kung paano nito na-handle ang bashers nito. Partikular na ang controversial issue nito noon nang mahuli sa Hawaii dahil sa

paglabag sa quarantine protocols.

Bahagi ni Benedict, "The reason why kaya nag-work ang friendship namin, because I see a lot of myself in her. Si Mika, always misunderstood by a lot of people.

"Dati, madalas ko dine-defend yung sarili ko. Hindi naman maiiwasan kasi yung bashing sa social media.

"Kahit sabihin mo sa isang daang tao, gusto ka nung 99, maapektuhan ka pa rin kahit may isang sobrang hate ka.

"At habang tumatagal, dumadami ang isyu niya... She was often misunderstood to a point na never na siyang nagkaroon ng energy to even say anything to protect herself.

"Kahit ano namang sinasabi niya, hindi siya pinapakinggan. She has done a lot of mistakes in the past na pinagsisihan niya at nakita ko talaga personally yung growth niya."

Matatandaang sa isang episode ng Pinoy Big Brother: Celebrity Collab, ikinuwento rin ni Mika ang naging pag-aresto sa kanya sa Hawaii noong 2020, dahil sa pag-violate ng mandatory 14-day quarantine for travelers.

"Nagtiwala po ako sa kanya kasi taga-doon siya 'tapos nung nakita po ng mga tao... lumabas ako nung quarantine, first day ko roon. Na-bash po ako nun and na-arrest po ako nun."

BENEDICT CUA ADMIRES MIKA SALAMANCA'S RESILIENCE

Hinahangaan din ni Benedict si Mika dahil sa resilience na ipinakita nito kahit na pinuputakte na siya ng bashers.

Patungkol ni Benedict kay Mika, "If anything, sobrang saludo ako sa kanya, out of all of the content creators that I have known. Bugbog na yan. Bugbog na sa bashing, sa issue, hindi nauubos.

"Bilib ako sa kanya, kasi kung ako sa kanya, ang tagal ko na nag-quit.

"She had occassional mental breakdowns that nobody ever knew. But her heart was still the same. Pag friend ka niya, poprotektahan ka niya."

Ngayong nasa Pinoy Big Brother na si Mika, natutuwa si Benedict sa magandang pagtanggap ng publiko rito, lalo't nabibigyan na ito ng pagkakataong maipakita ang tunay nitong personalidad.

Sabi ni Benedict, "Sobrang saya ako na nakapasok si Mika sa PBB, dahil ito yung isang opportunity na makita niyo who she really is without her even trying to explain or defend herself.

"Makikita niyo na lang what her personality is, and I'm sure everybody is still holding back at this point. I'm so excited kung paano yung mga upcoming days."

Ngayong Sabado, April 5, 2025, umabot na sa 4.2 million views ang TikTok post ni Benedict. Nakatanggap din ang kanyang video ng mahigit 400,000 likes.













We offer complete dental care & are accepting new patients.

General Dentistry:

Dr. Victoria Santiago

Dr. Joy Y. Ho

Dr. Amy Fan

Dr. Jennifer Chen

Dr. Damian Yung

Dr. Myra Caballero

Specialty Dentistry:

Dr. Ali AdibfarOral and Maxillofacial Surgeon

Dr. Abbasali Hassanali Periodontist

Registered Dental Hygienist:

Raymond Echavez
Gayle Baylon

Call us to book your appointment

416-967-9272

Rosedale Medical Clinic
(Across Sherbourne TTC Station)
600 Sherbourne St. - Suite 307
Toronto
dr.vsliu@bellnet.ca

Website now live
thefamilydentistry.ca