

FIL-CANS CONCERNED

Canada's Filipino Communities Worry About Corruption in the Philippines

Filipinos living in Canada may have seen striking photos online of mass protests in the

Philippines last month.

Should Filipinos in Canada be concerned about the rallies

happening in the Philippines regarding corruption?
You should.

Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025,
marked the 53rd anniversary
of the day former Philippine

dictator Ferdinand Marcos Sr.
imposed martial law on the

FIL-CANS page 20



Carney, Marcos vow to strengthen Canada-Phil ties

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. have pledged to deepen ties between their two countries.

The two leaders spoke by phone on July 3, 2025 and discussed a range of issues.

“Prime Minister Carney emphasized opportunities to deepen Canada’s relationship with the Philippines in investment and commerce, including by advancing free trade. The two leaders agreed on the importance of a free and open Indo-Pacific, and of the efforts of both Canada and the Philippines to uphold the rules-based international order and security in the region,” stated a readout released by Car-

nev's office.

The summary also noted: "The leaders discussed the close economic and cultural ties between Canada and the Philippines, with nearly one million Canadians of Filipino descent."

Carney and Marcos also “reflected on the Lapu-Lapu Day tragedy in Vancouver earlier this year and expressed their deep condolences to all those affected”.

It may be recalled that 11 people died and scores were injured when a driver rammed a vehicle through a crowd after the April 26, 2025 Lapu-Lapu festival in Vancouver.

The readout likewise stated that Carney “extended an invitation to President

CANADA-PHL page 8



Trini James looks at some of the paintings of Filipino Centre art instructor and artist Frank Cruzet at McKay Art Centre. The other painters in the exhibit are Jhun Ciola Diamante and Nerissa Pineda.

Here's why Canada's parents and grandparents reunification program is problematic

Megan Gaucher, Asma Atique, Ethel Tungohan, Harshita Yalamarty

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's recent announcement that it's accepting 10,000 sponsorship applications under the Parent and Grandparents Program (PGP) comes with an important caveat.

Due to persistent backlog, invitations will only be sent to the 17,860 potential sponsors who submitted an interest-to-sponsor application back in 2020.

While good news for some, it means yet another cycle

of uncertainty for thousands of families who have waited years for the PGP to finally reopen.

Migrant families seek permanent reunification for reasons other than a desire

TARIFFS page 6

Canadian churches weigh in on ICC case against ex-Phil president Duterte

An interfaith movement in Canada says that the prosecution of former Philippines president Rodrigo Duterte before the International Criminal Court is a “historic opportunity to affirm the primacy of human rights and

the rule of law”.

The social justice coalition called KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives or simply KAIROS made the statement in anticipation of a hearing by the

KAIROS from page 1



Happy Birthday Felix



Carla Abellana amused by ‘Patron Saint of Concerned Citizens’ title

MANILA, Philippines — Kapuso actress Carla Abellana happily embraced being called the “Patron Saint of Concerned Citizens” by social media users following her numerous posts regarding accountability.

Carla appeared on the September 25 episode of “Fast Talk with Boy Abunda” where the television host brought up the actress’ new title as the “Call-Out Queen.”

The actress admitted being amused by Filipinos’ creativity, “Paano nila naisip or how do they come up with such titles? I guess in a way medyo flattered kasi nabibigyan ng title, ng pansin in a way, so for me parang laughing matter siya.”

She affirmed Boy’s point that she will react to issues she is affected by directly in any way as such instances are where frustration, anger, and helplessness emerge.

“Siguro ‘yung frustration na rin [ang] trigger be-



cause parang I feel like it’s about time I used my voice, enough na ‘yung pagiging tahimik,” Carla continued.



Honey Shot

Ramcel, 24, loves swimming and painting. She goes to University of Toronto and is taking major in history and women and gender studies. His parents are Nodelio and Gina Lea dela Cruz.

We wish her all the luck in her endeavours.

Ramcel dela Cruz



Lou, celebrant Lilian and Kuya Wally pose as Bernadette lights up the candle.

“If you want to prove a certain point, if it really affects you in a certain way, speak up about it na.”

Carla acknowledged that there is a negative side to being vocal on different issues, particularly when there are those will disagree or have negative reactions.

“I guess sanay na rin ako because of our industry na talagang ultimo ‘yung mga wala nang kinalaman from the past, hinahalungkat nila, ibabalik nila, gagamitin nila,” Carla ended.



Happy Birthday Krystelle



Little Miss Philippine Canada 2025 Krystelle Rivas celebrated her 10th birthday surrounded by family and friends.

FROM THE EDUCATOR'S DESK: By Tony A. San Juan, OCT

MARTIAL LAW DECLARATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES: A HISTORICAL TIMELINE

To many Filipinos around the world, September is the month in the Philippines that is laden with historical significance. To Juan de la Cruz and the common tao, September, together with the 3 other "ber" months, kick off the start of the "longest Christmas season in the world." Historically speaking, September to many members of the silent and baby-boomer generations of Filipinos grimly remembered and grudgingly commemorated the month when the infamous Martial Law was declared by President Ferdinand Marcos in 1972.

Martial law in the Philippines or "Batas Militar sa Pilipinas", according to Wikipedia, refers to the "various historical instances in which the Philippine head of state placed all or part of the country under military control." Under the current Constitution of the Philippines, the president, as head of state and commander in chief of the armed forces, may declare martial law "in case of invasion or rebellion, when the public safety requires it." Other countries label it "state of emergency". Typically, its imposition accompanies curfews, the suspension of civil law, civil rights, habeas corpus, and the application or extension of military law or military justice to civilians.

Martial Law, as many Filipinos still remember (or have almost forgotten now to some extent for some reasons), is most prominently associated with former President Ferdinand Marcos. But not many people know the late strongman was not the first to declare Martial Law. Before the late President declared Proclamation 1081 on September 21, 1972, there had been seven other instances in the country's history where the government decided to declare martial law to stamp out insurrection or quell disorder or rule with dictatorial powers.. Two of these happened during the Spanish colonial period, another during the 1886 Revolution under General Aguinaldo, twice during the Second World War, and two times during Presidents Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Rodrigo Duterte administrations..

The following is a historical timeline of Martial Law declarations in the country:

April 1871. Governor-General Rafael de Izquierdo declared martial law in the provinces of Cavite and Pampanga as a measure against banditry.

August 30, 1896. Following the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution in August 1896, Governor-General Ramon Blanco declared on August 30th the imposition of martial law in eight provinces: Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Pampanga, Tarlac, Laguna, Batangas, and Nueva Ecija, the first provinces to join the revolution. The declaration provided 48 hours

to give amnesty to rebels except their leaders. It was lifted on December 10, 1898

May 23 1898, General Emilio Aguinaldo, after his exile in Hong Kong, returned to the Philippines on May 19, 1898, to resume the revolution. On May 23, Aguinaldo issued a Revolutionary decree in which he assumed command of all Filipino military forces and established a dictatorial government under a dictatorial leadership "to determine first the real needs of the country."

January 2, 1942. During World War II, the commander-in-chief of the Imperial Forces, Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma, proclaimed martial law in all occupied areas after Manila was captured by the Japanese.

September 22, 1944. President José P. Laurel of the wartime Second Philippine Republic declared Martial Law in the Philippines in 1944 through Proclamation No. 29. It declared the existence of a state of war between the Philippines, the United States and Great Britain. It was lifted on August 17, 1945

September 21, 1972. President Ferdinand Marcos, through Presidential Proclamation 1081, announced on September 23, 1972, that he had placed the entirety of the Philippines under martial law. When he declared martial law, Marcos claimed that he had done so in response to the "communist threat" posed by the newly founded Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), and the sectarian "rebellion" of the Mindanao Independence Movement (MIM). This marked the beginning of a 14-year one-man rule, which would effectively last until Marcos was exiled from the country on February 25, 1986. Marcos dissolved Congress, padlocked the doors to the Batasang Pambansa, suspended the writ of habeas corpus and assumed both legislative and executive powers for himself as president. Martial law was lifted on January 17, 1981, through Proclamation 2045. Marcos, however, continued to rule the country while retaining virtually all the executive powers he held as dictator, through a combination of the 1972 Constitution and the various decrees he had put in place before martial law, which all remained in effect. This continued until 1986, when he went into exile after the 1986 People Power Revolution. "Some modules have reportedly rebranded the Martial Law Years as the New Society Period."

December 4, 2009. Through Proclamation No. 1959, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo officially placed Maguindanao province under a state of martial law, thereby suspending the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus. The step was taken to avert the escalation of "law-

1970S: MASS EMIGRATION

The 1970s saw massive emigration from the Philippines to Canada. Overpopulation, economic hardship and political circumstances in the Philippines led to more people seeking a better future in Canada. The declaration of martial law in 1972 also encouraged many people to seek opportunities abroad. By 1995, more than 220,000 Filipinos had arrived in Canada as landed immigrants. These immigrants were seeking not only economic opportunities, but also the hope of providing a better future for their families.

less" violence in the province and pave the way for the swift arrest of the suspects in the massacre. The state of martial law in Maguindanao was lifted on December 13, 2009.

May 23, 2017. President Rodrigo Duterte, through Proclamation Number 216, placed Mindanao and its nearby islands under martial

law "due to the escalation of conflicts in Mindanao and clashes in Marawi City related to the Maute Group. The Martial law was in effect for 60 days. Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella said the declaration was possible given the "existence of rebellion." While the declaration did not currently affect citizens and government units in Luzon or the Visayas, President Duterte suggested that he might extend martial law to the entire country if needed to "protect the people."

One Filipino political historian wrote that "While martial law can be beneficial in true emergencies, it has a history of allowing political leaders to abuse power. During Martial law, the dictatorial leader possessed absolute power, which he used to quell political opposition and strengthen his control over the country." Critics said, "All the benefits of martial law are currently outweighed by the lack of clear grounds on which it can be enacted and by who can mandate it."

Comedian Ate Gay diagnosed with stage 4 cancer: 'Wala raw lunas'

Ate Gay has temporarily stepped away from performing after being diagnosed with stage 4 cancer.

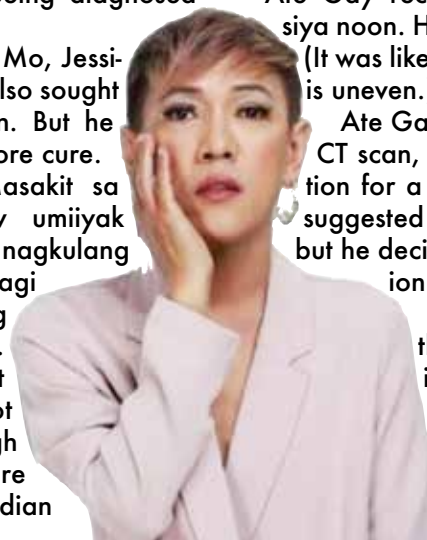
According to "Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho," Ate Gay has also sought prayers for his condition. But he was told that it has no more cure.

"Wala raw lunas. Masakit sa akin. Halos araw-araw umiiyak ako. Hindi naman ako nagkulang kay Lord. Although lagi kong sinasabi na walang himala. (There is no cure. It hurts me. I cry almost every day. I have not failed the Lord. Although I always say that there are no miracles)," the comedian

said. Ate Gay recalled, "Parang beke lang siya noon. Hindi pantay ang mukha ko. (It was like I just had mumps. My face is uneven.)"

Ate Gay had an ultrasound and a CT scan, leading to a recommendation for a biopsy. The initial findings suggested that the mass was benign, but he decided to seek a second opinion.

The comedian expressed that he is hurt after being told he won't live until 2026. "I need prayers. I need strength, and I hope I can handle my everyday life for now."



PCCF at Ube Wonderland



Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) Little Miss Philippines 2nd runner-up Scarlet walks the Santacruzán at Ube Wonderland Festival at Scarborough Town Centre.

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Charity begins With God’s Strength Ministries at The Filipino Centre, Toronto



God’s Strength Ministries continues with their Free Food Distribution every Friday at 5-7pm at the Filipino Centre, Toronto as long as the weather permits.



🤔😬 Proud of her but ... 😊🤔

Filipinos Proud of Jessica Sanchez but...
We did not listen to her music. Not when she was the featured artist at one Mabuhay festival.



I remember that she was the featured artist of Mabuhay Festival after she finished as the runner-up in the grand finals behind Phillip Phillips on May 23, 2012. Ironically, her reception was tepid because of her choice of songs. At one point, she announced her following number. “I am going to sing a song from one of my favourite artists.” Uh-oh. When a singer makes that kind of introduction, you know you’re not going to like it. And she finished the intro by saying “Janis Joplin.” I was thinking, “Janis Joplin? Isn’t she a rock singer?” And I was right. She sang a rock song that no one in the audience was familiar with. Well, not a lot. She sang other songs too that were not actually well-known to the crowd that attends these events.

Ironically, when I am reading her background on the internet recently, it showed her repertoire from different genre and rock was not in any of them. I guess she did not try to push her rock songs. FYI, Singer Jessica Sanchez was crowned the winner of America’s Got Talent Season 20 on September 24. Sanchez, who is eight months pregnant, took home the \$1 million grand prize after beating out fellow finalists Chris Turner and Jourdan Blue.

Like a Battered partner...
Why do people stay in an abusive relationship, with someone who beats you up regularly? Sometimes, the familiar is more comforting than the unknown is how experts explain it. Or, the victim feels helpless without the other person. They believe they will not survive without that person. I think that is how or why Filipinos vote for the same politicians again and again. Why keep repeating the same mistakes again and again and expecting a different result? Si Bong Revilla binoto pa nila dahil sumayaw lang ng “budots?” Now, it seems everyone is out rallying in the Philippines because of the massive corruption regarding flood control programs. It’s possible, however, slight, that this issue may bring some change. For one thing, this follows the surprising win in the senatorial race of Bam Aquino



and Kiko Pangilinan who were not even included in opinion surveys that has a possibility of winning. They were not even included in the surveys of the so-called magic 12. The big win of Aquino and Pangilinan in the midterms was a “big improvement” for the Senate opposition, according to Ma. Ela Atienza, a political science professor at the University of the Philippines Diliman. Without any exit polls to determine how the population voted, Atienza refused to make a “sweeping generalization” that the youth—meaning the millennials and Gen Zs—sent Aquino and Pangilinan back to the Senate. So, we’ll see if this flood control corruptions issue and election of Bam and Kiko will bring more changes to the political landscape sa Pilipinas.

China’s death penalty for Corruption
China’s former minister for agriculture has been sentenced to death on corruption charges, with a two-year reprieve, a court statement said. Tang Renjian accepted cash and property bribes totaling more than 268 million yuan (€32.4 million) between 2007 and 2024, the People’s Court of Changchun in northeast Jilin province said in a statement. Ito ang request ni Vice Ganda kay President Bongbong Marcos. Ibalik daw ang death penalty

for corruption. Kapag ginawa ni PBBM iyan, wala nang matitira sa government. Sus Guinoo, sino magpapakto ng bansa? At kapag ginawa mo naman na iyan ang punishment sa corruption, sino pa magtatrabaho sa government at tatakbo na politician? Hindi iyong monthly salary, or dental, medical, o pension plan ang benefit kundi iyang corruption under the table na lang nga ang benefit nila. Ehe, este, ano ba itong nasabi ko? 😊

Canada Post Union goes on strike 🤖
Let’s talk about life in Canada naman. There was a time when unions can threaten a company with a strike. Companies will easily give in when they go on strike. The Canadian Union of Public Workers (CUPW) representing Canada Post workers went on strike. Pero this time, the people barely noticed. No one is clamoring the government to give the workers what they want. If they strike in March, people worry about not receiving their tax refunds from Canada Revenue Agency. This time, no one is worried about not receiving their refunds or bills in the mail because they get both online. In fact, the government has ordered Canada Post to stop door to door (DTD) deliveries and convert them to community mailboxes dahil kaunti na lang ang mail na dine-deliver. I admit, I receive only a handful of mail nowadays. Iyong bills are just notifications. It actually gets debited from my credit card or bank account naman. I will still miss my DTD mail delivery. My address is one of thossse that still deliver sa bahay. Lucky me. I guess mawawala na rin. It will also close some post offices in areas that are no longer rural to avoid duplication of services. As the song by Bob Dylan in 1964, The Times They Are A-Changin’. 😊

Seniors in Action Presents *A Special Afternoon of Learning & Inspiration Insights on Caregiving, Aging, and Brain Health*

TORONTO - Seniors in Action held a seminar on Caring for the Caregiver to an Aging Adult at The Filipino Centre Toronto. The first part was presented by Ron Beleno, Award-Winning Caregiving Advocate & Coach. This 30-minute presentation + Q&A highlighted the importance of caring for yourself while caring for an aging adult. Drawing from lived caregiving experience, community leadership, and innovative practices, Ron Beleno shared practical strategies to help caregivers maintain balance, resilience, and hope. Ron Beleno is an award-winning caregiving advocate recognized by the Ontario Caregiver Organization for his leadership and impact. With over a decade of experience caring for his father living with Alzheimer’s, Ron has since supported thousands of families, innovators, and organizations in aging and caregiving. He



continues to inspire communities to integrate compassion, innovation, and leadership into care. The second appt was Caring for the Brain - A Healthy Lifestyle Guide for Family Caregivers and was presented by Joanne Cheng Tandoc, MSc Psychology & Neuroscience This 30-minute presentation + Q&A was designed to empower family caregivers with the latest science-backed strate-

gies for protecting and enhancing brain health-both for their loved ones and for themselves. Drawing from neuroscience, health psychology, and practical caregiving experience, Joanne Cheng Tandoc introduces the S.H.A.R.P. framework, a simple yet powerful model to guide everyday lifestyle choices that support cognitive wellness. Joanne Cheng-Tandoc is an internationally-trained dementia care profes-



1. Attendees at the seminar; 2. Ron Beleno; 3. Nimfa Lim with Joanne Cheng-Tandoc

sional with over 20 years of experience in clinical, research, and community health education. She holds master’s degrees in Human Development Psychology and Applied Neuroscience and currently coaches individuals, families, and health-care professionals on wellness, brain health, and dementia care through her health coaching service, Remember Me. It was awell-attended seminar.

PERSPECTIVE AND PERCEPTION

Glimpses On Significant Developments In The Philippines



Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

Philippines as Culinary Centre

Early last month, the very first International Manila Food Festival was staged and gathered Filipino chefs from all over the world at Newport World Resorts Manila. The four-day event held numerous collaborations, a grand tasting, and a congress to talk about sustainability, food innovation, and heritage preservation. The festival is celebrated annually “to unite us all with a shared purpose: to make Filipino gastronomy world-class. Said organizer Anton Diaz: “Our strength lies in our diversity, with Filipino cuisine celebrated for its bold flavors, interpreted by chefs, cooks, and food artists around the world.” One national newspaper F&B columnist, cited that in “2025 the Philippines gets its rightful seat in the dining table, front and center, as it becomes the most happening and busiest player in Southeast Asia when it comes to the field of gastronomy.” Among the other developments, the country has a bunch of other exciting endeavors that have the country shining bright under the culinary spotlight are: 1) The Michelin Guide, an authoritative restaurant guidebook is finally coming to the country, starting with Cebu & Manila, is expected to be published in the 4th quarter of the year. 2) Philippine Tatler’s signature annual food festival with a gathering of Manila-based chefs for multiple collaborations.3) Italy’s Terra Madre, founded by Slow Food International, will have an Asian chapter in November 2025, in Bacolod City. Under the theme “From Soil to Sea: A Slow Food Journey Through Tastes & Traditions,” the five-day event will be hosting taste workshops, cooking demos, and conferences. 4) Confer-



Aging Philippine Workforce

The young Philippines workforce is seen aging faster than expected. according to UK-based Pantheon Macroeconomic. Pantheon cited that the “Philippines will remain a relatively young nation over the next three decades, but its population is set to age faster than expected as declining fertility, influenced by rising living costs and more women entering the workforce, weighs on family formation.” Citing United Nations projections, Pantheon said, the “country’s working-age population was now expected to peak in 2053, 24 years earlier than a prior estimate of 2077.” The shift comes as the fertility rate slips below the replacement level of 2.1 births per woman, dropping to 1.9 in 2022 from 2.7 in 2017, a decline that may have been accelerated by the COVID pandemic. The drop, according to Pantheon’s chief economist Miguel Chanco, reflects both “positive long-term changes”

and “negative economic reasons.” Despite the trend, Chanco said the Philippines isn’t at risk of aging too quickly. A bigger challenge, he noted, is still overpopulation, which is straining public resources and fueling fierce competition for scarce quality jobs. That, in turn, is driving an acute “brain drain” of skilled Filipino workers that could undermine human capital, innovation and long-term growth. “There’s a reason why the country remains a huge exporter of manpower, for instance,” Chanco said. “There simply are not enough quality jobs domestically, so brain drain remains a big issue.” “Sa gayon, ang isang pagtanggap sa rate ng pagkamayabong ay maaaring kumplikado ang Plano ng Pag-unlad ng Pilipinas ng 2023-2028 Plano ng Kasalukuyang Pamahalaan na umaasa sa legion ng mga batang manggagawa ng bansa upang makatulong na mapalakas ang mga prospect ng paglago sa susunod na ilang dekada.”

ees and visitors will come to taste the region’s unique local ingredients such as “batuan, criollo cacao, blue crab, and kadios.” 5) Super Uncle Claypot will be serving their popular dishes such as coffee pork jowl, salted egg prawns,

and chili crab with fried mantou.6) Hapag at the Balmori Suites features a special menu like “tiyula itum with bakwan keping, palabok laksa johor, and smoked pork keluak dinuguan.” Sa kapansin -pansin na kaganapang

ito, pinatunayan ng Pilipinas na hindi lamang ito patutunguhan para sa pagkain ngunit ma-aakit at magbibigay ng inspirasyon sa mga delegado mula sa buong mundo ngunit inilalagay din ang bansa na mapa bilang sentro ng napa-panatiling gastronomy sa rehiyon ng timog -silangang Asya.”

Sangley Point International Airport Development.

With a firm commitment from Indian infrastructure giant GMR Group the development of the Sangley Aerocity and the Sangley Point International Airport (SPIA) in Cavite will proceed. GMR will also explore investment opportunities in Laoag, Siargao and Bohol regional gateways. In a press statement on August 14 2025, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) said that development “signals a strong partnership aimed at decongesting the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) and bolstering regional connectivity.” The SPIA project underscores its strategic importance and its potential to create up to 15,000 jobs and generate an estimated \$500 million in government revenue. DTI Secretary Cristina Roque in a press statement expressed confidence in GMR Group’s proven track record and affirmed the Philippines’ commitment to improving its connectivity within its 7,600 islands and the whole world. “GMR has been a trusted partner of the Philippines since 2014 and is widely recognized for its successful delivery of the Mactan-Cebu International Airport and new passenger terminal at Clark despite the pandemic.I believe the GMR Group shares the same commitment with us in their latest project,” Roque added. “Ang pag -unlad na ito ay “nagpapahiwatig ng isang malakas na pakikipagtulungan na naglalayong ma-decongest ang Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) at pagpapalakas ng koneksyon ng transportasyon sa rehiyon,” (By Tony A. San Juan, OCT)

Mika Salamanca turns life’s stories into children’s book

“Pinoy Big Brother: Celebrity Collab Edition” Big Winner Mika Salamanca recently launched her first-ever children’s book, Lipad.

The book tells the story of a young fairy named “Mahika” who struggles with feelings of insecurity due to her small wings. She thinks she is not good enough to be a fairy because she cannot fly high.

According to the influencer-actress, Mahika’s journey is a mirror of her own experiences.

“Mahika is me. Ako po talaga siya. Ako po siya. Kabuuan po siya ng mga pinagdaanan ko simula pagkabata,” she said.

Sharing her personal insecurities that resonate with the main character, she continued, “Yung pakpak po, isa lang po ‘yan sa struggles na napagdaanan ko nu’ng bata ako. Insecurities, isa po talaga yung height. Sa totoo lang po, sa appearance ‘yun lang naman po talaga.”

“Ang pinaka-insecurity ko po is hindi kami magkakasama ng family ko. ‘Pag nakakakita ako ng pamilyang buo na magkakasama, na-i-insecure ako kasi yung magulang ko nasa malayong lugar.”

Mika has been an active advocate for children and part of the reason she wrote the book was that she wanted to create something lasting, something that would remain with the children for a long time.



“Kasi po, pagka-tumutulong po ako sa mga bata, lagi po akong pinapamensahe or pinapakanta. Ako po naisip ko na parang, ano ba ‘yung something na tumutulong ko sa mga bata? Ano ba ‘yung something na pwede kong iwanan sa kanila na maaalala nila hanggang kahit hindi na nila alam ‘yung pangalan ko, kahit hindi na nila ako kilala, may alaala sila sa akin,” she said.

For her, Lipad is not just another project as a celebrity, it is an extension of her heart for children.

“Doon ko po naisip na perfect ‘yung children’s book para ‘pag pumupunta ako sa bahay ampunan, mayroon akong iiwanan sa kanila, na babasahin nila.”

During the press conference, Mika revealed that Lipad was originally intended for charity purposes only and she had no plans for it to be sold.

“Hindi po namin siya talaga balak ibenta talaga. It’s something na kapag pumunta po ako sa charity works namin, libre ko po siyang ibibigay sa mga bata,” she said.

She emphasized that she envisioned her book to be given for free to children during her outreach programs. However, after discussions with her management, she agreed to make it available for sale but on one important condition.

“Lahat ng makukuha natin sa librong ito, charity pa rin.”

Advertisement for Dana Beddoe Rock Out Concert. The poster features Dana Beddoe playing a guitar. Text includes: DANA BEDDOE ROCK OUT CONCERT, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH AT 6PM, XINFILX AUDITORIUM, 431 BENTLEY ST. UNIT 8, MARKHAM, ON, CANADA. Tickets: \$55 VIP, \$30 GA. Logos for sponsors like JDL, MER, and others are at the bottom.

For Barbie Forteza, it takes courage to play kontrabida

Barbie Forteza has again displayed her versatility and range in acting. Described as drama, comedy and camp by the streaming platform Netflix, it has become the playground of the actress to traverse the usual dichotomy of acting — bida and kontrabida — and deliver an extended take on the latter.

"It's my second (time)," answered Barbie on playing villainess. "Yung isa yung guest lang sa 'Heartful Café'."

In the primetime series, she played the sophisticated girlfriend named Cors of a café owner and co-investor. But in "Kontrabida Academy," she is first introduced as Gigi, a devoted and loving daughter and girlfriend who works in a samgyup restaurant.

Through some fantastic and mysterious "portal" or connection via a television set, Gigi becomes Gia and enrolls in reel-to-real life courses to tap and unleash the "kontrabida" in her.

From there, one sees the character's fierce transformation and heartfelt reflection on being a hero or villain in life.

"I really admire them because it takes a

lot of courage to step into the villain shoes, di ba?," shared Barbie about actors who have embarked on playing such an engaging and captivating character at some point in their careers.

So, having done that now, masasabi ko na iba ang preparation, iba ang emotional demands ng isang kontrabida (I can say that the preparation is different and so is the emotional demand or requirement)."

"Because it's not just full of evil, di ba? Siyempre, kailangan meron kang depth and background of why ganun yung character mo," added the TV and film actress.

"I really admire people who really take the leap of portraying kontrabida roles."

"Kontrabida Academy" is a stark contrast to the projects that Barbie has done in recent years and even the ones that have been streamed on Netflix.

"Aside from the obvious, stating the obvious that this is somehow a tribute film to our iconic kontrabidas, I feel like coming from the character Gigi, it's more personal," answered Barbie when The STAR asked if the film is a commentary about how kontrabidas are being regarded in the industry, "kasi it really follows the POV (point of view) of Gigi, eh, yung transformation nung character niya."

"So, for me, it becomes more personal as to how yung influence ng pagiging kontrabida would somehow influence and change a person like Gigi so as to improve her life in reality."

In Gigi's world, some people take advantage of her generosity and kindness, as one may put it. She learns to somehow assert herself when Gigi becomes a student of her eventual discoverer and teacher named Mauricia (Eugene Domingo), a kontrabida herself in the latter's realm wherein one has to stick to what the script tells or dictates.

"I believe, yes, we all do, kahit konting konti," said Barbie about the possibility of a villain — or at least a speck of it — inside most of us. "I believe kasi it's what makes us human."

The Kapuso actress also studied under La Primera Contravida and seasoned actress Cherie Gil.

"I am very honored, and I will say this with full pride that I was able to attend a masterclass by Ms. Cherie Gil during the pandemic," said she. Naalala ko noon, eh, naituro talaga sa akin, na hindang hindi ko makakalimutan si Ms. Cherie Gil."

"Pinapili niya kami ng mga monologues na syempre i-pe-perform namin via Zoom, pero very... kwento kasi siya."

"So, ang gusto niya ma-visualize niya."

Mapunta siya dun sa sitwasyon na yun dahil sa kwento ko, na 'How will I do that?' na parang ganun."

"Yung 'pag-visualize nung eksena, yun yung hindi ko makakalimutan... Don't just say the lines, know your whys," added she.

And it's safe to say that Barbie also brought that learning as one of her tools in delivering an inspired performance as Gigi and Gia in "Kontrabida Academy."

Derek Ramsay on Ellen Adarna rumored split: 'No truth to anything that was said'

After his wife Ellen Adarna, Derek Ramsay put an end to blind items about their rumored separation in an Instagram story September 29.

"Good morning, guys. There's this issue with Mr. Xian Gaza. I'll just keep it very simple. There's no truth to anything that was said. That's it guys, that's all I have," Derek said in the video that shows him lying on a bed while squashing the rumored separation with Ellen.

Derek's Instagram stories was posted hours after controversial social media personality Xian Gaza posted a series of blind items on Facebook.

Gaza on Sunday posted a blind item about the breakup between a "billionaire celebrity" and an heiress with properties in Visayas and Mindanao. He added that the "power



couple" has a child, whom the heiress has been keeping from the billionaire celebrity.

Gaza talked about the Philippines having no divorce laws and if there was a prenup signed between the two parties. In the comments section of this particular post, Gaza gave the initials JL. He also made reference to Popoy and Basha, famous fictional characters portrayed by John Lloyd Cruz and Bea Alonzo in the movie "One More Chance."

John Lloyd is the father of Ellen's son, Elias, who lives with her and Derek together with their daughter.

"Si JL hindi niya pinakasalan kasi wala siyang mapapala. Ang makukuha lang niya ay kalahati ng lupa sa paso at limang banig ng [name of brand]."

"Pero etong isa, pinakasalan niya agad-agad after a few months of relationship. Pinagplanuhan. Mautak," Gaza wrote in the comments section of his own post.

Denial. Ellen, however, has denied earlier this month the separation rumors between her and Derek.

"Tigilan niyo na kami ha. Dami na fake news ekeklavooo," she wrote earlier in September.

Reunification program is problematic

REUNIFICATION from page 1

to live with their parents and grandparents in the same country. Those reasons include a need for child-care support and a desire to care for their older family members as they age.

As international conventions dictate, families have a right to be together.

From permanent to temporary

Grandparents have been part of Canada's formal "family class" pathway since 1976, but current policy favours spouses and dependent children. This makes reunification for extended family members difficult.

Grandparent admissions through the PGP have comprised around 25 per cent of total family class admissions for the past 10 years.

Unlike other family class categories, there is a predetermined cap on accepted PGP applications. The PGP has also undergone a series of program freezes to deal with an application backlog, the most recent announced in January 2025. The government's

latest update included no commitment to receive new interest-to-sponsor declarations.

As an alternative to the PGP, the government recommends the super visa, a multi-entry visa valid for up to 10 years. However, the super visa requires grandparents to reapply and meet medical inadmissibility rules every five years.

The super visa also places responsibility for financial and health care of grandparents entirely on the sponsoring children, sometimes with devastating consequences.

Most importantly, the super visa does not guarantee permanent residence upon expiration. Permanent grandparent reunification remains a lottery draw, at the mercy of sponsorship intake caps.

Celebrating, denigrating migrant grandparents

Our preliminary research on grandparent sponsorship explores how elected officials consider the place of migrant grandparents in Canadian society. We've so far found they regard permanent family class migration as "good for business" as it attracts eco-



Earl Bales Park is full of Filipino families on weekends during summer.

nomics migrants. At the same time, elected officials believe that certain dependants monopolize health and social safety nets.

Grandparents, in particular, are treated by governments as human liabilities who must be admitted "responsibly."

Admitting grandparents to Canada is tied to their perceived ability to support their sponsors by performing unpaid domestic labour. Our research has found elected officials celebrate sponsored grandparents for the substantial unpaid care work they provide like meal preparation, child care and cleaning.

In a recent survey on grandparent sponsorship, sponsors describe the unpaid work conducted by grandparents as essential to their participation in the Canadian workforce.

Migrant grandparents are also positioned as providers of cultural care for their grandchildren. Our research draws attention to elected officials often invoking memories of their own migrant grandparents passing along language,

practices and values that shaped their unique cultural identities.

Despite the benefits migrant grandparents provide, sponsored grandparents are consistently suspected of taking advantage of Canada's health care and social welfare systems. This is why the super visa is promoted as an alternative pathway.

Dependent on sponsors

Grandparents who come to Canada through the super visa are financially reliant on their sponsors. Even though the government recognizes that the number of sponsored grandparents applying for old age security is relatively small, treating migrant grandparents as economic burdens allows governments to justify caps and application pauses on PGP sponsorship.

Contrary to governments' framing of the super visa as aligning with migrants' families demands for temporary care, our research shows that grandparents often resort to humanitarian and compas-

sionate applications to obtain permanent residence once their super visa has expired. In these cases, their ability to perform care work is further scrutinized.

In terms of grandparent sponsorship, care is largely understood as temporary and one-directional — in other words, migrant grandparents are welcomed when they provide care, but are seen as liabilities when they need care themselves.

Prioritizing the needs of migrant families

How do we reconcile government claims that family reunification is a "fundamental pillar of Canadian society" with the reality that permanent grandparent reunification remains difficult to obtain?

Intake announcements like the most recent one in July allow governments to celebrate permanent grandparent migration. At the same time, the inconsistency of the PGP and solutions like the super visa keep migrant grandparents in a state of legal, political and economic precarity.

With the Liberal government announcing cuts to family class admissions over the next three years, the impact of these changes on grandparent reunification warrants attention.

Rather than temporary reforms and routes, the government needs to consider structural changes to Canada's family class pathway that focus on the needs and interests of families seeking permanent reunification.

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Mayor Chow highlights progress on safety, housing and libraries at Scarborough BBQ



TORONTO – Over a thousand local residents came together to join Mayor Olivia Chow at the Scarborough BBQ at Bridlewood Mall on Sunday. The community enjoyed an afternoon of food, music, children’s games, and interactive displays from Toronto Fire, Toronto Police Service and Toronto Paramedic Service.

“It’s great to see families, friends, and neighbours gather to connect and

celebrate. The energy here today shows what’s possible when we invest in our communities and in our city’s future,” said Mayor Chow.

The Mayor shared updates on her recent work on safety, housing and libraries:

Investing in community safety

Mayor Chow is hiring 720 police officers, 200 firefighters and 360 paramedics. To answer 911 calls faster, she is also hiring 90 more call-takers. She is also building a new paramedic station in Scarborough, which was announced on Thursday.

Mayor has also announced her plan to help 3,000 young people and 500 families participate in summer violence prevention programs and recreation.

“We are hiring more police, firefighters and paramedics so help is there when you need it and to keep our neighbourhoods safe. We’re also

making sure to support young people so they can choose a better path in life. We’re building a safer and stronger city for everyone”, said Mayor Chow, “This work is ongoing and we will continue to invest in safety.”

Faster and cheaper to build more housing

The Mayor is making it cheaper and faster to renovate homes to include more units. This means home owners now can build new housing forms such as laneway and garden suites, fourplex, and in some places sixplex, without necessarily having to get special approval. She has also cut charges on fiveplexes and sixplexes.

“Helping homeowners in Scarborough renovate and build more units will help with the housing crisis we are facing,” said Chow. “As Mayor, I want it to be faster and cheaper to renovate houses to include more units, maybe to rent out or have for your family.

We’re going to continue to find ways to build more housing, and make sure workers who build housing have a steady stream of work”

More library hours for Scarborough families

At the event, Mayor Chow also delivered exciting news for book lovers: the Toronto Public Library Bridlewood branch will begin opening on Sunday starting October 19. This change is part of the City’s continued investment in library services, with all 100 library branches across the city offering Sunday hours year-round this fall.

“Libraries are free spaces for families and students to learn and gather, I am making sure they are open every day for people in Scarborough and across the City,” said Mayor Chow. “As your Mayor, I am committed to building a safer, more caring, and more affordable city with services that Torontonians have been expecting for so long.”

Melai Cantiveros reveals she once fell out of love with husband Jason



Kapamilya star Melai Cantiveros-Francisco got candid about a rough patch in her marriage, admitting that she once fell out of love with her husband, Jason Francisco.

The Pinoy Big Brother alum, who tied the knot with Jason in 2013 after meeting him on the reality show in 2009, shared that

their relationship was once “shaky” and on the verge of collapse.

“Alam mo, hindi naman talaga tayo perfect kasi nafafall out of love tayo. Kaya yung sinasabi nilang fall out of love, that’s very normal sa relationship. Na fall out of love ako,” Melai revealed.

She clarified that the near-breakup wasn’t due to a third party, but to emotions and pride getting in the way. “May sobrang malala talaga na muntik maghiwalay. Pero thank you Lord, napagtugumpayan,” she said.

The TV host added that a heart-to-heart talk helped them reconcile, and seeing Jason as a loving father to their daughters, Mela and Stela, deepened her affection for him.

Sharing advice for couples, Melai emphasized: “Huhupa din yung galit... forgiveness is the key.”

Jake Cuenca, Chie Filomeno unfollow each other on Instagram

Netizens are asking if Jake Cuenca and Chie Filomeno have broken up after unfollowing each other on Instagram. Ito ang usap-usapan ng netizens matapos mag-unfollow sina Jake, 37, at Chie, 29, sa isa’t isa sa Instagram.

Kung titingnan ang kanilang Instagram accounts, makikita wala na nga sila sa listahan ng followers ng isa’t isa. Walang bakas ng anumang alitan sa pagitan nila dahil hindi rin naman sila gaanong nagpo-post ng kanilang couple photos. Dalawang taon na rin ang nakararaan nang unang maisapubliko ang kanilang pagkakamabutihan. Noong una ay ayaw pa nilang lagyan ng label ang kanilang relasyon, at sinasabi lang



nilang napapasaya nila ang isa’t isa.

Noong September 2023, umamin si Jake na November 2022 nang maglakas-loob daw siyang lapitan si Chie sa Christmas Ball ng Star Magic.

Pero hindi raw sila nag-work out noon, kaya desidido raw si Jake na hindi na pakawalang muli si Chie.

Noong Hulyo 2025 ay may panayam pa kay Jake kunsaan natanong pa siya tungkol kay Chie, at sa mga sagot niya noon ay malinaw na sila pa.

Hanggang sa naging usap-usapan ngang break na sila nitong mga nagdaang linggo.

May mga espekulasyon ding kumakalat online tungkol sa hiwalayan nila, pero tikom pa rin ang bibig ng dalawa sa ngayon.

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GUEST SINGERS

Gemma Pascual Family Day 2025



LEFT, Realtor Gemmal Pascual and Ace Persaud pose at the Summer family day at Earl Bales Park. RIGHT, MH Productions join the fun with Gemma Pascual.

Samantha Bernardo on not getting paid for a job, saying it ‘isn’t just about the money. It’s the broken trust’

Miss Grand International 2020 first runner-up and Pinoy Big Brother alumna Samantha Bernardo has spoken candidly about a harsh reality that continues to plague the modeling and entertainment industry. In a heartfelt post on her social media page, Samantha revealed her recent experience of not receiving proper compensation despite fulfilling her work obligations. “Sometimes, you deliver the work... and still don’t get paid, even



after weeks of waiting,” Samantha began. The beauty queen and television personality admitted she thought those days were behind her, especially now that she has established herself as a host and public figure. “I honestly thought this part of my journey was over — especially now that I am an established queen and host, where professionalism should always come first. But it reminded me of my early days as a model, when delayed or missing payments were sadly common. At one

point, I even had over a million pesos floating, which took 2 to 3 years to be paid,” she added. While the financial aspect is frustrating, Samantha stressed that what hurt her the most was the betrayal of trust. “What hurts me the most isn’t just about the money. It’s the broken trust, and the way kindness can be taken advantage of. I was led to believe this opportunity was in good faith, even tied to someone I deeply respected, who has already passed on,” she expressed. She added that her trust was further misplaced

when she accepted confirmation from another booker, something she now views as a mistake. “I trusted you with another booker’s confirmation as well — and that was my mistake.” Although Samantha refrained from naming any individual or organization involved, her message carried a strong reminder for everyone in the industry. “To those in this industry: be vigilant. Protect yourself. Respect the brief, respect the process, and respect each other’s work. We all deserve to be treated with fairness,” she said.

Carney, Marcos vow to strengthen Canada-Phil ties

CANADA-PHL page 8

Marcos Jr. to visit Canada”.

“The leaders will remain in close contact,” the summary ended.

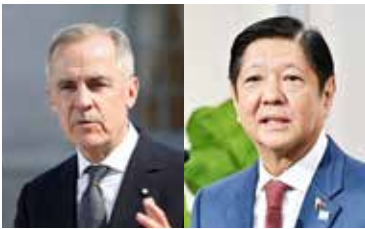
Marcos, for his part, posted on Facebook that he had a “very good conversation” with Carney.

“We discussed how our two nations can further strengthen and deepen cooperation in trade, defence and maintaining peace in our region. I also conveyed our gratitude for Canada’s swift assistance to the Filipino community in Vancouver following the tragic incident at the Lapu-Lapu Day Festival.” “We look forward to building on this partnership for the benefit of our peoples,” Marcos stated.

Canada and the Philippines marked 75 years of diplomatic relations in 2024.

Marcos was widely anticipated to visit Canada last year as the highlight of the celebration of ties between the two countries.

To recall, then Canadian Prime Minister



Justin Trudeau met Marcos on September 6, 2023 at the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Jakarta, Indonesia.

In the meeting, Trudeau invited Marcos Jr. to visit Canada in 2024. Marcos accepted the invitation. The visit did not materialize.

Meanwhile, work continued to strengthen ties between Canada and the Philippines. On December 5, 2024, Canada and the Philippines announced exploratory discussions for a potential bilateral free trade agreement (FTA).

The two countries are also forging closer defence and military cooperation.

On March 7, 2025, Canada’s Department of National Defence and the Philippines’ Department of National Defense announced the conclusion of negotiations for a Status of Visiting Forces Agreement (SOVFA).

A SOVFA lays out the conditions for the presence of foreign military forces in a host country.

In an opinion piece marking Canada Day on July 1, 2024, Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines David Hartman reflected on the friendly ties that have bound both nations since 1949.

“Indeed, the future of our relations is bright and promising,” Hartman wrote in the commentary published by the

Philippine Daily Inquirer.

“Our journey continues, enriched by deep people-to-people ties. More than one million people in Canada claim Filipino heritage—a cultural identity that has become an essential component of Canada’s multicultural fabric,” Hartman also wrote.

For a Better Toronto



Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow holds a meeting with Filipino community-based organizations.

“Forget Me Not” The Movie

This heartwarming film follows an adolescent girl and her friends as they deal with love, loss, and the revelation of a tragic secret. Join the cast and crew for the world premiere, followed by a Q&A at The Royal Theatre Toronto!

Highlights

- Exclusive Q&A with the film cast and crew
- Written by Mikayla Chloe Sy
- Directed by Scott Dion Brown & Mikayla Chloe Sy & 1st Assistant Director, Tyra Rosnuk

Executive Producer Jennifer Sy in Association with Glenmore Records Studios

STARRING: MIKAYLA CHLOE SY, DANA BEDDOE, CODY TIAGA & SHAINE JARAMILLO

SUPPORTING ROLES: JENNIFER SY, JEASELLE VICTORIA TERRENAL, KAYLA AMANDO, NASIA CASTILLO, RAELEYN CRISTIN CAJUIGAN, BRANDON MENDOZA, RON AN-

GELES, ADRIAN YJ AMARAL, ALFONSO TERRENAL, ALLYSA AMANDO, ALONZO MIGUEL TAN SALCEDO, ANGELINE FRANCEZ C.BERNAL, AVA TIAGA, BUENA BERSALONA, CECILLE ARANETA, CHRISTINE MENDOZA-O’NEILL, CONNIE CARREAU, DAISY BEDDOE, ELZ JARA, EVELYN CANIMO & UDG. IMELDA CONCEPCION, DEIDRE GIA ROGERS, JACKIE CAJUIGAN, JON JARA, KATE DI, LETTY ROMERO, LIAM ZYLE BARCENA, MARY JANE PUNO, MAY CASTILLO, MEDS CHIU, RHODELIA BERNAL, SAMANTHA MARIE PUNO, SAVANNAH MARIE PUNO, SAVVY TIAGA, SELLINNA MARIE PUNO, SHEA TIAGA, SHARMAINE PINGOY-TIAGA, SOFIA SORIANO, STEVE BEDDOE, TAMARA MARIE SCOPIE

General Info

- Date: October 25th, 2025
- Time: 6 p.m. (doors open at 5 p.m.)
- Location: The Royal Theatre - 608 College St, Toronto, ON M6G 1B4, Canada



MINISTER KRISTINE LEILANI R. SALLE IS THE NEW PHILIPPINE CONSUL GENERAL IN TORONTO

By Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

With the rank of Ambassador, Mrs. Kristine Leilani R. Salle, Deputy Permanent Representative and Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva will assume the post of Philippine Consul General in Toronto, Ontario on September 18, 2025, according to a reliable source. She will take over the position of ConGen Angelica Escalona who left in April 2025 for an assignment at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila.



As listed in Linkedin, the social networking website for people in professional occupations , Philippine Ambassador K. L. R. Salle

is described as an “Experienced Diplomat with a demonstrated history of working in diplomacy and international relations. Skilled in Foreign Affairs, Politics, Policy Analysis, Political Science, and Government. Strong community and social services professional.”

In 2003 Salle received diplomatic assignments in Rome, Italy and London , United Kingdom, starting as Third Secretary and Vice Consul rising to Minister and Consul. In 2018 she worked for one year & 11 months as a Special Assistant at the Office of

the Undersecretary for International Economic Relations and from January 2021 to January 2023, she was the Deputy Assistant Secretary/Executive Director, Office of Migrant Workers’ Affair. For 5 years and six months(2018 to 2023), she served as a Career Minister at the Department of Foreign Affairs and in January 2023, she became the Philippine Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative in Geneva, Switzerland.

A graduate of De La Salle University-Manila, Salle obtained her Bachelor Arts (BA) in political

science in 1992. She finished in 2002 a Post-graduate Diploma in Globalization and Development at the International Institute of Social Studies(ISS) , Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Netherlands. In 2015, she completed a Master’s degree in Diplomacy and Security Studies, With Merit, from the University of Sterling in Sterling, Scotland.

Welcome to Toronto, Canada, Her Excellency, Ambassador Kristine Leilani R. Salle! Good luck and God bless .(by Tony A. San Juan, OCT)

Jericho Rosales urges Filipinos to speak out against corruption

On playing Manuel L Quezon: “That was the most difficult journey ever.” Jericho Rosales headlines the historical movie Quezon. PHOTO/S: MARK CHING “I’ve never promoted this much,” biro ni Echo. Ang Quezon ang pangatlo sa Bayaniverse film series ng TBA Studios. Una rito ang Heneral Luna, na ipinalabas noong 2015. Pangalawa ang Goyo noon 2018.



ing nakaganun, it was Manuel L Quezon by Anastacio Caedo. “So I immediately bought that bust and brought it home,” kuwento ni Echo. Going back to the role, “The preparation to understand power was the most vicious and most insidious thing that na-counter ko.” Mayroon daw kasing isang malaking scene sa pelikula na kailangan ng power para magawa nang maayos.

“This has been the most important project of my life, and that’s not an exaggeration,” saad niya. At marami raw siyang natutunan sa pagganap bilang dating Pangulo ng Pilipinas. “Number one, it has brought me to closer to history, closer to becoming the Filipino I want to be—the questioning man that I am. “Closer to what it really means to put cinema and history together. “And, you know, at least I answered my question if I am on the right track as an actor, and as a filmmaker,” pahayag ng 45-year-old actor.

“The main question was, how do you prepare for power? Understanding power. I don’t have any idea of power. What does it mean to be a leader?” tanong niya. Dahil dito ay bumalik siya sa antique shop sa Intramuros baka sakaling makakuha siya ng inspiration. At dito ay nakita niya muli ang istatwa ng lalaking sumisigaw. “So I was looking for anything that would give me MLQ vibes. And then pagtingin ko sa kaliwa, nakita ko yung bust nung lalak-

“Because we were just looking for that spirit of that one of the biggest scenes in the film, when he said, ‘I am the Philippines.’ “What does that mean? That was the most difficult journey ever,” saad ni Echo. Sa October 15 na ipapalabas ang Quezon. Kasama sa cast sina Karylle, Mon Conrado, Joross Gamboa, Aaron Villaflor, Ketchup Eusebio, Angeli Bayani, Jake Macapagal,

Bodjie Pascua, at Therese Malvar.

JERICHO ROSALES ON FILIPINO PRIDE Dahil political movie ang Quezon ay nagsalita rin si Echo tungkol sa mga malalaking issue sa pulitika na kinaharap ng bansa sa ngayon. Aniya: “Our sense of pride is so down there. And the main problem that I see, because I just observe, is that wala na tayong ikakatuwa sa bansa natin ngayon na obvious. Kailangan mo nang kalkalin.” Iniisip niya na tila mas malalim na ang paghuhugutan ng mga Pilipino para lang maramdaman ang pagmamahal sa bansa. Pero ang pakiusap ni Echo, “Hindi tayo dapat ganun.” Inisa-isa niya ang mga bagay na dapat ipagmalaki. “Dapat proud ka na meron tayong coconut. Sandamakmak na coconut. Na lahat na bumubuhay mula langis, na mula pa lang nung panahon ng Amerikano, inaangkat na nila, at kaya nga sila nandito. “Dapat proud tayo sa kulay natin. “Ngayon ayaw na nating manood ng Pilipino, Koreano na lang. Anak ng teteng.

Okay yung TV, okay yung pelikula. Pero dapat maging proud tayo sa sarili nating balat. Okay lahat ng pelikula natin, di ba? Kailangan lang talaga nating sabihin sa sarili natin na, ‘Teka lang, baka oras na, na kung ito yung ginagawa ko, lampasan ko yung ginagawa ko.” Bukod pa rito, dapat magsalita raw tayo tungkol sa mga anomalya sa pamahalaan. “Siyempre mabubuw”sit lahat ng tao sa pulitiko. E, kasi hinahayaan nating ganun, e. E di huwag nating hayaang ganun. “Magkaroon tayo ng accountability. Pag di okay itong semento na ito, e, di sabihin natin, hindi po okay ito,” saad niya. Pagpapatuloy niya, hindi tamang manahimik lamang ang mga Pilipino. “Kasi kung tatameme lang tayo, baka yun talaga ang problema natin. Lagi tayong tameme, tameme, tameme. “Hindi tayo tameme. Proud. Dapat proud. “So ngayon, 2025, ang movement natin, maging proud Filipino. Because kung hindi ka proud Filipino, mawawala na ang Pilipinas,” paliwanag ni Echo.



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Joey Baking The Sociallist

"There comes a day each September when you wake up and know the summer is over and fall has arrived."

ANN RINALDI

What a Busy Month of August



Dolorosa Dancers

Like clockwork, the month of September always start with the tree-day celebration of Dolorosa Association. This year marks the 31st anniversary of A three days celebration of Dolorosa.

Eman Manalo said it best for everyone." *Congratulations to all the members, officers and of course the President no other than mayor Philip Beloso for another successful event. Sabi mo nga mayor walang magaling na leader kung walang mga members na mababait, masisipag at laging andyan para mag support sayong Magandang adhika-in sa ating samahan. At Ito naman ang masasabi ko sayo Mr. President ikaw ay tunay na halimbawa ng isang leader. Hindi ka lang nag uutos kundi pinangungunahan mo ang bawat committee, you are really a jack of all trades. Host, singer, taga tadtad pa ng lechon, wala na akong masabi pa kudos to you. More power to you and cheers to many more*

anniversary to come. 🙏🏻

Mabuhay tayong lahat and May the good Lord bless us all always!!

The first night is the gala to welcome the hermanas and hemanos. The second is the fiesta celebration for everyone. And the third is a trip to the shrine at Midland for a picnic.

Calbayog Samar Residence of Ontario Canada (CASAROCA) held their red carpet gala in honor of Our Lady of Nativity last September 13.

The highlight of the evening was the kuracha dance by the hermanas where the dancers and the guests toss money or "Gala" up on the air.

Unlike other traditional dances in the Philippines, "Kuratsa's" dance steps vary in different provinces in the region.

Movement of "Kuratsa" dance in Leyte is graceful yet gentle, em-

phasizing on the movement of female dancer, whose movement of feet is fine and intricate, a ritualistic dance.

The "Kuratsa" dance in Samar is more playful and lively where dancers especially men sometimes do fancy movements like imitating a rooster attracted to a hen.

In community, dancing "Kuratsa" is a way of raising fund towards a charitable goal.

I have never heard of Sweetnotes before until Marky Hugh Productions started posting a concert they were producing. So, I googled the group and found out that I like their music. They do not really compose original songs but just sings songs that are already popular. And the people like it.

This is how they introduce themselves on their youtube Sweetnotes Music Official page.

Hi! We're Sweetnotes Music, a Filipino husband-and-wife duo who pour our hearts into every song we sing—from timeless classics to today's

heartfelt hits. We're Jeffrey S. Bactong Jr. and Charlotte Mae P. Bactong, life partners and musical storytellers on a mission to glorify God and bring joy, healing, and inspiration through music.

The husband-and-wife singing duo from General Santos City, propelled to fame by the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, has been making waves both domestically and abroad with their delightful renditions of popular Filipino and foreign language songs.

The couple, known simply as BJ and Charlotte to their friends and family, started their singing career from humble beginnings. They have since risen to fame on social media, earning public admiration for their excellent covers of popular dance and love songs.

I enjoyed their concert in Toronto. The venue at Global Kingdom was packed. Their VIP seats already sold out in advance. With more demand, they added SVIP seats and that still sold out fast.



Jeffrey S. Bactong Jr. and Charlotte Mae P. Bactong of Sweetnotes entertained Toronto.

Then, they added standing room only (SRO) and it still sold.

Congratulations to MH productions. for a successful concert.

On a sad note, Joy San Juan, the wife of our friend, community journalist Tony San Juan has died.

Then, while we were at the viewing came another news of death in the community. Jun Flores also passed away. I do not know him well but what I know of him, he is a nice person, low-key, amiable and friendly. I knew him more as the person concert producers call when they need someone as security and driver of artistas around town when they are here.

We sympathize with the families of Joy and Jun for their passing.

Why Filipino characters in Emmy-winning medical drama 'The Pitt' a huge deal

During the 70th Emmy Awards in 2018, "Saturday Night Live" cast member and that year's co-host Michael Che touched on television's diversity issues in the opening monologue.

"Can you believe that they did 15 seasons of 'ER' without one Filipino nurse? Have you been to a hospital?" Che joked, earning laughs from the audience and his co-host Colin Jost.

There is some truth in Che's joke though. According to the United States' National Institutes of Health, Filipinos made up just 1% of the country's population but 4% of the nursing workforce.

Pinoys are very much aware of how significant the Filipino presence in American healthcare, given how many of our countrymen fly across the Pacific in search of better opportunities.



Kristin Villanueva, Noah Wyle, and Amielynn Abellera in "The Pitt."

That's why it can be frustrating that medical shows like "ER," "Scrubs," or "House MD" do not have Filipino characters, or in the case of the latter, took until the final season to introduce one (Charlyne Yi as Dr. Chi Park).

Even the long-running "Grey's Anatomy," which until its 10th season starred part-Korean actress Sandra Oh as a main character, did not feature a Filipino nurse.

It was only in Season 17 did the show introduce Gerlie Bernardo (played by Aina Dumlaog), who became the first Filipino-American nurse to headline the show.

Other medical shows began making small steps in recent years like "New Amsterdam," "St. Denis Medical," and "The Good Doctor" by having part-Filipino actors play Filipino characters in substantial storylines.

The big gamechanger was HBO Max's "The Pitt," cre-

ated by "ER" producer R. Scott Gemmill and starring "ER" alum Noah Wyle.

Each episode of the show covers around an hour of the work shift of the emergency department staff in the fictional Pittsburgh Trauma Medical Center.

Since premiering earlier this year, "The Pitt" was well-received for its accurate depiction of the medical community and the challenges healthcare workers face.

Lending to that accuracy is the presence of three Filipino characters: Isa Briones as first-year resident Dr. Trinity Santos, Amielynn Abellera as ER nurse Perlah, and Kristin Villanueva as another ER nurse, Princess.

"The Pitt" won five of its 13 Emmy nominations this year, including Outstanding Drama Series, Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series for Wyle,

Outstanding Supporting Actress in A Drama Series for Katherine LaNasa, and Outstanding Casting for a Drama Series.

Not only do the Filipino characters more accurately depict what American hospitals look like — plus Perlah and Princess being very modern Filipino names — they show different sides of Pinoys in the United States.

Perlah is a Muslim that wears a hijab and loves to gossip with Princess especially in Tagalog. In fact, the two contribute to the show's first pieces of dialogue.

Abellera even believes that outside the hospital, her Perlah is a single mom, identifies as queer, and grew into her faith and culture as an adult.

It helps a lot that Abellera's parents and Villanueva's in-laws have medical backgrounds, adding another layer of accuracy.

Conversations in Tagalog, dedication to their work, and support for their companions have made Princess and Perlah fan-favorite characters, and viewers are eager to see more of them in the upcoming second season.

Reception like this shows how big of a deal it is to have Filipino characters in an environment that everyone knows they play a crucial and pivotal part in.

It goes beyond the typical "Pinoy pride" or "Uy Pilipins" moments. Many will say Filipino nurses and doctors are the backbone of American healthcare and it would not be stable without them.

The creatives behind "The Pitt" can certainly enjoy the awards the show reaped knowing they have done Filipino healthcare workers justice, and further explore the many stories they can still share.



Miss Philippines Canada
Hannah Lopez, Miss Teen Philippines Canada 1st Runner-Up 2025, had the honor of paying a courtesy call to the Governor of Ilocos Sur Jerry Singson. This memo-



orable visit was a chance to share her journey, highlight the importance of cultural pride, and strengthen connections with the community in her family's homeland. A proud moment for Hannah, Miss Teen Philippines



Canada 1st Runner-Up 2025, as she received a commendation awarded by the Province of Ilocos Sur during the 8th Session of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan on August 19. Hannah personally accepted the award and

delivered a heartfelt speech in front of the provincial officials, expressing her gratitude and commitment to representing both Canada and the Philippines with pride.

‘Natuto na ako’: Shuvee Etrata addresses criticism on political views



“Pinoy Big Brother” alumna Shuvee Etrata stated she stands with Filipinos following backlash to her stance on politics. Shuvee received criticism when a video of her expressing gratitude to former president Rodrigo Duterte’s “war on drugs” trended online.



1. Seniors in Action held a walk with Chiropractic interns; 2. Afterwards, they had brunch at Picke Barrel; 3. Model Samantha Gavin receives a certificate of Appreciation from PIDC President Tom Tan and founder Agnes Miranda.



This was compounded by a now-deleted repost by Shuvee’s uncle on Instagram defending her and embracing Duterte leadership. Many fans shared being disheartened learning about Shuvee’s supposed political alignment and silence on issues, leading to her releasing a statement on social media. The model-actress began by express-

ing gratitude to supporters and apologized to any fans who were disappointed or hurt, taking responsibility for the pain her posts may have caused. “Sa totoo lang po, iniwasan ko po talaga ang mag-salita tungkol sa politics dahil napaka-divisive nito,” Shuvee continued. “Ang mas mahalaga sa akin ngayon ay ang mahalin ang bayan at manindigan laban sa sumisira nito tulad

ng korupsiyon. LALO NA PO NGAYON.” Shuvee assured fans that she has learned better, will open her mind, and “continue to learn and grow.” “Mahal ko po kayo at mahal ko ang Pilipinas lalo na sa panahon ngayon. I stand for and with the Filipino people — always,” Shuvee ended with emojis of a white heart and the Philippine flag.

A number of supporters were glad to see Shuvee speak out, though there were still some people who found her words lacking and merely a motherhood statement.

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CANDEV HOLDS A BUSINESS SEMINAR



Joseph Franco of Candev leads a seminar for cleaning Technicians at FV Foods.



Families & friends Filipino kitchen opened at the 2nd Floor of the Oriental Centre, 4438 Sheppard Ave. E, corner Brimley in Scarborough. Co-owners Pia and Mila are seen here with their staff and friends.



Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) President Rosemer Enverga, MPP Michelle Cooper and Lilac Cana (5th, 4th, 3rd from right respectively) joins the celebration of the 75th anniversary of Our Lady of Assumption Parish.



LEFT, Producer Marky Hugh poses with Sweetnotes couple. RIGHT, MH Productions performers Rence Sabay, jer Flo, Pearly Elarde, Arielle Perez and Rosemary Alcayde chill out before the show.



Students of JDL perform at their recital at Xinflix Auditorium.

Gemma Pascual family day 2025



From left, Gemma Pascual and Agnes Miranda, GMA7 artist Pepito Curtis and Gemma Pascual, Gemma and her face painters enjoy the summer day out at her family day at Earl Bales Park.



1. Vienne and her mom from the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) join the World of Trade, Trade and Taste Expo 2025; 2. JDL poses with Mayor Olivia Chow at the Mabuhay Festival.



'Sing Galing' jukeboss Nina names songs that define her career

Nina is again wearing the hat of a jukeboss for the "Sing-lebrity Edition" of "Sing Galing" on TV5.



Similar to the regular edition, the Asia's Diamond Soul Siren sits on the judging panel to appreciate each performance and shares her insights.

The celebrity singing contestants should listen to the advice of every jukeboss for them to surpass the varied segments such as the I-Random Challenge, Sing Galingan Kanta, Duelo-oke Extreme, Trio-oke and A-Sing-Ta-do Performance.

With fun and hard work, they might reach the Kantastic Finale.

"It's super exciting, kumbaga, one tick on my bucket list for me," said Nina about being a jukeboss or judge.

"I've been singing all my life, and of course, I want to share my knowledge about singing and want to watch out for new talents."

These talents also include entertainment and social media personalities, who step out of their comfort zone and test the waters in a videoke competition like "Sing Galing."

"Sobra akong na-surprise (I'm really surprised) with each and every celebrity that I've watched kasi talagang hindi ko i-nexpect na ang galing nilang kumanta."

Nina seems to enjoy every bit of her work in "Sing Galing." From the small screen to the live performance, Nina shared she does gigs and concerts.

Regarding the release of new songs, she said that she's been working on a few, but they need some tweaking.

The established singer is also aware of the ever-changing landscape, where artists can share their works, with the help of record labels or via the independent way using emerging distribution platforms.

"Kasi ang bilis na rin (na) pwedeng sumikat, eh. Actually, kapag nag-tatagal sa business, ibig sabihin maraming pinagdaan," said she when asked to give pieces of advice to newcomers in the music industry. "...yung nga longevity yung pinag-uusapan natin. "

"But if you really believe in yourself, in what you can do... hindi mo i-mi-mind yun, eh," added she. "If you really know those who love (and appreciate you)... eh, dun ka. You listen to that criticism for positive (improvement)."

Given her collection of albums, Nina generously named her top two singles that defined the singer's recording career.

"Perhaps, it would be my first song that I released from my first album, which is Heaven and then after that, ang daming songs (I've recorded a lot). After that is Love Moves (in Mysterious Ways) because that's the time people knew that I really love singing live... They didn't know then that I love singing live."

That reminds one of her third album, titled "Nina Live!."



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Story of my Life: JDL Recital



The recently concluded JDL's "Story of my Life" Recital was a night to remember! All were heartfelt performances on stage. Huge thanks to our students, special guests, mentors, food sponsors and audience for making it such a special evening. Stay tuned until next time! JDL kids , keep shining!



Dolorosa: Dolores Quezon Association of Canada

Dolorosa celebrated their festival with a 3-day activities. On Friday, they had their gala to welcome the hermanas. On the second day, they had their Fiesta. And on the third day, they had their pilgrimage to the Midland Shrine.



PCCF at UBE Wonderland



Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) pageant winners joined the festivities at Ube Wonderland with song, dance and a Santacruzan walk.

Asialicious: Marky Hugh talents impresses crowd



Marky Hugh (MH) Productions talents entertained the crowd at the 2-day Asialicious Festival at Woodside Square.



Maymay Entrata calls for better public service: 'Deserve ng mas maayos na bansa'

Actress Maymay Entrata echoes the sentiment of many Filipinos that they deserve a better Philippines.

Maymay, like her fellow celebrities, spoke up on public service amid the issue on corruption in the country.

"Gusto ko lang sabihin ng direktong: deserve po natin ang mas maayos na bansa. 'Yung buwis na bina-bayaran natin, dapat napupunta sa mga bagay na makakatulong sa tao," she said.

"Tulad ng maayos na kalsada, edukasyon, health care, at hindi lang sa bulsa ng mga nasa maling tao," she added.

Maymay also recalled her childhood walking in floodwaters, thinking it was normal since she got used to it. The ac-



trix only had a better grasp of good governance now that she is made aware of it.

"Naaalala ko nung kabataan ko po, sanay akong maglakad papuntang school. May araw na, naglalakad kami sa baha ng kaibigan ko, tumatawa lang kami kasi sanay na. Akala namin normal lang 'yun," she said.

"Pero ngayong mas may alam na ako, na-realize ko na hindi dapat ganun. Hindi dapat normal ang baha, ang sirang kalsada, at ang hindi maayos na sistema. 'Lahat po 'yan resulta ng kapabayaan at paulit-ulit na pagkukulang ng mga nasa pwesto."

Maymay said that Filipinos are resil-

ient but it does not mean that they are okay.

"Deserve po natin ang gobyerno na tunay na naglilingkod. 'Yung tapat, at inuuna ang kapakanan ng bayan," she said.

"Pero alam ko rin na hindi lahat sa gobyerno ay masama. May mga tao pa rin na may malasakit at naninindigan sa tama. Kaya sabay po nating ipagdarasal ang bansa natin.

"Na sana dumami pa ang mga lider na may puso para sa bayan. Na unti-unting magbabago ang sistema. Na balang araw, hindi na lang tayo matutong mabuhay para lang makaraos, kundi mamuhay nang may dignidad at tunay na pag-asa," Maymay said.

She ended her post hoping for a better Philippines with the help of Filipinos who continue to pray and believe that it can happen to their country.



Feast of Our Lady of Nativity: Calbayog Samar Residence of Ontario Canada (CASAROCA)



CASAROCA held their annual gala and the highlight of the night was the kuracha dance by 4 couples to raise funds for their charitable projects.

their annual gala and the highlight of the night was the kuracha dance by 4 couples to raise funds for their charitable projects.



In The Paint: Unionville and Beyond



Their works feature landscapes, florals, abstracts, and portraits. These are painters in love with creating art, painting in different styles--Matisse, Bonnard, Manet, the Group of Seven,

and Fernando Amorsolo come to mind. Some works are inflected with a Philippine flavour, such as Diamante's "Jeepneys," a romantic depiction of Manila's famous mode of transport. Pineda's

"Chickens in the Yard" paints a favourite denizen of Philippine backyards, while her "Lady" features a woman who is perhaps a member of the Philippine elite. Cruzet's paintings reveal his love of the

Canadian landscape and the Group of Seven, earning him the epithet, the Seven's eighth member, within the Ontario Fil-Can community.

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Geraldine Jennings sheds inhibitions for movie debut in ‘Isla Babuyan’

British-Filipina newcomer Geraldine Jennings makes her screen debut in *Isla Babuyan*, a family drama with campy turns and daring scenes that earned it an R-18 rating from the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB).

Jennings admitted the rating caught her off guard. “When we first heard about it, of course, it was a bit disappointing. My first reaction was, ‘R18, really? Are they sure they watched the same movie?’” she said during the film’s press premiere. “But R18 doesn’t always mean scandalous. Sometimes it just means real and relevant. And that’s what this film is for sure.”

The film, directed by Jose Abdel Langit, written by Jessie Villabrille, and produced by Solid Gold Entertainment, opens Oct. 1 exclusively at Robinsons Movieworld cinemas.

The story follows Anastasia (Jennings), who returns to the island where her mother, Rose (Lotlot de Leon), runs a resort named Paraiso. Raised in the United Kingdom by a British father and Filipina mother, Anastasia seeks to reconnect with her roots while dealing with strained family ties.

On the island, she meets friends,

experiences first love, and conflicts that test her relationship with her mother. Blake plays Jameson Jordan, who shows interest in Anastasia. Dave Caloy is written as her long-admirer, James portrays David, linked to Rose in a complicated way. Nathalie Hart and Paolo Gumabao appear as Margaux and Javier, with Gumabao drawing notice for a nude scene.

Jennings said that despite such moments, the film is family-oriented. “It also tackles the relationship between a mother and daughter,” she said.

The script ties together several arcs: the longing of a daughter for her mother’s acceptance, the tension in Rose’s past relationship, and the rivalries among younger characters.

The pacing starts slow with introduc-

tions but picks up as the story develops. Cinematography presents *Isla Babuyan* as both scenic and harsh. The tone is campy, with soap-style turns and exaggerated drama, which may divide audiences. Some scenes run longer than needed, but the mother-daughter story keeps the film steady.

The project also honors the late talent manager Leo Dominguez, who discovered Jennings’ potential as both singer and actress and had promised her mother, Gina, that he would guide her career when the time came. That promise was fulfilled through this film.

Jennings shows potential in her first role, handling both emotional and lighter scenes. De Leon anchors the film with experience, while the ensemble cast supports the layered plot.

Janella Salvador on the current status of her heart: ‘Masaya ang puso

ko ngayon’

Kapamilya actress Janella Salvador revealed that her heart is in a happy state at the moment without disclosing if there’s a special someone behind it. In an interview with King of Talk Boy Abunda earlier this week, the *Open Endings* actress shared some qualities that she’s looking for in a partner.

Janella has been facing rumors linking her to her fellow actress, Klea Pineda, but has asserted that she wasn’t the reason for the latter’s breakup with her then-girlfriend, Katrice Kierulf.

“Masaya ang puso ko ngayon. Genuinely, I’m happy right now— all aspects of my life, I’m doing okay. Happy ako,” she shared.

The Kapamilya star then shared that she’s looking for a stable partner that would be there not only for her but also her son, Jude. She maintained that she needs to think about her son as well if she were to enter a relationship.

“I think now, I’m really looking for

stability. Especially now that I don’t have only myself to think of but also my son. So if I enter any relationship, non-negotiable yun— kailangan sigurado ako, kailangan stable na siya, kailangan maayos,” she added.

When asked about the third-party allegations once more, Janella shared her thoughts as to why the rumors began in the first place.

“Paano nga ba nag simula? I guess cause mag katrabaho kami sa *Open Endings* kaya nag ka rumors ng ganun. They broke up right after the film so I guess that’s where all the rumors started. They saw that we were hanging out after the film— we’ve been hanging out,” she maintained.

Boy then directly asked her if she was open to being in a relationship with the same gender, the actress didn’t specify her answer as she doesn’t see the need to at the moment but admitted that she can love who she will love.

“Would I? I guess that answer would have to stay with me muna. But, I love who I love,” she candidly answered.



Bela Padilla praises Tito Robin but acknowledges differences in beliefs

Bela Padilla relayed her respect for her uncle, senator and fellow actor Robin Padilla, while also pointing out differences in their stances and approaches to their beliefs.

Bela is related to Robin from her mother’s side as Robin’s mother Eva Cariño is the sister of Bela’s grandmother, making them relatives by second-degree consanguinity.

The actress sat down for an interview with Karen Davila for the latter’s YouTube channel, where the broadcast journalist

brought up how Bela always agreed with Robin’s stands on issues.

Bela, however, corrected Karen, saying with a laugh she “doesn’t agree with 99% of the things” Robin has been fighting for recently and his ideologies.

She indicated their differences as individuals such as respective religions, with Robin being a Muslim while Bela grew up in the beliefs of the Christian denomination



Jehovah’s Witnesses.

“Doon pa lang, the base of our principles are already very different. Religion does play a big factor in how a person thinks,” Bela explained.

While Bela called Robin “one of the nicest and kindest” she knows, detailing his generosity and good heart, the actress said she’d approach things differently than her uncle.

“That doesn’t mean anything, I feel, because we’re two different people,” she reiterated.

In the same interview, Bela called out beneficiaries of nepotism for their “tacky” sense of style by wearing multiple brands.

“You don’t see people wearing branded stuff, like, super in your face, you know? If they do, it’s one. It’s one piece in their whole outfit,” Bela said. “Nababaduyan kasi ako. Brand on brand on brand. Guys, have some, ano naman, have some class. Kainis!”

Emman Atienza denies corruption funds her lavish lifestyle

Influencer Emman Atienza ay mata-tawag na “nepo baby” at isinilang nang maykaya sa buhay.

Ang kanyang ama na si Kim Atienza ay popular Kapuso anchor at host.

Ang kanyang ina namang si Felicia Hung-Atienza ay isang stockbroker, educator, at owner ng Chinese International School Manila.

Alam ng marami na nasa dugo ng pamilyang Atienza ang pagiging poli-

tiko.

Lolo ni Emman si dating Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Paglilinaw ni Emman, bagamat kilalang nasa pulitika ang pamilya ng kanyang ama ay hindi raw niya kailanman ito ginamit para sa pribilihyong matustusan ang mga luho niya.

Pahayag niya: “One of the most frustrating pieces of misinformation that was spread about me during the

‘Guess the bill’ controversy when everyone was hating on me in the Philippines— because trust me, there was so much misinformation that I was genuinely considering getting lawyers involved—was that my lifestyle, my schooling, my house, my travels, my clothes, etc., are funded by politicians, are funded by the government, are



funded by corruption.

“Yes, my one grandfather and my aunts and uncles on my dad’s side are in politics.

“But I wanna make it so clear that my immediate family — my sister, my brother, me, my mom, my dad — do not get financial support of any means from that side of the family.”

Pagmamalaki ni Emman, ang perang ginagastos niya ay galing sa dugo’t pawis ng kanyang mga magulang.

Iginiit din niyang hindi umaasa ang kanyang mga magulang sa dating mayor ng Maynila at sa mga kapatid ng kanyang ama na nasa katungkulan.

Ani Emman: “My mom is the breadwinner, meaning she brings home the money and her family is not in any way, shape, or form related to politicians.

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Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) shows the Beauty of the Philippines

TORONTO - The Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) proudly showcased the Philippines through music, dance and cultural displays at the World of Travel, Trade, and Taste Expo 2025 held at the Metro Toronto Convention Center last May.

PCCF performances featured the PCCF Dancers who performed an amazing cultural number, a fashion show and a show stopping performance by Jhoana Valdez!

The lovely ladies from the Pageants with the Cause, PCCF officers Lita Leano, Gloria Rafanan, Noemi Milanese, Tony Leano, Philip Rafanan, Nancy Caladucan & Marianne Daclan were in attendance. The PCCF booth was a success was monitored by volunteers Rystle Enverga, Reeza & Eric Panganiban.



The event showcased the beauty and culture of dozens of other countries. A job well done everyone!

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 or LIKE Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) Pinoy Fiesta & Trade Show Toronto

Canadian Yujuico Bal Cricket of Toronto Kapuso Lions Club lends a helping hand

My 10th advocacy outreach event in 2025- to feed hungry children took place today in Central Havana, the capital of Cuba, an area with a high population of homeless and abandoned kids. In my partnership with the International Christian Community, (ICC) an interdenominational group in Central Havana we successfully gathered the children and distributed bags containing school supplies together with boxes of food, cake and ice cream. The outpouring of love was immense, and God's love profoundly touched their hearts. The essence of helping



under Toronto Kapuso Lions Club crosses the Canadian border all the way. We took pride in helping in the presence of Ambassadors to Cuba from South Africa, Dominica. This feeding advocacy will continue oftentimes and with the help of many enlightened citizens, we can make a difference in the lives of many. A big thanks to Pastor Dayan Moner, friends Dr Leo Manigo, Dr Karl F. Paris , Dr Phatmany Naj and ICC board members of Havana. My next stops : Medeillen, Colombia and Sao Paolo, Brazil.



Alexa Miro confirms Sandro Marcos was her boyfriend for 5 years

Alexa Miro has formally admitted that she had a five-year relationship with Ilocos Norte's first district representative, Sandro Marcos, the son of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and First Lady Liza Marcos.

Miro recently explained that she agreed to keep the relationship from the public because since Sandro is part of the first family. "The reason behind that decision was for safety purposes and precautions because siyempre kasi sila ang ating first family," she told reporters after the press conference of "Sing-Galing Celebrity Edition" on Thursday, Sept. 25.

It can be recalled that Miro made headlines this week after she went live on TikTok and spoke about her past relationship with an unidentified boyfriend, which netizens speculated to be Sandro.

At the time, the actress named beauty queen Franki Russell as the alleged third party and reason for the split. As of writing, Russell has not addressed the allegation.



Miro admitted that she was heartbroken about how things ended, which made her decide to speak up now despite previously denying their relationship.

"Nasaktan kasi talaga ako sa mga huling kaganapan kaya siguro naramdaman ko na baka panahon na para magsabi ng totoo (I was really hurt by the recent events so I felt this might be right time to tell the truth)," she said.

KUNG anu-anong malilisyo sa libelous na balita ang ipinakakalat ng ilang vloggers at FB page tungkol kay Sunshine Cruz at sa mga anak.

Despite how things ended, the "Strange Frequencies: Taiwan Killer Hospital" actress said she is open to reconcile with Sandro.

"I wish him well; I wish him nothing but the best. Let's see, why not? I will always have love for him; that will never change," she said.

Miro and her best friend, actress Barbie Imperial, previously bonded with the First Lady at the 2025 Manila International Film Festival (MIFF) in Los Angeles, California, in March.

On various occasions in the past, Miro was frequently seen with Sandro or with the first family, even during official functions.

Sparkle warns vs fake news Heart Evangelista's endorsements declining

Sparkle GMA Artist Center warned the public against circulating false reports claiming that Heart Evangelista's brand endorsements were in decline.

In a statement released on Friday, Sept. 26,

Sparkle stressed that the reports about Evangelista being dropped by two brands are not true.

"Fake news alert. This is not true," wrote the talent agency on Instagram alongside the screenshot of the report that stated two brands had "quietly dropped" Evangelista.

"Don't be fooled by fake news! Always be vigilant when reading articles online," the caption continued.

The reports came after Evangelista's husband, Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero, was named alongside other government officials as allegedly involved in anomalous flood-control projects.

Escudero later denounced the claims made by Undersecretary Roberto Bernardo of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), stressing that for more than 27 years in public service, "he

has never once been charged with corruption."

Evangelista also recently addressed her absence at the Sept. 21 nationwide rally against corruption, saying that it was due to threats that people would strip her naked.

Responding to those questioning her lifestyle as the wife of a public servant, the Kapuso star asserted that she and Escudero have signed a pre-nuptial agreement, hence their "complete separation of assets."

Evangelista also disclosed that she will not be attending the Spring and Summer 2026 Fashion Week due to the current situation in the Philippines.

"I don't think it's the right time for anyone, especially for our country, to be going to Fashion Week because I think we need to be here," she said.



Why Zaijian Jaranilla steers clear of commenting on friends' issues

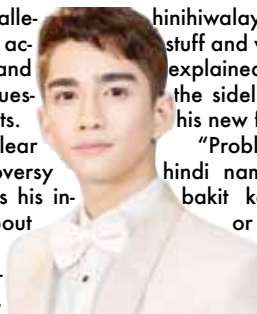
"The Last Beer" star Zaijian Jaranilla is cautious about giving comments or opinions when asked to weigh in on his friends' issues.

The 24-year-old actor, who has become close to Sylvia Sanchez (and other members of her family) since working together in the past, couldn't

avoid questions about the allegations linking the veteran actress' husband, Art Atayde, and son, Rep. Arjo Atayde, to questionable flood control projects.

While Zaijian made it clear that the political controversy didn't change how he views his industry senior, he was firm about not getting involved.

"Ako po kasi, yung personal at saka yung sa trabaho,



hinihiwalay ko (I keep the personal stuff and work separate)," Zaijian explained during an interview on the sidelines of the presscon for his new film "The Last Beer."

"Problema nila yun at saka hindi naman ako involved dun, bakit kailangan ko makialam or bakit kailangan may sabihin ako? Parang sa kanila na yun. Hindi ko na kailangang mangi-

alam ... Parang OK, it's their problem kaya nila ayusin yun... Hindi naman ako damay dun, bakit ko kailangan problemahin?"

Nevertheless, Zaijian acknowledged that reactions from the public are beyond anyone's control. "You also can't control what people will say and think... just like I said, what you don't know won't hurt you."

But when the news broke out, Zaijian was reportedly on set with Sylvia.

"Ang hirap magsalita ng wala pang pruwera na ganuntalaga yun... You can't just say something and then retract it in the end. Though not politically related, Zaijian shared that he's already experienced heavy bashing over a "playful" comment he made about a "Pinoy Big Brother: Celebrity Collab" housemate.

Now, he'd rather protect his peace and devote his energy to what matters most to him.



Officers, Pageant winners and other representatives from the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) and The Filipino Centre, Toronto (FCT) join the World of Trade, Trade and Taste Expo 2025.

Canadian churches weigh in on ICC case against ex-Philippines president Rodrigo Duterte

KAIROS from page 1

ICC to confirm charges against Duterte.

“KAIROS stands with faith communities, human rights and ecumenical partners in the Philippines, and with the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRP), of which we are a member, to ensure that victims and their families are not silenced,” the movement said in a statement on September 3, 2025.

The ICC hearing was originally scheduled to start on September 23 to establish whether the trial of Duterte will proceed.

However, on September 8, the ICC moved to postpone the hearing until it determines that Duterte, 80, is fit to follow proceedings in his case.

The ICC is an independent court of last resort with jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute serious crimes of international concern: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and aggression.

Per summary by The Hague-based court, the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC on February 10, 2025 applied for an arrest warrant against Duterte for the crimes against humanity of



Supporters of former President Rodrigo Duterte rally last March at Earl Bales Park after he was flown to the Netherlands demanding his return.

murder, torture and rape.

The ICC Pre-Trial Chamber I assessed the material submitted by the prosecution and found reasonable grounds to believe that Duterte is individually responsible as an indirect co-perpetrator for the crime of murder.

The murders were allegedly committed between November 1, 2011 and March 16, 2019, when Duterte was mayor of Davao City and later, president of the Philippines.

The crimes were allegedly committed as part of Duterte’s war on drugs.

A warrant of arrest against Duterte was issued by the pre-trial chamber. Duterte was arrested on March 11, 2025 at the Ninoy Aquino International

Airport in Manila after arriving from Hong Kong.

The former leader was transferred to the custody ICC in The Hague on March 12. He is detained at the Scheveningen Prison.

The initial appearance of Duterte before the pre-trial chamber took place on March 14 through video.

GMA News Online prepared an explainer about what is expected at a confirmation of charges hearing.

The news agency quoted Michael Tiu, an assistant professor of law at the University of the Philippines, who explained that strong evidence should be presented by prosecutors.

“The prosecution will present

or read the charges, similar to when the information is read in our local courts, what the charge is, and then they’ll present evidence,” Tiu said in mixed English and Tagalog.

“So the standard that they have to satisfy is that there should be sufficient evidence to establish substantial grounds to believe that [the] former president committed these crimes,” he added.

In its September 3, 2025 statement, KAIROS said that it is “essential that the judicial process proceeds in full accordance with the rules of evidence, guaranteeing that the facts are heard, tested and judged fairly”.

“This moment represents a vital step toward accountability for the thousands of extrajudicial killings and human rights violations committed during his administration,” the movement stated.

KAIROS is a joint program among 10 churches and religious organizations, and it is administered by the United Church of Canada.

The other participants are the Anglican Church of Canada, Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, Canadian Religious Conference, Christian Reformed Church in North America, Evangelical

Lutheran Church in Canada, Mennonite Central Committee of Canada, Presbyterian Church in Canada, Alongside Hope, and the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).

The word “Kairos” comes from a Greek term that means “right time” or “opportune moment” to do or say something of importance.

“The initial arrest of Duterte is a testament to the courage and perseverance of survivors and victims’ families,” KAIROS said in the statement.

According to the ICC, Duterte was the alleged founder and leader of the Davao Death Squad.

The squad was allegedly responsible for extra-judicial killings in the southern Philippines city of Davao when Duterte was mayor. The killings allegedly expanded nationwide when Duterte became president of the Philippines in 2016.

The ICC was created through the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, an international treaty that came into force in 2002.

In March 2019, the Philippines withdrew from the Rome Statute, when Duterte was president.

KNIGHTS OF RIZAL CENTRAL CANADA REGION CELEBRATE COMMANDERS' BALL 2025

by: Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

TORONTO - Celebrating significantly and purposefully , the officers and members of the Order of the Knights of Rizal, Central Canada Region, in their splendid KOR regalia, proudly paraded before their guests, families, and friends, officially opening their “Commanders’ Ball: An Evening with the KOR Supremo” on September 6, 2025, at La Primavera Hall, Woodbridge , Ontario.

Among the leading attendees were KOR Supreme Commander, Sir Raymundo del Rosario, with his wife Nelia del Rosario, and former and current Canada Regional Commanders, Sirs Lapulapu Cana, Jimmy Marasigan, Joe Damasco, Dr. Romy Sinajon, and Frank Crawford. Also in attendance were official representatives of the KOR chapters from the USA, Calgary, Windsor, and Montreal and the generous sponsors and prominent leaders of community, business, social, and professional organizations in the Greater



MP Vince Gasparo (2ND FROM RIGHT) was knighted by Supreme Commander Raymundo “Munding” del Rosario, assisted by senior KOR officers.

Toronto Area(GTA). Other associated associations such as the Ladies of the Knights of Rizal (LKOR) led by Bing Marasigan, the Alliance of Knights of Rizal (ALKOR) headed by Trinidad “Ining” Calaguio, Kababaihang Rizalista’s Araceli “Rose” Cruz, and the Rizal Youth Council by Clarisse Princess Crawford, warmly participated too in the 5-hour celebration.

Ably and jointly hosted by Event co-chairs Sirs Joseph Redoblado, Chris Marfil, and Jerome Peralta, the evening

ceremonies commenced with the Land Acknowledgement, followed by National Anthems singing, Rizalian Oath and Pledge, and opening prayer and blessing, aptly led by Sirs Chris Marfil, Jerome Peralta, and Pastor Manzo, respectively. Sir Frank Crawford enthusiastically delivered his welcome remarks and introduced the guest of hon-

our. KOR Supreme Commander Sir Raymundo del Rosario, KGCR, LM, delivered his well-applauded address, report-

ing on the status of the 114-year old prominent organization. Among other things, he cited developments in the new policies, programs, chapters, initiatives, and activities being pursued by the KOR nationally and internationally.

Special messages and greetings were presented by Philippine Consul Rodney Jonas Sumague and the Philippine Ambassador to Canada, from Prime Minister Mark Carney, MP for Mississauga Streetsville & Minister Rechie Valdez-read by MP for Eglinton -Lawrence Vince Gasparo, MP for York Centre Roman Baber, MPP & Minister Michael Kerzner, and Rizal Youth Council head, Lady Clarisse Crawford.

During the celebration, MP Vince Gasparo was knighted by Supreme Commander Raymundo “Munding” del Rosario, assisted by senior KOR officers. Three promising officer Knights received Distinguished Service Awards and promoted to ranks, namely Sirs Joseph Redoblado,

Chris Marfil & Christian Rey. Sirs Alexcs Trinidad & Hermie Hernandez were given “ Distinguished Service Cross “ while 14 Knights were cited with “Certificates of Appreciation“ for their contributions to KOR ‘s life and operation. A Posthumous Recognition was read by Sir Febs Hangdaan.Sirs Richard Saldana and Fr. Christian Rey gave the closing remarks and the closing prayers.

The Order of the Knights of Rizal (KOR), as described by Sir Lapulapu Cana, is “a fraternal organization which aims to study the teachings of the Philippines’ foremost national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal, and to inculcate and propagate his ideals and philosophies among all classes of the Filipino people.” Formed on December 30, 1911, it was granted a special charter through Republic Act 646 on June 14, 1951 by President Elpidio Quirino. Non Omnis Moriar! (by Tony A. San Juan, OCT)

Klarisse de Guzman reveals Regine Velasquez waived TF (TALENT FEE) for her

Klarisse de Guzman reveals Regine Velasquez waived talent fee for her Araneta Coliseum concert

Klarisse de Guzman’s dream to perform at the Araneta Coliseum finally came true.

The former Pinoy Big Brother: Celebrity Collab housemate staged a night to remember with her unforgettable performances and special guests.

Asia’s Songbird Regine Velasquez joined her for their birit showdown version of ABBA’s “The Winner Takes It All.”

After the number, Regine gave Klarisse a heartwarming message about how the latter waited for a long time before fulfilling her dream to have a concert at the Big Dome.

“It’s my pleasure to be part of your very special night Klang. I was in your very first one, diyan sa kanto lang,” said Regine, referring to the smaller concert venue New Frontier Theater.



Klarisse de Guzman (all photos) on having Asia’s Songbird Regine Velasquez (wearing a gown) as one of her special guests: “Nung unang concert konandun ka rin sa kabilang kanto. And to be fair po, parehong walang TFI” Seen with Klarisse on the right is her champion and concert producer Vice Ganda.

Continuing, Regine told Klarisse: “Back then, I was very proud of you already.

“Natutuwa ako na ang daming blessings na natatanggap mo at ibinibigay sa iyo ng Panginoon. Alam mo kung bakit?”

To which, Klarisse responded, “Bakit po Ms.

Reg?”

Regine then said: “Because you waited, and you waited for a long time.

“And I’m sure a lot of those times you were already questioning if it’s ever gonna

come your way.

“And finally it’s here, we’re all very proud of you. Lahat ng tao dito, ikaw ang pinunta. Congratulations!”

Regine added, “Sa maikling panahon na nagkakilala tayo. Siguro mga 30 years na, ‘no? Napakabit po ng taong ito. Kaya ang masasabi ko lang, dasurv!”

Touched by Regine’s good words, Klarisse shared that the Asia’s Songbird has been one of the people who inspires her in her craft. Then Klarisse revealed, “Nung unang concert konandun ka rin sa kabilang kanto. And to be fair po, parehong walang TFI!”

Regine jokingly remarked, “Ngayon may TF ako! Yung TF mo napunta sa akin.”

But Klarisse reiterated, “Ganun ka-generous ang Ms. Regine Velasquez-Alcasid.”

Another highlight of the concert was when Klarisse shared the stage with Vice Ganda, her champion and producer of her Big Dome concert.

They had fun showcasing rapping to Gloc-

9’s “Sirena.”

Vice Ganda also brought the house down with her hilarious ad libs, interspersed with punchlines about the controversial collusion of government officials in billions of pesos worth of flood control projects.

Vice and Klarisse grew close when the latter joined It’s Showtime as a hurado for “Tawag Ng Tanghalan,” the Kapamilya noontime show’s popular singing competition segment.

Since then, the Unkabogable Star has been supportive of Klang’s wish to make it at the Big Dome. The Kapamilya singer first entered show business when she won as first-runner up in first season of The Voice Philippines in 2013.

She also won Your Face Sounds Familiar, an impersonation reality competition, in 2021.

For Toronto Lions Kapuso, all hands on deck for charity



For its Vision Global Cause initiative this year, Toronto Kapuso Lions led by 1st Vice-President Relly (Florida Pardinas) and Director Maria Lilian Arenas, gathered donations of 607 pairs of eyeglasses which

are now ready for shipment to the Canadian Lions Eyeglasses Recycling Centre (CLERC) in Calgary, Alberta. Amazing effort, Team Kapuso!

Toronto Kapuso Lions Alexandra Wheeler and Rocelle Esteban volunteered to pick up red bag donations for Puro-lator’s Tackle Hunger, the



official Food Drive of the Canadian Football League. Way to go, Lions!



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Filipino Centre Toronto Now Accepting Candidates For 2025 Outstanding Students Awards

By Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

TORONTO - Purposefully committed to encouraging and challenging Filipino Canadian students in Ontario to excel in school performance and to achieve student success, the Filipino Centre Toronto (FCT) is now accepting candidates to its annual competition for “2025 Outstanding Students Awards.”

The FCT-Rosalinda C. Javier Outstanding Students Awards, started in 2005, is an annual program of selecting and recognizing outstanding and exemplary elementary, high school, and post-secondary graduates from Public, Catholic, and other government-supported educational institutions in Ontario.

Through its Outstanding Students Awards Committee (OSA), the Centre will present awards to chosen outstanding student graduates who have completed their elementary(Grade 8) or high school(Grade 12) or post-secondary(college or university) studies. The selection criteria include 1) scholastic achievement/academic marks – 50%, 2) community involvement, and extra-curricular activities – 30%, and 3) interview performance – 20%.

All applicants, who have been screened and approved by the Outstanding Student Awards Committee, will be recognized and honoured appropriately in a ceremony. Monetary awards, trophies, plaques, and certificates will be presented to the winners and/or nominees of each category.

The overall requirements for the 2025 FCT-RCJ Outstanding Student Award Competition are as follow:

A. General Requirements for All Categories: Any ap-



2024 recipient Angelica Tait

plicant or candidate for an FCT Award must be a 1) Natural-born Filipino or of Filipino descent (either parent is Filipino); 2) Citizen or Permanent Resident of Canada; 3) Of the good moral and exemplary character, i.e. has no pending charge involving sexual or child abuse or criminal case.

B. Specific Requirements for Elementary and High School Graduates. To qualify: 1) The applicant should be currently registered in the secondary school or col-

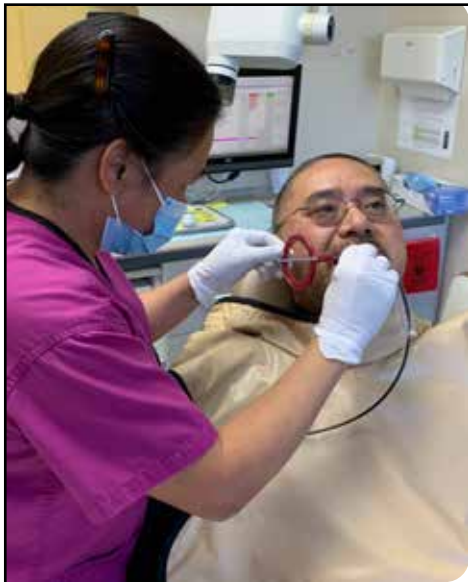
lege in Ontario, under one of the following categories: The elementary school applicant should have completed Grade 8 in June 2025 or past 2 years, and be going into high school (grade 9); The high school applicant should have completed Grade 12 in June 2025 or past 2 years and be accepted and going into university or community college or apprenticeship program. 2) The student should have a minimum academic average of 85% (or equivalent) during the last two (2) school years(Grades 7 & 8) or (Grades 11 & 12) and must be involved in extracurricular and community/volunteer activities. 3) The applicant must submit the following documents: For the elementary school graduate – Original copies of final report cards for the last two years. For the high school graduate – A current and original transcript bearing the school’s official seal. Additionally, two (2) original letters of character reference (one from the school, excluding immediate family), two (2) passport-size colour photos, and a completed FCT application form with an attached Resume.

C. Qualification Requirements for Post-Secondary Honour Candidates: 1) For Undergraduate or Baccalaureate Degree candidates: Must have achieved Academic Honours, with Notation printed in the candidate’s degree diploma, such as any of the following: “Summa Cum Laude” or “Magna Cum Laude” or “Cum Laude” or “With Highest Distinction” (GPA 3.8 or higher) or “With Distinction” (3.5 to 3.79) or “First-Class Standing”; or other university/college equivalent academic honours distinction awards. 2) For candidates with graduate

Masteral or Doctoral degree: Must have achieved Graduate Average Grade of Letter Grades of A+, A, A- only; or Numerical Marks of 90-100%, 85-89%, 80-84% only; or High Pass-Clear Excellence or acceptable equivalent marking scale. 3) Documents (Photocopies only) to be submitted: a) Undergraduate program: Bachelor’s Diploma with Academic Honours Notation; b) Graduate program: Transcript of Academic Record or Master’s/ Doctorate diploma, and 4) Passport-size colour Photo; 5) Completed “FCT Application Form” with a Resume. Academic awards received must not be more than 5 years old, from the date of application.

The members of the FCT-RCJ Outstanding Students Awards Committee (OSA) include notable Filipino Canadian professionals and educators composed of Tony A. San Juan, as Chairman, and the members are Jodelyn Huang, Steve Pagao, Mary Ann S.San Juan(Co-chair), Fermer Santos, and Garry Tanuan.

Application forms for the FCT’s Outstanding Students Awards are now available at FCT, call 416-335-0485. or at www.filipinocentretoronto.com. The Deadline for submission of forms and documents is October 10, 2025, Friday. Personal interviews for Grade8 and 12 candidates will begin on October 12, 2025, Monday via Zoom. Completed forms and requirements are to be submitted or mailed to The Filipino Centre Toronto, RCJ OSA Committee, c/o Tony A. San Juan, Chairman, 4395 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto, ON M1S 1T9 . Awarding Day is tentatively set on October 26, 205(Sunday), 2:00 pm. at FCT. (by: Tony A. San Juan, OCT).



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Will Ashley names Alden Richards as showbiz inspiration

Rising young actor Will Ashley is savoring the spotlight these days. Fresh from being named Second Big Placer in the hit reality show Pinoy Big Brother: Celebrity Collab Edition—alongside his Kapamilya tandem Ralph De Leon—the 21-year-old revealed in a recent TV interview that his biggest inspiration for entering showbiz was none other than Alden Richards.

“That’s right!” he exclaimed. “I got inspired when I watched him in one of his past soap operas on GMA. Ever since, Alden has been my showbiz idol. After watching him on TV, I decided to try acting. I started joining workshops, told myself there’s no harm in trying my luck, and luckily, I landed commercials. The rest is history.”

Will Ashley is known for his roles in ‘Prima Donnas,’ ‘Unbreak My Heart,’ and

His first break came in 2013 when he auditioned for the remake of the hit soap Villa Quintana and was cast as the young Isagani. Since then, Will has appeared in a string



of Kapuso shows, including Mulawin Vs. Ravena, Prima Donnas, Mano Po Legacy: The Flower Sisters, Contessa, The Fake Life, Unbreak My Heart, and Prinsesa ng City Jail.

“Looking back, I’m so grateful that GMA gave me good exposure!” he said.

Now known as the “Nation’s Son” after his PBB stint, Will admits his strongest motivation has always been his mother.

“She’s a major part of my journey, especially since my father died when I was just six years old,” he shared. “As an only child, I knew I wanted to help her. That’s one of the main reasons why I took showbiz seriously.”

As for his name? “It’s from my late father, Wilfredo. And Ashley was the name he wanted to give if he ever had a daughter.”

Will’s career is on an upswing. In Octo-

ber, he’s headlining a solo concert at the New Frontier Theater while also working on three upcoming films: Bar Boys: After School, Love You So Bad, and Poon.

“Hopefully, fans will continue to support all my projects,” he said with a smile.

Wedding Questions follow Julie Anne San Jose

Meanwhile, Julie Anne San Jose admits she can’t escape one of the most common questions thrown at her these days: When will she and boyfriend Rayver Cruz tie the knot?

“Yes, people always ask me that,” she said. “But for me, I’m just letting God control it. It’s not

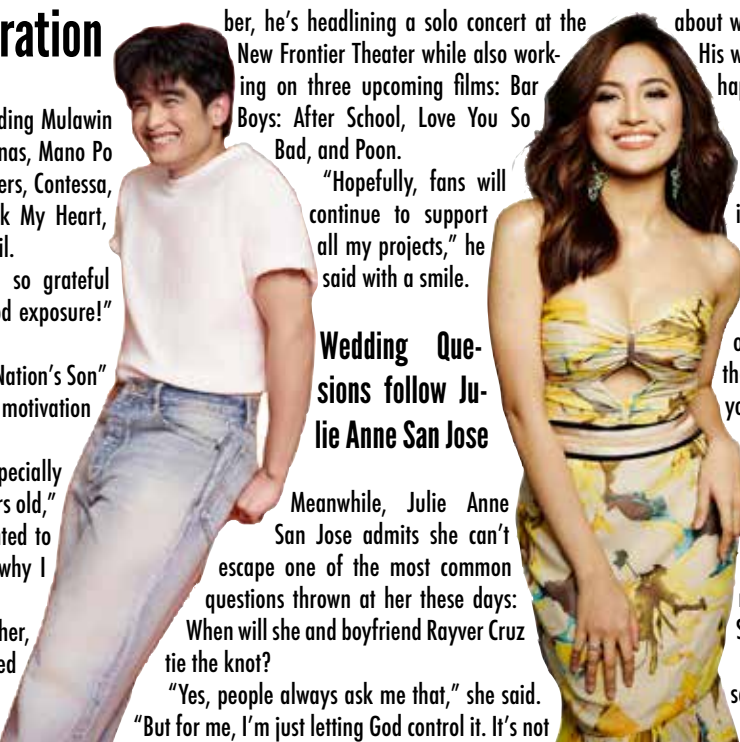
about what I want but what He wants. If that’s His will for me and Ray, then everything will happen accordingly. I’m letting things be.”

Julie shared that Rayver worked hard to win over her parents, who are naturally reserved. “They’re the best people in the world for me. They know what’s best for me, and I’m happy that now they’re very okay with Ray.”

Her parents have also offered advice on family life: “They always remind me that it’s important God is at the center of your relationship and that open communication is key. Ray and I practice that. We’re very open with each other, we don’t hide things. If there’s a problem, we talk and settle it right away.”

Asked how she would describe her relationship with Rayver, Asia’s Limitless Star didn’t hesitate.

“We’re very, very happy, content, and secure!”



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Canada’s Filipino Communities Worry About Corruption in the Philippines

FIL-CANS from page 1

country. From 1972 to 1981, Filipino citizens were stripped of their rights, and the press and any opposition were violently silenced.

Described as a kleptocrat by many scholars, Marcos Sr. was infamous for using his political power to accumulate wealth by stealing from everyday people.

By the end of his rule, almost half of the population in the Philippines was living in extreme poverty, while his family lived in opulence. According to the Presidential Commission on Good Government, the Marcos family stole billions of dollars from the country between 1965 and 1986.

Decades later, Marcos Sr.’s political dynasty lives on with his son, the current Philippine president, Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. Now, Filipinos find themselves in a similar predicament, accusing the Marcos government and its collaborators of corruption.

Tens of thousands of Filipinos across the country took to the streets to protest in what was dubbed the “Trillion Peso March” and “Baha sa Luneta” (Flood Luneta), demanding accountability and punishment for those in the government and



private sector who are being accused of stealing trillions of pesos in public funds.

There are an estimated one million Filipinos living in Canada, many of whom work to send money back home. In 2020, Filipino Canadians sent a total of \$1 billion in remittances to their loved ones in the Philippines.

This is one of the reasons why Filipino youth advocacy group Anakbayan Canada says it’s important for Canadians to pay attention.

“For youth in the diaspora, this corruption is not distant. It is the very violence that forced our families abroad, tearing parents from children and scattering lives,” they shared in a statement on Tuesday. “Even here, as students and young workers, we are forced to send remittances that prop up a state which refuses to provide jobs, education, or protection.”

Where does your remittance go?

When your families go shopping for clothes, groceries, pay electricity, water, gasoline for vehicles, cellphone bills, and other expenses, there’s taxes added to all of those. When they pay property tax to the city, part of that of course goes to the national government.

Those taxes are what pays for the government employees and the politicians. Filipinos abroad who send remittances also pay for part of those taxes. And some of those politicians have been helping themselves to “more money than necessary” to fund themselves from those taxes.

You can say that you have been helping the build those flood control infrastructures. Ironically, it also went to corrupt contractors, bureaucrats and politicians who helped themselves and their families “personally.”

And that is why you should be concerned about what is happening in the Philippines.

If you haven’t been following,

here’s what you need to know about the protests happening in the Philippines.

Flood control corruption in the Philippines

The mass protests this were ignited over alleged corruption surrounding flood control projects in the Philippines.

As one of the most typhoon-prone countries in Asia, Marcos Jr.’s administration has spent an estimated P545 billion (C\$11.95 billion) for flood control projects, which are methods used to reduce or prevent the devastating effects of floodwaters.

However, in late 2024, the president vetoed P16.7 billion worth of flood control initiatives, citing inconsistencies in the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) management of the projects.

In September, the Philippine House of Representatives’ infrastructure committee began nationally televised hearings, grilling construction firms and government officials allegedly involved in the massive corruption in flood control projects.

Some anecdotes from the hearings include those of construction company owners Pacifico and Sarah Discaya, who claimed that several congressmen and

public works officials forced them to pay massive kickbacks, or bribes, for their companies to secure profitable flood control projects from the government.

Marcos Jr. said he would form an independent commission to investigate the corruption after discovering substandard quality and other anomalies in provincial flood control projects, including a project that was supposed to be complete but turned out to be nonexistent.

These investigations come after back-to-back typhoons caused massive floods that displaced over 300,000 Filipinos, damaged nearly 3,000 houses, and killed at least 26 people.

The Philippine economy is estimated to have lost P118.5 billion (C\$2.8 billion) from 2023 to 2025 as a result of the flood control corruption, according to the country’s Department of Finance.

The rich flaunting their money

To add salt to the wound, some of these private contractors and government officials are facing backlash for flaunting their wealth. The Discayas have become the faces of this corruption scandal after a 2024 interview and tour of their home went vi-

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GMA exec backs Shuvee Etrata: ‘She is not a die-hard for any politician’

(From left) Shuvee Etrata, Annette Gozon-Valdes, Joy Marcelo, and Anthony Constantino.

Shuvee Etrata earned the support of Annette Gozon-Valdes — who is currently the GMA senior vice president for programming, talent management, worldwide, and support group — as Etrata is on the brunt of backlash after a resurfaced video of her showing sympathy for former president Rodrigo Duterte made rounds.

In a statement on her Facebook page on Friday, Sept. 26, Gozon-Valdes said she is “ready to offer [her] support” for Etrata, while reiterating that the “Pinoy Big Brother” alum has been “unfairly attacked” on social media.

“Please allow me to clarify an article going around... I am ready to offer my support to Shuvee, any of our artists, or any of my friends when they are wrongfully and unfairly attacked,” she said.

Without mentioning Duterte’s name, the GMA executive also claimed that Etrata is not a “die-hard” fan of any politician, and was merely giving her “personal observations.”

“Shuvee is not ‘die-hard’ for any politician. She has had very, very few (and short) posts that have political color in the past. She gave her personal observation and opinions on what she believed to be good acts and bad acts done by the [government],” she said.

“If she personally observed that the negative effects of drugs [were] mitigated IN HER NEIGHBORHOOD, then let’s respect that... just as we should respect her stand against the shutdown of ABS-CBN,” she continued.

Gozon-Valdes also urged netizens to “respect” Etrata’s stand, instead of “spreading hate and attacks.”

“Please, let’s respect each other’s opinions. Rather than spread hate and attack each other, we should unite against our common goals such as searching for the truth, and ending corruption. Let’s join forces to

cancel corruption, not people who work hard for their family. Peace,” she said.

In a separate post, Gozon-Valdes uploaded a photo of herself visiting Etrata on the set of the upcoming film “Huwag Kang Titingin,” where she was joined by Anthony Constantino and Sparkle GMA Artist Center vice president Joy Marcelo.

“This brave girl always shows up, rain or shine, on good days and bad. At the set of the movie ‘Huwag Kang Titingin’... Anthony and Shuvee’s first taping day together,” she captioned her post.

Etrata has been under fire after a screen-recorded clip of her expressing her sympathy for Duterte during a TikTok Live — which was uploaded last March — went viral on social media. At the time, the Live happened after his arrest by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

“Naiiyak talaga ako kagabi, empath kasi ako. Like sa lugar kasi namin, ang laki kasi ng tulong ni PRRD, like ang drugs talaga guys, ang laki na thing na ‘yun. Hindi ko alam sa inyo pero nagpapasalamat talaga ako kay Duterte,” Etrata said in Cebuano. *(I really cried last night because I’m an empath. In our area, PRRD was a huge help, especially with drugs. Really, guys, that’s a big thing. I don’t know about you, but I’m really grateful to Duterte.)*

Following the backlash, the rising star apologized for hurting her fans with her remarks, adding that she has been avoiding talking about politics due to how “divisive” it was. She nonetheless assured them that she will “learn and grow.”

Fashion Week regular Heart Evangelista skips world’s biggest fashion events, cites ‘more important responsibilities’

Actress and style icon Heart Evangelista announced that she will not be attending the Spring/Summer 2026 Fashion Week shows in New York, London, Milan, and Paris, saying she feels it is not the right



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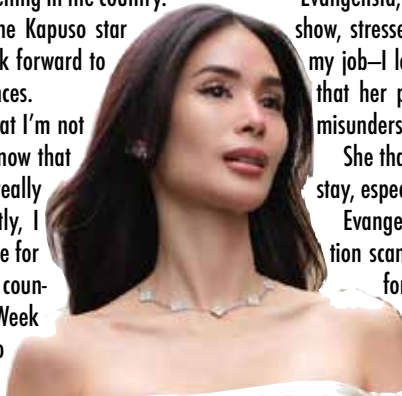
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moment given what’s happening in the country.

In an Instagram Live, the Kapuso star apologized to fans who look forward to her Fashion Week appearances.

“I’m sorry to my fans that I’m not going to Fashion Week. I know that you guys say ‘laban’—I really appreciate you, but honestly, I don’t think it’s the right time for anyone, especially from our country, to be going to Fashion Week because I think we need to be here,” she said.



Evangelista, who admitted she earns millions per show, stressed that the decision came at a cost. “It’s my job—I lose a lot by not going,” she said, adding that her passion for fashion has sometimes been misunderstood.

She thanked brands that supported her choice to stay, especially those in the Philippines.

Evangelista also expressed anger over corruption scandals dominating headlines, echoing calls for accountability. “I have other important responsibilities,” she said, “and I want justice to be served.”

GOD'S LITTLE PARADISE

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

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

Sunset @ Sta. Fe Beach

Chocolate Hills

Balicasag Resort & Diving Spot

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 five inches, with a tail that is longer than body.

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

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

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

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Donny Pangilinan donates P300,000 to carton vendors on ‘It’s Showtime’

Donny Pangilinan donated P300,000 to carton vendors who served as contestants in the “Laro Laro Pick” segment on “It’s Showtime.”

Pangilinan’s donation was announced by Vice Ganda on the Sept. 25 episode of the noontime show.

According to Vice Ganda, Pangilinan called him to say that he had been “touched” by the stories of the 20 vendors

and wanted to give them P15,000 each, with a total of P300,000.

“Sabi niya, ‘Vice, nadurog ako, hindi ko kaya ‘yung episode kahapon [...] Hindi kaya ng kalooban ko, gusto ko magbigay ng regalo,’” the comedian-host quoted the “Can’t Buy Me Love” actor.

(He said, “Vice, I was shattered, I couldn’t handle the episode yesterday. My feelings couldn’t handle it, I want to give

them a gift.”)

The 20 vendors then appeared on stage, where Vice Ganda personally handed them the cash envelopes from Pangilinan.

One of the vendors, Nanay Rosie, shared on Wednesday that she and her daughter had to live on the streets and sell cartons because they were un-



able to pay for house rent. Pangilinan made headlines in June after he surprised his former teachers at Learning Tree Child Growth Center in Quezon City with a P1-million donation.

Pangilinan was also praised by netizens on social media this week after he showed up and joined the nationwide rally against corruption on Sept. 21.

Canada’s Filipino Communities Worry About Corruption in the Philippines

FIL-CANS from page 20

ral. The couple showed off their collection of dozens of luxury vehicles.

And it’s not just the adults facing ire from the public. Children of politicians and contractors accused of stealing public funds are also in the hot seat.

Filipino social media has dubbed them “nepo babies.” The young women give a behind-the-scenes look into their lavish lifestyles online, sharing hauls of designer clothing and a glimpse into first-class flights.

“Normalize public shaming and call-

ing out all corrupt politicians and their families who shamelessly flaunt our tax money. Staying silent only protects those who fail us,” reads one comment from a TikTok compilation of Verniece Enciso, daughter of Bureau of Customs officer Verne Enciso.

Mobilizing against corruption

All of this came to a boiling point last Sunday, with protesters flooding the streets shouting “Ikulong na ‘yan mga kurakot!” which translates to “Lock up the corrupt!”

Filipino celebrities were among the crowd, including Miss Universe 2018

winner Catriona Gray and TV personality Vice Ganda who gave a rousing speech, calling on the president to jail corrupt government officials, and even arguing for the return of the death penalty for those involved in the misuse of public funds.

While the march was peaceful, regional police claimed that protests in parts of Manila “turned very violent.”

Authorities claimed that protesters “assaulted police officers,” but advocacy organizations in the Philippines say that demonstrators were “illegally detained,” including some who were minors.

Anakbayan Canada condemned the mass arrests and “police brutality.”

“While most protesters could go home after the rally, those who stayed and wanted to continue channelling their anger may not have homes to return to,” they stated. “They are likely the sharpest victims of the sham flood control projects.”

“Those arrested were the poor and displaced, the very people most victimized by corruption. Meanwhile, the corrupt elites that people were protesting against are still walking freely,” they added.

Mere days after the march, the Philippines was hit by tropical storm Bualoi. As of last month, at least four people are confirmed dead, and 400,000 have been displaced.

Aubrey Caraan hits the right note with Korean Daewon Lee

Singer-actress Aubrey Caraan is set to fly to South Korea for the first time to promote her collaboration with South Korean singer-actor Daewon Lee on their new single, “Selfish Guy.”

Caraan said it was an honor to be personally chosen by Viva Communications CEO Vic del Rosario Jr. for the project.

“I asked Boss Vic why I was chosen. He said that when he heard Daewon’s voice and the material, my voice seemed to fit perfectly,” she shared. “Out of the female singers in Viva, he thought of me. I’m used to ballads and belting, so the song felt right for me.”

The track, composed by Daewon himself, features both Tagalog and Korean lyrics.

“I already know some Korean words because I’m a fan of K-dramas, but on the day of recording, they taught me how to pronounce each word in Korean properly,” Caraan said. “I am so glad I got to experience singing in another language.” She also praised her collaborator’s talent and dedication, saying Daewon is the perfect collaborator because he’s a multi-talented



Korean performer.

“The first time I heard him singing in Tagalog, it was so smooth, like he’d studied it for years. I’m really proud of him,” she said.

Recording the song came with challenges, she admitted. “He’s very technical. To be honest, I struggled, but they were so helpful. They always asked, ‘Are you still okay?’ sometimes I got frustrated hitting the

notes, and of course, I was shy too. They were patient and never made me feel like I was doing something wrong.”

Daewon also spoke about the collaboration and what he hopes the project will bring to both Filipino and Korean artists in the future.

“The Philippines and South Korea are both music-loving countries with well-developed industries. Collaborating allows us to create beautiful music together,” he said.

“It’s a good opportunity for us to work with international artists. I think this is just the start of many more opportunities for Filipino talents to expand our horizons and experience working with foreign artists,” Caraan added.

Candid CAMERA



Kuya Wally, Annie Costiniano, and Trini with Maestro Frank Cruzet look at Frank’s painting at the exhibit in Unionville.

Winning CNE 2025 First Cake Competition Cake

by Jackie Isip

This year’s CNE First Cake Competition carried the theme “Unexpected Pairings”—and what a challenge it was! 4 Local Bakers from Toronto came together to push the boundaries of flavor, design, and creativity.

For me, it was an invitation to take risks not only with flavors but also with design, creating something playful yet meaningful.

For our entry, we wanted to celebrate both taste and storytelling. The cake itself combined daring layers: rich dark chocolate cake paired with a spicy gochujang chocolate fudge, textured with cornflakes praline, balanced by silky chocolate ganache. The second cake is a celebration of our Filipino heritage with sponge ube cake, layered with Ube Halaya, french but-

tercream with Queso de bola and finish it with Swiss Meringue Buttercream. It was a fusion of flavors that didn’t seem like they should belong together—but ended up harmonizing beautifully.

But the showpiece was the design, a gravity-defying tribute to the CNE midway itself. Each tier was transformed into an edible miniature food stall replica, highlighting the joy of wandering through the fairgrounds:

- Marry Me Mochi – blackpink mochi donut, soft and dreamy in sugar



form.

- Pizza Pizza (deep fried) – a playful twist, complete with tiny fondant pizzas.
- Deep-Fried Roasted Corn – golden corn on the cob, brushed crisped edges to mimic that fair-ground char.
- Mr. Pickle – a quirky nod to dill pickle fries, with tiny green fries peeking out of a striped mini stall.
- Coni Creamy – inspired by travel and flights, featuring sugar cones swirled with “soft serve” fondant,
- Lemonade (Dubai Coconut Sundae) – a refreshing twist captured in a coconut-shell design,

filled with frosty sugar details and topped with edible fondant sprinkles.

Behind the scenes, our journey wasn’t easy—from assembling the structures, balancing tiers, perfecting miniature details, and ensuring every stall was edible tested both skill and patience. But when it all came together, it captured exactly what we envisioned: a playful tribute to the joy of the CNE.

When the judges announced our cake as 2nd place winner, the moment felt surreal. The recognition was more than just a prize—it was a celebration of taking creative risks, embracing challenges, and telling a story through cake.

Maris Racal marks birthday with call for justice



Actress and singer Maris Racal celebrated her 28th birthday on Monday, Sept. 22, with a wish that went beyond herself. "It's my birthday today. Ang wish ko lang ay DPWH. Di Pwede ang Walang Hustisya," Racal wrote on Instagram, along with photos from a themed photo shoot.

Her post came a day after she joined thousands of Filipinos at Luneta for nationwide protests against alleged multi-trillion peso corruption tied to flood-control and infrastructure projects.

The FPJ's Batang Quiapo star, who marched alongside fellow celebrities, also posted: "Serbisyo sa tao, huwag gawing negosyo."

Racal's call resonated with fans, especially as she marked her birthday with a message of accountability.



Cristine Reyes poses with FV Foods at the Mabuhay Festival.

KATSEYE's Sophia Laforteza backs anti-corruption rallies in PH

Sophia Laforteza, leader of rising multinational girl group KATSEYE, voiced support for Filipinos who joined nationwide protests against alleged corruption in public works projects.

Though unable to attend, Laforteza took to Instagram Stories, saying, "I am listening, I am aware, and I stand with you." She added: "My heart is with my people. We all deserve a future built on truth, integrity and hope. Para sa ating bansa at para sa sambayanang Pilipino, we must always strive for what is just and fair."

The 21-year-old singer, daughter of theater actress Carla Guevara Laforteza, also called the group the "voice of the Filipino people" "powerful and unshakable," stressing her hope for a country "free from corruption, where accountability and compassion guide us forward."

On Sunday, thousands gathered at the People Power Monument and Rizal Park in Manila, echoing anger over government officials and construction company owners linked to flood-control projects.

Laforteza debuted in KATSEYE through HYBE and Geffen Records' survival program The Debut: Dream Academy. The group, behind hits "Touch" and "Gnarly," recently won at the MTV Video Music Awards and is to perform at Coachella in 2026.



Veejay Floresca makes history as first trans woman to win 'Project Runway'

Filipino designer Veejay Floresca claimed a groundbreaking victory as the winner of Project Runway Season 21, adding another international triumph to the Philippines' roster of recent wins.

Floresca, who has long been based in the United States, turned emotional as host-judge Heidi Klum announced her name during the finale.

"I was just a little gay boy in the Philippines watching the show, and I've always been wanting to do this," she said, wiping away tears. "And now, this is my time. Thank you for being part of my dream."



Hunk Shot

23 year old Emman works at American Eagle. He loves listening to music.

He sings, he can dance and act.

He came to pursue his goals in life to be a nurse.

Emman Amal

Insights on Caregiving, Aging & Brain health SENIORS IN ACTION



Seniors in Action and The Filipino Centre, Toronto held an afternoon of sharing Insights on caregiving for others and the caregivers, brain health and aging. The featured speakers were Caregiving advocate Ron Beleneo and Joanne Cheng Tandoc, a dementia care professional.



SIA President Alice Sierva with caregiving advocate & speaker Ron Beleneo



CNE from page 22

This win is a reminder that cake is never just dessert. It's art. It's storytelling. It's memory-making. And sometimes, the sweetest victories come from embracing the unexpected.

Thank you to everyone who cheered us on—this win is for all of us who believe in dreaming big (and baking even bigger)!



Sweetnotes with Mitzi



Platinum Sponsor Mitzi Faigal (CENTRE) of Mitzville Farms & Residences, Mitzville by the Lake & Mitzify bags pose with Sweetnotes from the Philippines.



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Agot Isidro, Karen Davila angry over “basura” code for kickbacks

Agot to corrupt politicians: “Sila dapat itapon na parang basura.”

Agot Isidro, DJ Chacha, Karen Davila call out politicians for coding stolen money as “basura”

Labis ang pagkadismaya ng aktres na si Agot Isidro, broadcaster na si Karen Davila, at pati na rin si DJ Chacha sa pagtawag ng ilang politiko sa perang kinurakot mula sa taong-bayan bilang “basura.”

Sa patuloy na pagdinig ng Senate Blue Ribbon Committee tungkol sa maanomalyang flood control projects, isang naggangalang Orly Guteza, na dating marine at miyembro ng security staff ni Ako Bicol Party-List Representative Zaldy Co ang humarap at kinanta ang nalalaman niya.

Si Co ang kongresistang iniinugay sa diumano’y korapsyon ng bilyun-bilyong pisong pondo mula sa flood control projects ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

Nitong Huwebes, September 25, 2025, isinalaysay ni Guteza kung paano umano nila idini-deliver ang male-maletang “basura” sa bahay nina Co at House Speaker Martin Romualdez.

Ang tinutukoy niyang “basura” ay iyong milyong-milyong pisong halaga na nakalagay sa mga maleta.

Ayon kay Guteza, nanggaling kay Co ang perang nakalagay sa mga maleta na dinadala umano nila ng kanyang mga kasama sa tahanan ni Romualdez.

Aniya, mahigit 46 na maleta ang kanilang idini-deliver, tatlong beses sa isang linggo.

Umaabot daw sa PHP48 hanggang PHP50 million ang laman ng kada maleta.

Sa 46 na maleta, 16 dito ay idini-deliver umano sa bahay ni Co sa Pasig City at Taguig.

Diumano, ang natitirang 35 na maleta na may perang nagkakahalaga ng PHP1.68 billion ay sa bahay ni Romualdez sa Forbes Park, Makati City dini-deliver.

Ito ang unang pagkakataong may resource person sa Senate hearing na pinangalanan si Romualdez na sangkot diumano sa maanomalyang flood control projects

AGOT ISIDRO: “SILA DAPAT ITAPON NA PARANG BASURA.”

Sa patuloy na imbestigasyon sa maanomalyang flood control projects, maraming Pilipino ang ngayo’y mas nanggala’ti sa katakut-takot na korapsyon na nangyayari sa bansa.

Isa na rito ang Kapamilya actress na si Agot Isidro. Sa X (dating Twitter) inihayag ng aktres ang kanyang pagkadismaya sa pagtawag lamang na “basura” sa perang ilang oras na binuno ng mga ordinaryong Pilipino na nagta-trabaho araw-araw para mabayaran ang kanilang mga tax.

Flood Control Projects
Post ni Agot (published as is), “Yung sayang na sayang ang oras mo sa traffic dahil nilugmok na ng mga walang kwentang politiko yung bayan. At tawagin pang ‘basura’ yung pera na ninakaw sa atin.
“Sila dapat itapon na parang basura. Ano na?”

KAREN DAVILA: “HINDI MAHIRAP ANG PILIPINAS, NINANAKAWAN LANG PO TAYO.”

Halos ganito rin ang naging sentiyemento ni Karen Davila.

Aniya, hindi totooong mahirap ang Pilipinas. Naghihirap lamang ito dahil sa mga tiwaling opisyal ng gobyerno na kumakamkam sa perang dapat ay sa mga mamamayan.

Saad niya sa kanyang tweet (published as is): “What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?

“Kung makapag-deliver ng BILYONG PISO sa bahay... ‘basura’ pa ang code name?

“Aanhin niyo po ang bilyong nakaw, hindi niyo naman po madadala yon sa kamatayan?!

“Mga kababayan, kapag kayo po ay binabaha, hindi makapagbayad sa ospital, hindi makapag-aral ng anak, hindi makabili ng gamot... ito ang dahilan.

“Hindi mahirap ang Pilipinas, ninanakawan lang po tayo.”

DJ CHACHA: “...MAY PERA SA BASURA.”
Sa pagtawag ding basura sa pera ng bayan ang hinimutok ni DJ Chacha.

Tweet niya (published as is): “TAWAG NILA SA PERA AY BASURA. Totoo nga ang kasabihan na may pera sa basura.

“Yung perang pinagpapaguran at pinaghihirapan natin, BASURA ang tawag nila. Araw araw pasakit ng pasakit sa puso. NAKAKAGALIT.”

ANNE CURTIS, BELA PADILLA DISGUSTED BY BRICE HERNANDEZ’S REVELATIONS

Kaugnay pa rin sa korapsyon sa DPWH, noong September 23, nang muling humarap sa Senate Blue Ribbon Committee inquiry si dismissed Bulacan First Assistant District Engineer Brice Hernandez.

Ipinagtapat niya na bukod sa flood control projects, “substandard” din maging ang iba pang mga proyekto ng ahensya gaya ng mga silid-aralan, ospital, tulay, kalsada, at iba pa.

Pagsisiwalat ni Hernandez: “Lahat po ito may obligasyon na kailangang itago. Meron pong mga flood control structures, meron pong mga building, merong mga kalsada, at classroom.

“Hindi po tumatama sa plano na naka-design talaga para dito.

“Sa nasasakupan po namin, wala po talagang...

“Mula po noong dumating si Boss Henry Alcantara, 2019 up to present. Wala pong tumama kung ano po yung naka-specify sa plano.

“Hindi po namin lahat na-meet yon.”

Napa-react sina Anne Curtis at Bela Padilla sa rebelasong ito ni Hernandez.

Sa kanilang magkahiwalay na Instagram Stories, ibinahagi nila ang video clip na naglalaman ng pagamin ni Hernandez sa diumano’y sistema ng katiwalian sa DPWH.

Hindi naitago ni Anne ang lungkot na kanyang naramdaman na pati pondo sa pagpapagawa ng mga classroom at hospital ay hindi na rin umano pinalampas ng sinumang mga kasabwat na opisyal.

Saad niya sa kanyang repost video, “Back to corruption. Substandard classrooms for kids?!!! My heart [broken heart emoji] Pati hospitals [crying in tears emojis] Bakit po?!!”



Agot Isidro, Karen Davila, and DJ Cha Cha (L-R) are among public figures expressing outrage over revelation that “basura” was used as a code word for alleged kickbacks delivered to politicians linked to anomalous flood control projects.

Anne Curtis, Bela Padilla disgusted by Brice Hernandez’s revelations

Galit na galit naman si Bela nang kuwestiyunin niya ang pananahimik ni Hernandez nang mahabang panahon.

Aniya, kagaya ng ibang matataas na opisyal na nangurap, si Hernandez ay wala ring halos pinagkaiba, na walang awang nilustay ang pera ng bayan dahil umano sa pagka-casino at pagbili ng mamahaling mga gamit at sasakyan.

Pahayag ni Bela: “Literally walang hiya. “Cause if you had any shame in your bones, you wouldn’t be where you are today.

“You would’ve quit your job, thinking that people’s lives could be at risk.

“And you would’ve informed people of what was happening. But no, you went to casinos and spent our money, and slept well at night in your boujie homes.

“Disgusting behavior. The fact that you can say that these projects are substandard so callously should already warrant your rotting in jail.”

Dagdag pa niya: “May you never sleep well again, Mr. Hernandez. May the faces of the people you’ve inconvenienced and harmed haunt you forever.”

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Ogie Alcasid grateful to Gen Z artists for popularizing his old hits



Ogie's *Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang* duet with Kai Montinola on *It's Showtime* went viral, racking up millions of views.

Ogie Alcasid couldn't be happier that his 36-year-old song *Nandito Ako* is making waves again, climbing the charts and going viral on TikTok.

It all started after Gen Z artist Rob Deniel performed *Nandito Ako* and *Ikaw Sana* live during a *Wish* event in July, which also paid tribute to Ogie and other OPM icons. His heartfelt interpretation struck a chord with his young crowd.

"A few months after, nag-viral yung performance niya ng *Nandito Ako* and *Ikaw Sana*. His audience started recognizing the song and wala naman siyang recording dun, so they went to my Spotify. Then, I started noticing wow, from 500,000, to 600,000, to 3.3 million (monthly listeners), by God's grace," Ogie shared during an interview.

He added with a laugh, "It's only now that they started listening to my music because they have no choice. It's either pakinggan nila yung live ni Rob or kung gusto nila Spotify, pakinggan nila yung song ko. Thankfully, they liked it, too.

"It just came at a time when I was trying to grow my listenership. I had a lot of help from the younger audience through the likes of Rob Deniel."

Now, *Nandito Ako* has become the No. 1 song on his Spotify. "I'm so happy. Ang galing kasi sa Spotify. 'Pag meron kang nagustuhang kanta, biglang papakinggan mo na lahat. That adds to people discovering and appreciating your music anew."

Asked about possible collaborations with Rob, he shared that the *Viva* recording artist was his special guest during his 58th birthday celebration late August on his noontime program, "It's Showtime," where they sang his 2001 composition *Ikaw Sana* together.

That's now Rob's new single, Ogie re-

vealed.

"Kinuwento sa akin ni Boss Vic (del Rosario of *Viva*). They sent me his version, which is great! I think he's a better singer than me, and I'm so happy that someone as influential to the younger people as him appreciates the music that we used to do," he reiterated.

Meanwhile, listening to his old recordings again has also been a trip down memory lane.

"Now, I get to hear my young, 20-year-old voice again. It's a little different now — may vibrato ako before for (the part) 'mayroon akong'... I sing with more air now, whereas before, I had a very carefree voice," he said.

"Kaya yung mga netizens, sinasabi nila kay Rob daw, it's more yearning, and mine is assurance. For them to call it both assurance and yearning, I'm being educated."

His other decades-old ballads and love songs, which he wrote, like *Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang*, have experienced viral treatment thanks to duet performances with other Gen Z artists like Kai Montinola and Belle Mariano.

He recalled his recent encounters with more young artists like Maki and Angela Ken. "Three weeks ago, kausap ko si Maki and Angela. Sabi ni Angela, 'Sir Ogie, I'm so happy for your music.' At first, I didn't understand why. Then she said, 'There's a resurgence of your music again,' and that's when I learned about 'yearning and assurance.' Apparently, the younger people now are also very emo. They like emo songs."

For Ogie, the newfound interest from Gen Z has been both surprising and inspiring. "Sobra akong appreciative and at the same time, I'm very happy and shocked. Inisip ko kung paano ko gagawin, tinulungan pala ako ng mga kabataan ngayon," he further said.

"Where will it go? I don't know. But I'm encouraged to keep writing and lure

more younger people into discovering my music. As a musician who's been doing this for 36 years, I'm very much encouraged and happy. Nakakatawa kasi yung mga songs na sinulat mo 36 years ago, buhay ulit."

Still, Ogie clarified that contrary to popular belief, *Nandito Ako* — which formed part of his 1989 eponymous debut album — wasn't written by him.

"That's Aaron Paul del Rosario. I wanna give him full credit because he was the one who gave me that song. And to this day, whenever I'm asked what song defines me best, it's always *Nandito Ako*," he stressed.

"It's been sung by so many people around the world, including Thalia, David Archuleta, Hugh Jackman... so it was really magical, and it continues to be the song that defines me."

Ogie narrated how the song first landed on his lap 36 years ago. "I remember vividly I was recording two songs, *Nandito Ako* and *Sa Kanya* (that time). My producer back then was Bob Guzman. Aaron left the demo in a cassette.

"This is his story: At that time, the love team of Janno (Gibbs) and Manilyn (Reynes) ended because Janno got married and Manilyn was being linked to Keempee (de Leon).

"Since Mani and I were both with *Octo(Arts)*, it was like they were building us up, with Mother Lily doing a film *Feel na Feel*. Aaron said, 'It's like Ogie is a third party or third wheel (in the film), maybe I should make a song about that.' I remember him saying that to me. So he made (*Nandito Ako*) as a song of Ogie to Manilyn," he laughed.

After Ogie recorded it, he already

sensed its potential. "I remember thinking to myself, maghi-hit ito." And it did — eventually getting declared *Song of the Year*, though with a comedic twist.

Back in 1990, *Nandito Ako* was up for *Song of the Year* at *Magic 89.9*. Ogie tuned in eagerly on New Year's Eve, only for a brownout to hit just as the winner was about to be announced.

"Pagkatapos ng putukan (fireworks), I went to the radio station. Walang tao! It turned out na recorded pala yun. May guard na natutulog dun. Sabi ko, 'Kuya, sino nag-Song of the Year?' Sabi niya, 'Di ko alam, nag-brownout, abangan mo na lang bukas.' Finally, they aired it the next day. Di ko na-record. But I remember tuwang-tuwa ako kahit naudlot (at first)."

Since then, the song has become like a hallmark of his career.

"It was my first Gold Record. Every concert that I do, I end it with that song," explained Ogie.

"But it has also taken on a new meaning in my life because *Nandito Ako* can be a song of God to us: 'Nandito ako, umiibig sayo kahit nagdurugo ang puso ko. Kung sakaling iwanan ka niya' — whatever it is, (whether) an obsession or corruption — 'nandito ako.'"

Did Ogie ever wish he had written it himself?

"I would be lying if I said no, but I guess that's the magic of it," he said.

"I've always been known as a songwriter, but with *Nandito Ako*, I was the singer. (Because of that song) you can call me a singer. I wish I did (write it). But no, it was Aaron. He's now in San Diego. Thank you, Aaron, I love you, wherever you are."



Ogie Alcasid is grateful to Rob Deniel for reintroducing his music, particularly his 36-year-old song *Nandito Ako*, to the young generation.



The veteran singer-songwriter performs a duet version of *Nandito Ako* with Belle Mariano



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'Jaguar' was meant to launch Philip Salvador as an action star – Ricky Lee

Sinag Maynila 2025: Lino Brocka's restored classic 'Jaguar' kicks off filmfest. Image: Handout photo

For the first time since the restored version of the Lino Brocka masterpiece "Jaguar" first premiered at the 16th Lumiere Film Festival in Lyon, France last year, the movie meant to launch Phillip Salvador as an action star made its opening at the Sinag Maynila Film Festival.

The film festival, held annually in celebration of the Philippine Film Industry Month (PFIM), opens on Thursday at Gateway 2 in Quezon City where restored films of movie greats such as Brocka, Joel Lamangan, will be featured in various partner cinemas. The festival will run until September 30.

For its 7th-year offering, "Jaguar's" restored version will be screened in the Philippines for the first time since its cinematic debut in August 1979. The movie was said to be the first fully Filipino-made film ever nominated for the prestigious Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival the next year, also in France.

At the sidelines of the opening ceremony of the Sinag Maynila filmfest, National Artist Ricky Lee, then the co-screenwriter of "Jaguar," recalled that the movie was meant to launch Salvador as a full-fledged action superstar to rival the likes of Fernando Poe Jr., Rudy Fernandez and Ace Vergel.

Based on a story from Nick Joaquin's non-fiction collection "Reportage on Crime," "Jaguar" tells the story of Poldo Miranda (Salvador), the trusted security guard of a rich nepo baby Sonny Gaston (Menggie Cobarrubias). As Jaguar (a play on the Filipinoized "guardiya" or guard), Poldo gets embroiled in Sonny's shenanigans, but their confidence in one another gets tested when they both fell for an aspiring actress, Cristy (played by Amy Austria).

Originally, Brocka wanted the film's storyline to be a full-on adaptation of "The Boy Who Wanted to Become Society," the exact story from Joaquin's non-fiction collection. Although the original report said alias Boy Nap – the basis of Salvador's character – shot his rich friend dead.

"Ito rin ang magiging pang-launch kay Philip Salvador (This was meant to launch Philip Salvador)," Lee said. "So nag-brainstorm kami ni Pete [Lacaba] and



noong natapos ang storyline, magco-comment si Lino, at magre-revise kami hanggang maging plantsado. After that, we did a sequence treatment, nag-revise hanggang maging plantsado based sa comments hanggang matapos, and then sinunod ang script," he continued.

(Pete and I brainstormed about the story. When we finished the storyline, Lino would leave his comments, and we would revise it until it was okay. After that, we did a sequence treatment and would revise until things get ironed out based on the comments, until we're done. The script would be next.)

According to Lee, Brocka always gave "minimal comments," which put the pressure on him and Lacaba to ensure that the story would be fully ironed out. "Ang naalala kong bilin lang niya, gawing tough sa labas si Phillip pero very vulnerable sa loob (I remembered his only comment was to make Philip tough on the outside, but very vulnerable on the inside)," he said of their working relationship.

Scene Adjustments

Lee also revealed that the opening ceremony of the film festival was his and Lacaba's first time to see "Jaguar."

"Ngayon lang namin napanood. Natatandaan ko pa 'yung kwento, base sa mga script ko sa bahay, pero otherwise, ngayon lang namin siya napanood (We just watched the film for the first time. I still remember the story based on the scripts I have at home. But other than that, we just watched it now)," he said.

Just like his past work, the National Artist said he had vivid memories of how "Jaguar" was brought to life.

Such is the final scene where Poldo (Salvador) beats Sonny (Cobarrubias) to a pulp before he is dragged by policemen back behind bars.

In the original scene, Salvador was meant to hurt Cobarrubias while he was in jail, then the policemen would rain punches on him, stopping the screen veteran from hitting the latter.

"Noong shino-shoot na sa set, sinasabihan kami ng bawal 'yan kasi hindi raw nambubugbog ang pulis (When we shot the scene on set, we were told that it's not allowed since the police allegedly don't punch other people)," Lee shared, noting that censorship of violence, weapons, and anything related to sex was strict back



then.

However, this was contested by Brocka after encountering by chance a sidewalk vendor getting punched in the face by a policeman.

Another adjustment that was made to "Jaguar" was the revision of the film poster.

"Noong ginawa namin ang poster, ang original was si Philip Salvador as a security guard na may baril. Bawal ang may baril sa posters unless pumayag kang ipipinta ng puti. Ayaw pintahan ni Lino nang puti," Lee recalled. "So nakatayo si Philip Salvador nang naka-uniporme pero tinanggal ang baril [pero cinontest siya], until sa maging nakatayo na lang si Philip na naka-denim jacket."

(When we did the poster, the original idea was to make Philip Salvador a security guard with a gun. Having a gun on film posters was not allowed unless you

had to paint it white. Lino didn't want to do it. What happened was that we made Philip Salvador stand with his uniform, but with no gun. This was contested. Until it ended up showing Philip standing while wearing a simple denim jacket.)

According to the Film Development Council of the Philippines' (FDCP) Philippine Film Archive, the restoration of the film was done in collaboration with the France-based Cite de Memoire, using the film's original negatives. Additional touch-ups on the color grading, sound design, and other elements were done to ensure its quality.



Amy Austria and Philip Salvador in a scene from "Jaguar." Image: Bancom Audiovision
Amy Austria and Philip Salvador in a scene from "Jaguar." Image: Bancom Audiovision

Martin Nievera shares thoughts on marrying again

Martin Nievera’s songs never get old. From the days of cassette tapes, jukebox, Walkman, compact discs and karaoke to this era of music streaming platforms, Martin’s music lives on.

Martin’s songs are lovelier the second time around. Hail to the Concert King. No artist can ever dethrone him in the OPM scene and in the hearts of Pinoy music lovers.

Here’s my chat with Mart:

Among all your songs in Take 2, which one hits you in an entirely different way this time around?

“Of the nine OPM classics I recorded in this Take 2 album, there is one song I used to love to listen to back in the ‘80s. It’s a song written and recorded by Iwi Laurel entitled, Special Memory, and even though I was still very new in the business, I would feel so sentimental and miss my life as a young boy dreaming to become a singer during my childhood.

“Why does it hit me differently now that I have done a ‘take 2’ version of it? Well, for the simple reason that now that I have been living my dream for the last 43 plus years, I find myself feeling a little like a special memory myself. Time can do that to you.

“With all these great singers and songwriters and hitmakers emerging today, I ask myself: Have I done enough? Did I give enough to an industry that has been so very good to me? Will I be remembered for the good I have done or for the viral bad?”

Since Take 2 won’t be available on streaming platforms, do you prefer vinyl albums?

“Actually, to be honest with you, I am still very new with the whole streaming thing. I thought streaming was a new kind of fishing sport. Although my very first contribu-



After four decades (and counting) in the biz, he does a special kind of encore. In 1983, his album Take One was a huge success. Fast forward to 2025, he launches his new album, Take Two. It is a compilation of his top hits (released by Vicor Music and distributed by Viva Records).

tion to OPM was on a long-playing vinyl album entitled Take 1, so this concept is comfortable for me. But I look forward to an all-original OPM album to be streamed on all platforms the way we are all used to doing today on the next project.”

If you could do a Take 2 of any moment in your life and change how you handled it, what would it be?

“The list of ‘Take 2s’ I could have for my failed ‘Take 1s’ in life would be endless – some bigger and more life-changing than others. If given the chance to turn a failure into a victory, I’d be a fool not to take it.

“There are some things in life you should not Take 2 on. Maybe God wanted us to learn from that life lesson to become the people we are today. So live and learn and make sure you don’t have to think about another Take 2 in your life again.”

What’s your advice to young artists who are more driven by views and likes when creating music?

“You don’t need to be viewed or liked to be creative enough to make a difference in this world and, more importantly, in this industry. Create and make music that will change lives. Not to make yourself popular or rich, but to inspire a nation of frustrated dreamers and overthinkers. You have the power in your hands, but use your heart too.

“I care very much about OPM and the entire entertainment industry and where it goes from here. So much so that I make sure the new and the young and up-and-coming hear from me as I try and make them believe that I believe in all they stand for. Yesterday, today and tomorrow.”

Are you willing to do a Take 2 and try marriage again or once is enough?

“Wow, somehow I knew you would ask that question. My doors are never closed. If she will have me, why not? But I am a true believer that we don’t need a ring or a contract to know where we are going or how much we can or should love each other. I wanna take 2 and take 3, maybe even take 4 if we have to, on life and all that life throws our way. I want to take this journey with her and see where it brings us. As long as we are together, no matter how many takes. Practice makes perfect. Approach life like it’s your ‘Take 1!’ Don’t stress out, never give up ‘cause there is always a ‘Take 2.’”



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