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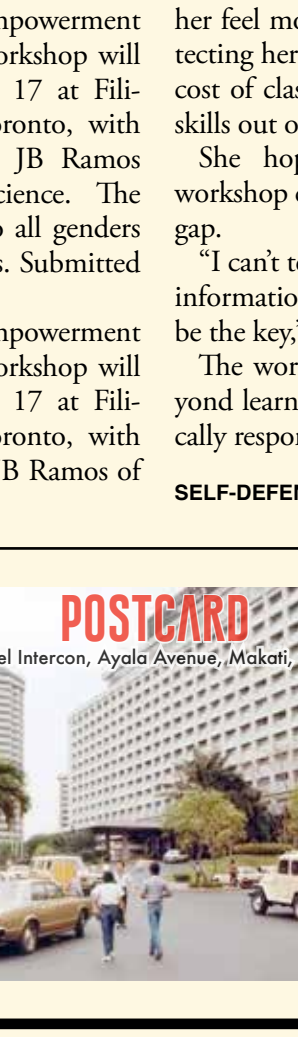
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Too many people spend money they earned..to buy things they don't want..to impress people that they don't like. -
Will Rogers



Filipina pageant winner hosts self-defence workshop in Toronto

Luis Miguel De Castro -LJI Reporter Filipino community / MABUHAYCANADA.ORG



Filipino-Canadian advocate Kate Patrieze Luna is bringing an empowerment self-defence workshop to Scarborough on Oct. 17 at Filipino Centre Toronto.

The workshop offers practical safety skills through an event inspired by her own experiences with vulnerability and violence prevention.

The Empowerment Self-Defence Workshop will run from 2 to 5 p.m. and is open to people of all genders and ability levels.

The event is part of Luna's Protect Hearts, Protect Paws advocacy and will feature training led by Master Trainer JB Ramos of Combat Science.

The Empowerment Self-Defence Workshop will take place Oct. 17 at Filipino Centre Toronto, with training led by JB Ramos of Combat Science. The event is open to all genders and ability levels. Submitted Photo

The Empowerment Self-Defence Workshop will take place Oct. 17 at Filipino Centre Toronto, with training led by JB Ramos of Combat Science. The event is open to all genders and ability levels.

For Luna, the idea grew from experiences that began long before her involvement in pageantry.

Growing up in a difficult environment in the Philippines, she said community outreach programs introduced her to the experiences of marginalized girls who had faced violence and abuse.

"What inspired me is simple: I'm helping a community and a space where I once felt vulnerable, through accessibility," Luna said.

Her own experience with self-defence began at 17, when concerns about safety while participating in pageantry led her to learn Muay Thai.

While the training helped her feel more confident protecting herself, Luna said the cost of classes can put those skills out of reach for others.

She hopes the Toronto workshop can help close that gap.

"I can't teach it myself, but information and access can be the key," Luna said.

The workshop will go beyond learning how to physically respond to a threat.

SELF-DEFENSE page 21

Welcome to the Fall Season



1. Ryeanna Ponce de Leon walks the runway at Mahistrado Fashion show; 2. Marky Hugh Productions BAJJ Retaso (Resourceful Empowered Team of Artists & Stars On point) composed of Alice, Jewel, Bhelle, and Janicka perform at Asialicious Festival; 3. Jenifer Camacho sings to her son Nate at her concert Jenifer Forever; 4. Yzabelle Albea, Canada Center Stage 1st runner up Junior Division 2025, sings at the FCT Bazaar.



Sisters Catherine & Chloe Tiongson Wins Canadian National Exibition Singing Contest

Sisters and JDL students took a top prize at the Canadian National Exhibition's Rising Star Talent Competition.

Teenage vocalist siblings Catherine and Chloe Tiongson competed against 84 contestants in their age group and won the Youth Grand Champions title during the final weekend of Canada's largest fair, the CNE

BOOKS page 15

Maligayang Pasko!

FELLOW FILIPINOS,
start your Christmas shopping.

Mahistrado fashion show puts Filipino talent in the spotlight

by LUIS MIGUEL DE CASTRO-LJI / mabuhaycanada.org

Models of different ages and experience levels took to the runway at the Montecassino Hotel and Event Centre on Sept. 12 for the Mahistrado Fashion Show, an event organized by Kim Mahistrado to showcase fashion while helping models build confidence and experience.

The show featured three runway categories: casual, vintage, and a grand finale featuring bridal piec-

MAHISTRADO page 20


Aky Orteza


Fashion Designer Kim Mahistrado takes a bow.


Ambree Orteza


Painter Frank Cruzet doanties a painting for a raffle.


Ralph Abella

Ryeanna Ponce de Leon

Sophia Daclan

Angeline Francez Bernal

Maxine Jade B. Rimando

Romielle Villacorta


Mikayla Malata, Aky Orteza, Tamara Scopie, Angeline Bernal

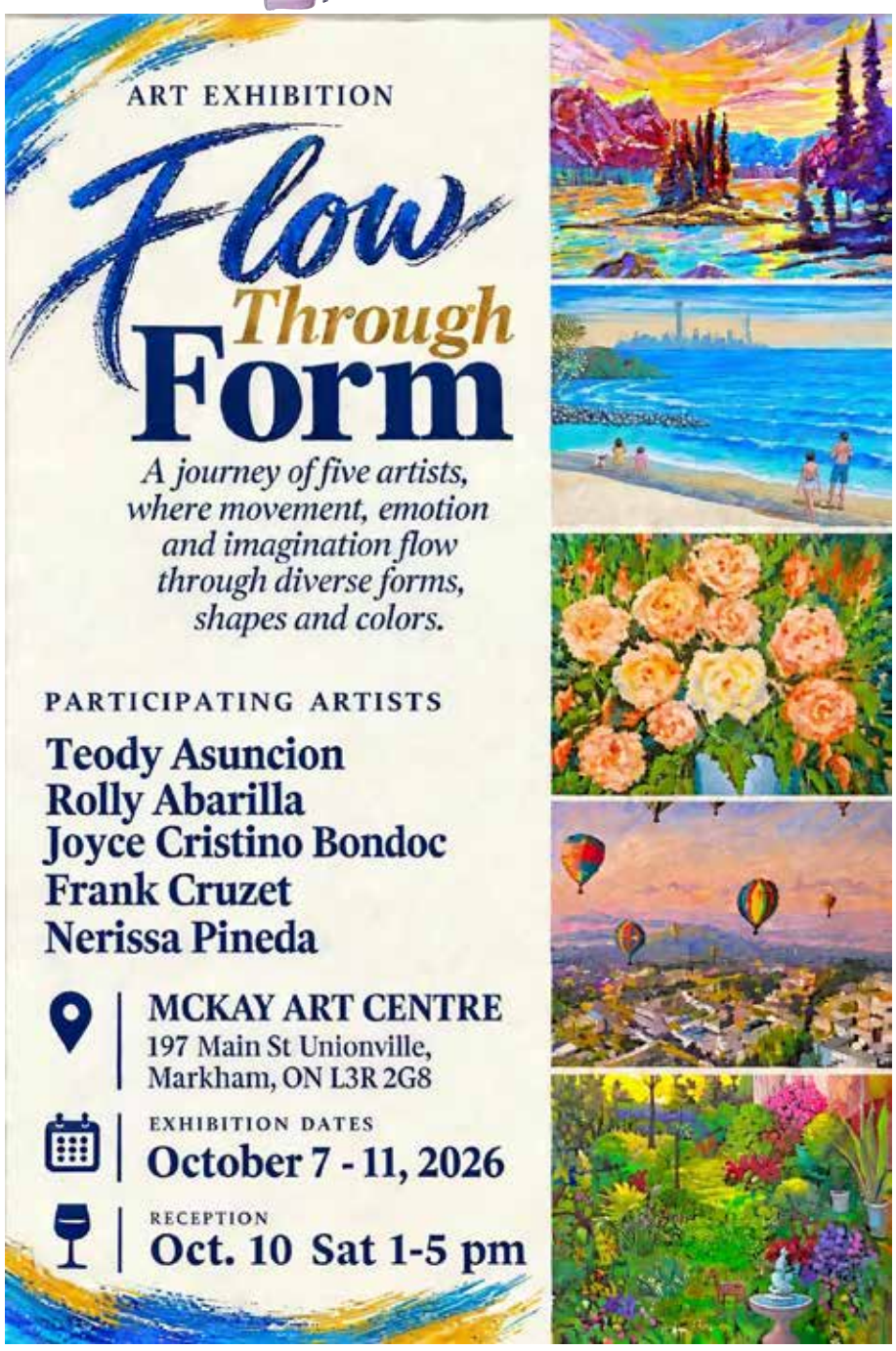
Ryeanna Ponce de Leon performs at the show.


Cassy Pajigal, Louise Victorioso, Ysabelle dela Cruz


Mikayla Malata

Tamara Marie Scopie

Denise Aiva Jacob





PERSPECTIVE AND PERCEPTION

Filipino-Canadian Glimpses at Significant Developments



Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

PERFORMANCE RATINGS OF NATIONAL LEADERS: SWS SURVEY

Results of the Second Quarter 2026 Social Weather Survey (SWS) of the performance ratings of national government leaders, conducted from June 20 to 29, 2026 and released on July 16, 2026, are as follows: 1) President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s ratings showed that 38 % of Filipinos were satisfied and 45 % were dissatisfied with his performance, for a neutral net satisfaction rating of -7. The score improved from his low of -15 in the March 2026 survey. 2) Vice President Sara Duterte showed that 58 % of respondents were satisfied with her performance, while 26 percent were dissatisfied, giving her a "good" net satisfaction rating of +31. The latest rating was two points higher than the +29 (54 % satisfied and 25 % dissatisfied) she received in the previous quarter of 2026. 3) Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian, who assumed the Senate presidency in June 2026 and was being rated for the first time, received a moderate net satisfaction rating of +18. The survey found that 45 % of respondents were satisfied with his performance, while 27 % were dissatisfied in his first public assessment. 4) House Speaker Faustino "Bojie" Dy III posted a neutral net satisfaction rating of +8 after 33 % of respondents said they were satisfied with his performance and 26 % were dissatisfied. The Speaker's latest rating was four points higher than the +4 recorded in March 2026. 5) Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo registered a moderate net satisfaction rating of +10, with 35 % satisfied and 26 % dissatisfied. His rating improved by one point from +9 in the previous quarter. The SWS terminology for net satisfaction ratings is as follows: +70 and above, "excellent"; +50 to +69, "very good"; +30 to +49, "good"; +10 to +29, "moderate"; +9 to -9, "neutral"; -10 to -29, "poor"; -30 to -49, "bad"; -50 to -69, "very bad";-70 and below, "execrable." The nationwide survey was conducted through face-to-face interviews with 1,200 adults aged 18 and above from June 20 to 29, 2026, and had sampling error margins of ±3 percentage points for national estimates. The survey showed that, except for President Marcos's high rating of 45% of Filipinos being dissatisfied with his performance for the period, the other 4 major leaders received dissatisfied low ratings from respondents ranging only from 27 % for SP Gatchalian to 26% for VP Duterte, Speaker D. III, and Chief Justice Gesmundo.



FORBES' WORLD BEST EMPLOYERS: LISTS EIGHT PHILIPPINE COMPANIES

Forbes, a global media company based in New Jersey, USA, released its Seventh Annual World's Best Employers List of 2026 and eight companies in the Philippines have been recognised among 900 companies in the world. The Forbes List includes San Miguel Corporation, Ayala Corporation, Metropolitan Bank and Trust, LT Group, JG Summit Holdings, Century Pacific, Jollibee Foods and BDO Unibank. Two Philippine companies managed to make it the Top 100. San Miguel Corporation, formerly ranked 42nd in 2025, led the Philippine pack at No. 16 this year, while Ayala Corporation followed in 80th place. The other six domestic employers ranked as follows: Metropolitan Bank & Trust-142nd, LT Group -192nd, JG Summit Holdings- 238th, Century Pacific Group - 261st, Jollibee Foods - 384th, and BDO Unibank - 458th. Overall, Microsoft topped the list overall followed by Delta Air Lines, Shopify, Costco Wholesale, NVIDIA, Adobe, Apple, Sony Group, Alphabet, and Lego Group. In Canada, the Top 10 of the 2026 ranking are Université Laval placed No. 1, McMillan at No. 2, Université de Sherbrooke-No. 3, Parks Canada -No. 4, Concordia University-No. 5, Canadian Institute for Health Information-No.6, BC Hydro -No. 7, Bank of Canada -No. 8, Canadian Blood Services -No. 9, and CSA Group-10. Forbes surveyed more than 300,000 employees in a total of 52 countries in partnership with Statista, a market research firm, "to evaluate companies around the world and identify those that support their employees by offering meaningful work, top-tier compensation, training in new technologies and more." Conducted online, the surveys were independent of any corporations so that participants could remain anonymous. They noted that: "Survey participants rated how likely they were to recommend their employer to family and friends, and evaluated the company on such criteria as salary, career advancement opportunities, work-life balance and company reputation." If employee engagement levels are a proxy for workers' well-being and job satisfaction, then it may be time for employers around the world to reevaluate their organisation's status quo.

FIRST INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(IT) PARK IN MANILA.

Manila, the Philippines' capital city, could soon welcome its first Information Technology(IT) Park. With the lifting of the moratorium on the establishment of new economic zones in Metro Manila, according to national business news reports on September 14, 2026. This development augurs well by potentially drawing more high-value investments into the city, economic analysts agreed. Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) Director General Tereso Panga said, "e-commerce marketing agency Star Digital Solutions is already preparing requirements to seek accreditation for what could become the first PEZA-registered IT park in the City of Manila. Star Digital Solutions is headquartered at the 16-story Manila Ecommerce Centre in San Miguel, Manila. "They want to be accredited as an artificial intelligence academy of PEZA, so we're collaborating," Panga told reporters last week. While the company has yet to submit a formal proposal application, the PEZA Chief expressed confidence "that the project would push through". The proposed development is part of PEZA's pipeline of about three to five IT parks seeking registration in Metro Manila in the capital region. Other PEZA proposed projects include "developments in ARCA South in Taguig, Bridgetowne in Ortigas, and an innovation hub in Makati. Currently, Metro Manila has 178 PEZA-registered IT parks and centres hosting 1, 072 locator companies that collectively employ more than 740,000 Filipinos. (Tony A. San Juan, OCT-Retired)

Dennis Trillo, responds to Patrick Garcia's tell-all on Jennylyn Mercado

Dennis Trillo has broken his silence on Patrick Garcia's recent tell-all about his past relationship with Jennylyn Mercado, pointedly reminding the actor of their son, Jazz.

Trillo addressed the controversy in a social media post after Garcia opened up about his breakup with Mercado and denied that he had abandoned her while she was pregnant with their child.



"I'm not in favor of bashing, but thank you for remembering Jazz because of the bashing of your child," Trillo wrote.

"Spread love, not hate," he added.

Garcia discussed his past with Mercado in an interview with Ogie Diaz, saying he decided to tell his side after his daughter became upset over the backlash directed at her because of his past.

He recalled his daughter asking him why he did not tell people what really happened between him and Mercado. Garcia said he warned her that going public could either lessen or intensify the criticism, but she told him that she wanted people to know the truth.

The interview came after years of public interest in Garcia and Mercado's relationship, which ended before the actress gave birth to Jazz in 2008.

Garcia disputed the narrative that he had left Mercado during her pregnancy, saying he had not been given the opportunity to be with her.

Mercado herself has chosen not to engage with the claims. Instead, she appealed to netizens to stop attacking Garcia's family, particularly his daughter.

Her manager, Becky Aguila, took a different approach, publicly criticizing Garcia for discussing the past while defending his daughter from online backlash.

Aguila said she was hurt for Mercado and questioned why Garcia did not simply reach out if he wanted to address issues from their past.

She also said Mercado had kept certain details private out of respect for Garcia as Jazz's father and for his family.

"There are a lot of things you did to hurt her, and she never shared it with anyone as a sign of respect to you as the father of her child, and your family, who are not involved," Aguila said.

"But I remember everything," she added.

Aguila further described Garcia's account as "maraming kulang at dagdag," suggesting that she believes his version left out or added details.

She also expressed hope that Garcia's decision to speak publicly would ultimately help his daughter, while making clear that she did not agree with how he handled the situation.

Garcia is now married to Nikka Martinez, with whom he has four children.

Mercado married Trillo in 2021, and they have a daughter, Dylan.

WHO'S NEXT? Patrick Garcia-Dennis Trillo issue gets even bigger with Gelli de Belen, Anne Curtis added to the cast



At this point, one has to wonder: How many celebrities are we going to end up talking about before this story is finally over?

What started with Patrick Garcia and the old controversy involving Jennylyn Mercado has somehow turned into a growing showbiz roll call. Dennis Trillo got involved. Then Gelli de Belen. And now, somehow, Anne Curtis.

Yes, Anne Curtis.

How did we get here?

Let's try to keep up.

Gelli recently found herself in the middle of the issue after she was asked about the continuing backlash against Patrick and his family during her appearance on "Chika Cart."

Her answer was actually fairly straightforward. Gelli said she did not think the situation needed to become any bigger, especially since children are involved.

Her point was that the adults have already moved on with their respective lives and that everyone should be mindful of what the children are being exposed to.

A reasonable enough thing to say.

Except Dennis saw the comments.

After netizens tagged him in a post featuring Gelli's interview, Dennis responded, questioning whether she and her co-hosts were taking sides in the controversy.



He later defended his family, saying they had been keeping quiet and that his reactions were simply a response to what had already happened. He also returned to the point about the children, noting that he and his wife have kids of their own.

And just like that, Gelli, who was apparently only being asked for her opinion, was now part of the story.

But wait. There's more.

Anne's name has now also surfaced in the online discussion, apparently because of her longtime friendship with Cheska

WHO'S NEXT page 4



What The Fact
by Joey Baking

Republicans will Win USA Mid-term Elections

Deal with the Devils

The United States is going to have their mid-term election on November 3, 2026. Canada is hoping that the Democrats will sweep the seats in contention and get a majority in the senate and congress. All 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and 35 of the 100 seats in the U.S. Senate will be contested to determine the 120th United States Congress. 39 state and territorial U.S. gubernatorial elections, attorney general elections, and numerous state and local elections, will also be contested.

Canada is hoping that if the Democrats, we will be getting a break from the tariffs that President Trump has imposed against Canada. In the meantime, our Prime Minister has started making deals that will bring us closer to Europe, trade-wise.

Our collective hopes are not unusual. We always believe the other choice is better. But let's temper our expectations. Maybe just slightly better. I was thinking that the Democrats don't really hate the tariffs. In fact, Minister Mélanie Joly who serves as the Minister of Industry and Minister responsible for Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions said recently that some Democrats she talked to in the USA are not against the tariffs.

So, what we have is an opposition in the US just waiting in the wings. When they get in power, they will just enjoy the tariffs that Trump has imposed on almost every country in the world. They come up smelling of roses while Trump and the Republicans have done the dirty job of imposing the tariffs. All they have to do is shave a little here and a little there and they will look like the musketeers to the rescue and make the world a better place for trading again, even though all they did is put a band-aid on the big wound of tariffs that Trump has imposed on every rich and poor country in the world. In Switzerland, he imposed a tariff of 39% unless they buy a minimum amount of goods in the US. Switzerland said that even if every Swiss drinks bourbon and eat steak every dinner, they will not be able to equal the trade deficit that the US wants to equalize.

So, it the Democrats come into power, don't expect the tariffs to disappear.

But my guess is, the Democrats are not going to get a majority in the mid-term elections as everyone predicts. I don't think there will be a blue wave.

Maybe, the Democrats will win some seats but the Republicans will still be a majority. I will not be surprised if Republicans increase their seats.

Just my fearless prediction.

Why this Scarborough harvest festival is all about pinakbet

by Luis Miguel de Castro - -LJI REPORTER FILIPINO COMMUNITY

Filipino families and community gardeners will gather in Scarborough on Oct. 10 for the second Pinakbet Pinoy Ratatouille and Harvest Festival, a celebration connecting Filipino food and culture with gardening.

Organized by Seeds of Hope Pinakbet International Inc., the festival will take place at the Malvern Family Resource Centre, 90 Littles Rd., with a community program featuring food, contests, traditional games and activities for families.

Founder and president Maria Sherry Lacson Tan said the festival grew out of a community gardening advocacy she began eight years ago.

"My community advocacy inspired me to create this festival," Tan said.

Seeds of Hope Pinakbet International Inc. founder and president Maria Sherry Lacson Tan, right, takes part in the first Pinakbet Pinoy Ratatouille & Harvest Festival. Submitted photo



Seeds of Hope Pinakbet International Founder and president Maria Sherry Lacson Tan

That work began in 2018 after Tan was chosen as a Seeds of Hope Pinakbet Pack Ambassador of Goodwill by Harbest Agribusiness Corporation president Arsenio Barcelona in the Philippines.

Tan brought the initiative to Canada, where she began growing vegetables from the Pinakbet seed pack at the East Scarborough Storefront's community garden.

She later continued the initiative through other community gardens and partnerships in Toronto.

Pinakbet, a vegetable dish with roots in the northern Philippines, became the centrepiece of Tan's advocacy because of the seed pack she originally received.

"Why pinakbet? Because of the Seeds of Hope Pinakbet Pack that I used for my community advocacy," Tan said.

Through Seeds of Hope Pinakbet International, Tan has since used gardening as a way to introduce families and children to food production, healthy eating and sustainability.

Seeds of Hope Pinakbet International Inc. will hold its second Pinakbet Pinoy Ratatouille & Harvest Festival on Oct. 10 at the Malvern Family Resource Centre in Scarborough. Submitted photo



PINAKBET from page 4

'Red Crown' turns pageant obsession into a fight for survival

GMA Pictures' "Red Crown" brings together some of today's hottest stars and prominent beauty queens in a star-studded thriller that turns a glamorous pageant into a deadly fight for survival.

For a country that can turn a beauty pageant into a national event, a film asking what happens when the crown becomes a matter of life and death sounds almost too fitting.

But what makes "Red Crown" even more striking is who is wearing those crowns.

The new GMA Pictures thriller brings together some of today's hottest stars, established actresses and prominent beauty queens in a rare, star-studded ensemble for a local film.

The result is a pageant unlike any other, where 25 women compete not just for a crown and P25 million, but for their lives.

The brainchild of GMA's Annette Gozon, "Red Crown" combines dark comedy, mystery and suspense-thriller elements in a story set around the fictional Queen of the Islands pageant.

Director Dominic Zapata said Gozon had long wanted to make a project like this.

"It's not just about the glitz and the glamour. It shows the other side of pageants and it's also suspense-thriller, so it's fresh, exciting. It's a social commentary of sorts that is very relevant today," Zapata said.

The contestants arrive expecting the usual pageant routine: gowns, pasarela, interviews, competition and, ultimately, the crown.

Then things take a disturbing turn.



Ashley Ortega

Mysterious and terrifying incidents begin taking place, with elimination taking on a much darker meaning. Rivalries, suspicion, sabotage and betrayal follow as the contestants realize that something is seriously wrong.

Eventually, they must decide whether to keep competing against one another or work together to uncover the secret behind the pageant.

"Red Crown" takes something Filipinos know well and pushes it into survival-thriller territory, with echoes of films and series such as "Squid Game" and "Saw."

For Michelle Dee, who has experienced the pageant world herself, the movie was also an opportunity to exaggerate the personas associated with beauty queens.

"It was quite fun, enjoyable," Dee said. "We got to portray loud caricatures of our beauty queen selves as made obvious in our character's names."

Ruffa Gutierrez, meanwhile, described the project as a full-circle experience, having been both a beauty queen and an actress.

For Ashley Ortega, the film also fulfilled a childhood dream.

"My mother dreamed of me joining pageants," Ortega said in Filipino. "At least, it finally came true."

She competed once, at around 15 years old.

"It was my first and my last," she said. "But I won the crown."

The film's casting gives "Red Crown" an added layer of authenticity.

Its ensemble includes Yana Aduana, Alethea Ambrosio, Ariella Arida, Herlene Budol, Skye Chua, Faith da Silva, Haley Dizon, MJ Encabo, Shuvee Etrata, Gazini Ganados, Rein Hillary, Maika Kemmochi, MJ Lastimosa, Aira Lopez, Sanya Lopez, Ahtisa Manalo, AZ Martinez, Vanessa Peña, Sandy Riccio, Jade Tecson, Tarah Valencia, Yna Angela Uy and Yza Thalia Uy.

Also joining the cast are Bianca Manalo, Michael De Mesa, Epy Quizon, Vince Maristela, Roxie Smith, Christian Singson, Jay Ortega, Tim Yap, Pinky Tobiano, Cat Arambulo and Anna Magkawas.

And apparently, the pageant queens have already started identifying which actresses could make the jump to an actual international pageant. Dee named Etrata, citing her stage presence, confidence and intelligence. Manalo pickedda Silva for her personality, people skills and drive.

Arida mentioned Lopez, Martinez, Ortega, Etrata and Da Silva, while Lastimosa also singled out Lopez and expressed hope that Da Silva would eventually compete nationally.

Manalo mentioned Martinez, Ortega, Da Silva, Etrata, Lopez and Haley Dizon as potential contenders in various international pageants.

"They are all beautiful," she said.

WHO'S NEXT? Patrick Garcia-Dennis Trillo issue gets even bigger with Gelli de Belen, Anne Curtis added to the cast

WHO'S NEXT from page 3

Garcia Kramer, Patrick's sister.

This is where things get a little harder to follow.

A Reddit user recently revived old allegations involving Anne, Cheska and Jennylyn, claiming that Anne had been unfriendly toward Jennylyn during the latter's relationship with Luis Manzano.

The post also dragged up the old story about Anne and Luis not speaking for a period of time, with the Redditor connecting it to Luis' relationship with Jennylyn.



To be clear, these are claims from a social media user. They are not established facts, and Anne has not publicly responded to them.

Still, here we are.

A controversy involving Patrick Garcia has now somehow brought up Gelli and Anne, along with old relationships, old friendships and allegations from years ago.

If you're feeling a little lost, you're not alone.

The original issue was already complicated enough. Now it appears to have developed its own extended universe.

So, is the Patrick Garcia-Dennis Trillo issue over?

Apparently not.

In fact, judging from the number of names being added to the story, we may need a flowchart soon.

'We haven't really been talking' Laiza Soberano makes current status with Enrique Gil clear

Whatever open communication Liza Soberano and Enrique Gil maintained after their breakup appears to have gradually faded.

Liza has now made it clear that she and her former boyfriend and love team partner barely talk these days, pointing to the moment she publicly made their split official as a turning point.

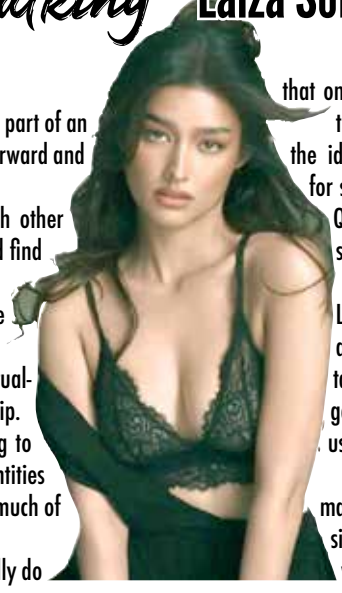
"We're okay. Our relationship ended on good terms, and even after that, we were still maintaining open communication," Liza said in a YouTube vlog interview with broadcast journalist Karen Davila. "But, I would say over the past year, we haven't really been talking as much. I think ever since I made that final official announcement, with the breakup and everything."

Liza said the distance was also part of an effort by both of them to move forward and establish themselves separately.

"We also wanted to give each other the space to kind of move on and find ourselves," she said.

For years, Liza and Enrique were known as LizQuen, with their on-screen partnership eventually becoming a real-life relationship.

Now, Liza said they are trying to separate their individual identities from the love team that defined much of their careers.



"I think we're only able to really do that once there's an actual separation of the identities, because for so long we're LizQuen, you know," she said.

"But now it's Liza and Quen, and I think it takes some time getting people used to that."

That separation may be particularly significant for Liza, who has been building her career outside the Philippines and pursuing opportunities in Hollywood.

Still, she looked back fondly on what she and Enrique shared, particularly the support that came with having someone beside her through the pressures of showbiz.

"The best thing about being in a love-team is that you have someone to share the pressure with," she said.

"Mayroon kang person to kind of lean on." At the same time, Liza acknowledged that being part of a love team could become limiting when it came to their individual careers. "Because you are a team, every decision has to be vetted by the both of you. Kailangan agree kayong pareho," she said.

She explained that there were times when something might benefit one person's career but not necessarily the other's, yet both had to go along with it because they were a team.

"Pero you both have to do it anyway, because you're in a love team. And so I think, in that sense, nagiging limiting siya."

Despite the challenges, Liza said there were also beautiful things about being part of a love team, including seeing how much Filipinos embraced their romance.

But these days, the emphasis appears to be on the individuals rather than the pair.

As Liza said: No more LizQuen, it's Liza and Quen.

Olivia Chow will make TTC rides free after 10 trips each week

The more you ride, the less you pay



TORONTO — Olivia Chow is introducing a 10 ride a week fare cap. After 10 paid rides, the rest of the week is free. Chow will also freeze TTC fares for a fourth straight year.

The new weekly fare cap means that after you pay for 10 trips, every additional TTC trip that week is free. If you commute to work every weekday and take transit three additional times in a week, for example heading to a Blue Jays game, going shopping, or meeting friends, you could see $19.80 in weekly savings - about $1,000 a year.

"People are working hard and everything costs more. Your city should be in your corner," said Chow. "If you take the TTC to work every day, your rides in the evenings and on the weekend will be free. It is simple, automatic, and it puts real money back in your pocket."

Before Chow became mayor, TTC riders had been hit with repeated fare increases and service cuts. She made a different choice: she froze fares, restored service levels and secured a New Deal that put the TTC on stronger financial footing. Chow's three year fare freeze alone has saved a working couple about $300 in the past year.

Under the new plan, you won't need to buy a pass or pay a big amount upfront. Just tap the same PRESTO card, debit card or credit card as you travel. Once you reach 10 paid TTC trips in a week, the rest are free.

A weekly cap also means riders can begin saving sooner. If you work from home, get sick or go away for part of a month, you won't lose the chance to save because you missed a monthly threshold. This will encourage more people to choose transit, helping reduce congestion.

"This election is a choice," said Chow. "We can keep moving forward, making transit better and lowering costs, or go back to higher fares, service cuts and a city that asks working people to pay more for less. I choose to keep Toronto moving forward."

BACKGROUND

How we'll pay for it: Olivia Chow's 2026 City budget has already forecasted $12.2 million for fare capping at 40 rides per month starting in 2027. This commitment would fall in line within the existing funding envelope. The TTC Board is also currently studying weekly fare capping.

While bringing down the cost of transit, Olivia Chow has continued to invest in increasing service levels and improving transit safety and reliability. These improvements include:

- Restored pre-pandemic service levels across the TTC, increasing the frequency of streetcars, subways, and buses.
- Reducing average weekday wait times on Line 1 and 2 down to 2.5 minutes, and delivering five minutes or better subway service on the weekends.
- Adding more frequent service on the City's most crowded bus routes
- Delivering six minute or better streetcar service from 7 am to 7 pm on St. Clair, Dundas and Bathurst
- Implemented enhanced Transit Signal Priority measures on Lines 5 & 6 to improve travel times, saving riders 10 & 20 minutes, respectively.
- Built the Scarborough Busway in three years, cutting travel times between Kennedy Station and Scarborough Centre to save riders over an hour per week.
- Modernizing Line 2 with automated signal technology (ATC) and securing federal and provincial money for an entire new fleet of subway cars for Line 2
- Added 421 front-line safety staff across the system – Special Constables, police, mental health crisis workers on platforms around the clock, and outreach teams.

How Team Kramer maintains strong family bond

Team Kramer is one of the most famous and most good-looking families on social media. Power couple Chesca and Doug Kramer appeared on "Fast Talk with Boy Abunda," where they shared how they raise their three lovely kids, maintain their strong family bond and keep their romance alive.

Their children Kendra, Scarlet and Gavin have grown up in the public eye. According to Doug, the siblings are now almost the same height and taller than their mom. Who do they resemble? He answered, "Kung makikita mo iyong mga pictures ko when I was a teenager, Kendra and I look alike a lot. And Gavin also. Si Scarlet is very Chesca, but a tall version."

Chesca added, "But some people say na kamukha ko rin si Kendra kasi siguro iyong mga mannerisms ni Kendra are very much like my mannerisms."

The siblings are actively into sports. Kendra is a swimmer, Scarlet is a tennis player and Gavin plays basketball.

Kendra is now 17 and will soon enter college. Many netizens say that she is beauty queen material. Doug said, "Ang sabi niya, gusto ko muna to try and make the Philippine team in swimming. And then she will graduate college, and then we'll see how the Ms. Universe thing goes."



Power couple Chesca and Doug Kramer open up about how they raise their three lovely kids Kendra, Scarlet and Gavin.

This young lady definitely knows what she wants in life and understands the importance of proper timing.

Meanwhile, Scarlet takes tennis very seriously. Three coaches help her excel in the sport. She is inspired by young tennis sensation Alex Eala, whom she recently met at an event. Scarlet and Kendra stayed in Australia, where they trained in their respective sports for three months.

As a former cager, Doug couldn't hide his smile while he talked about Gavin's love for basketball. "Gavin really chose basketball. And for a while, like lang siya. 'I like the sport. I like basketball.' But now, he truly loves basketball, which is a difference maker," he enthused.



The Kramer siblings are actively into sports. Kendra is a swimmer, Scarlet is a tennis player and Gavin plays basketball.

The husband and wife are hands-on in raising their children. "I wouldn't say we're strict. Actually, we're spoilers," Chesca admitted.

Doug added, "We know how to balance. We spoil the kids, but we're also very strict in terms of their discipline, their commitment, their school, their sports. No excuses. You have to show up every day."

They always sit down as a family to discuss different things. Chesca shared that they have Bible study every Sunday. "Every day we have dinner together. Dinner dahil may school na. So, dinner talaga kailangang sabay-sabay kami. Naghihintayan kami. Then nag-uusap kami. 'Kamusta ka? How was your day?'"

The couple has been together for a long time. Doug said, "Boyfriend-girlfriend, 2003, so that's 23. But married, 18 years this year." Doug focuses on how he can be the best husband and father to his family. Chesca said time and communication are keys to keeping their romance aflame. She also thinks putting God at the center of their relationship has done wonders for their marriage.

And they just love each other's company. "Hindi kami umaalis. Pag umaalis man kami, magkasama kami laging dalawa and we're always with family and our close friends. Kung sino ang mga ka-hang-out namin noong nagsisimula pa lang kami, iyon pa rin hanggang ngayon. We're very protective of our circle," Chesca explained.

"No room for temptation because we're always together," Doug remarked.

Fil-Can Seniors Attend Digital Literacy & Cybersecurity Lecture

by Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

TORONTO - Who says that elderly people or seniors are no longer interested in learning, especially using modern technology tools? With the advent of computers, the internet, Facebook, YouTube and many other communication infrastructures, seniors are characteristically and casually challenged, if not daunted, by the complexity of these so-called techno gadgets and paraphernalia. Not anymore...the challenge is rightly accepted.

People categorised as adults and considered seniors, or those about to become seniors, coming from the community willingly attended a lecture on a valuable learning development topic. On September 23, 2026, forty-five Filipino Canadians, mostly members of the Filipino Centre Toronto's Seniors Art Painting (SAP) group, enthusiastically attended an in-person presentation entitled: "Digital Literacy & Cybersecurity" with the purpose of: "Learning it, Doing More and Staying Safe ".



The informative event, which is part of the Filipino Centre Toronto's program for seniors in the community, was organised by Juanita "Nitz" Abalos-Rejdik, FCT Director and Owner-Manager of Sandbank Cottages and Boat Rentals. This is the second time FCT has offered this technology education project with leadership support from the Centre's executive team led by FCT President Mary Ann S. San Juan and the senior directors.

The 2-hour session was conducted by Raymond A. Chua, a Filipino-Canadian IT Professor at Seneca Polytechnic.





Professor Chua has an MBA and MEd degree with a CISSP (Certified Information Systems Security Professional) industry designation. He is currently Managing Director at RCI Network and IT Solutions, which specialises in telecommunications consulting, network installations, and PC/server support. The company, with experienced professional staff, provides remote and in-person services that specifically meet business needs. Chua helps "organisations make informed technology decisions by aligning infrastructure, cybersecurity, and business objectives and works with leaders to evaluate options, manage risk, and design practical, resilient solutions that support long-term success."

The main topics covered were 1) Spotting Phishing, SPAMs, and Scams 2) Using Guest Wi-Fi access 3) Passwords and online account security and 4) Using YouTube and AI. After the lecture, Chua said, "Let's discuss your ideas and experiences", and fielded questions from the participants. Professor Chua was assisted by Marc, a network/ IT professional, during the Q. & A. period.

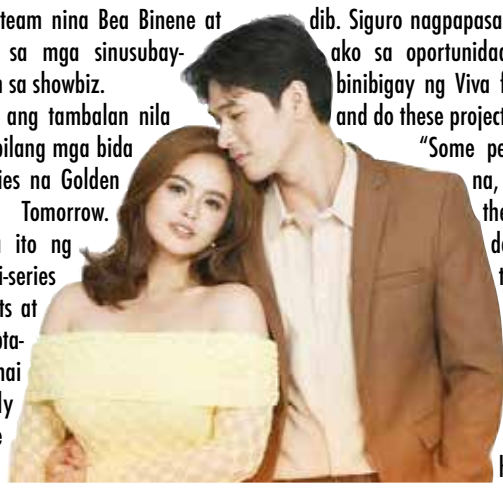
Several participants readily described the session as a wonderful and meaningful learning experience for them, having been allowed to understand and appreciate something useful and good for their " heart and mind". (Tony A. San Juan, OCT-Retired.)



Bea Binene at Wilbert Ross, nag-react sa 'love team' tag

Isa ang love team nina Bea Binene at Wilbert Ross sa mga sinusubaybayan ngayon sa showbiz.

Ipinakilala ang tambalan nila noong 2025 bilang mga bida sa online series na Golden Scenery of Tomorrow. Nasundan pa ito ng isang mini-series na Love U Lots at ng local adaptation ng hit Thai horror-comedy movie na Pee Mak.



Dahil dito, nabansagan ang dalawa bilang "phenomenal love team" at nakumpara pa sa ilang pang mga love team noong mga nagdaang taon.

"Thank you po. Ano ba dapat ang reaksiyon dun?" nakangiting sabi ni Bea nang hingin ang reaksiyon nila ni Wilbert tungkol dito sa ginanap na media conference ng pelikula nila kamakailan.

Patuloy niya, "Hindi ko po siya dinidibdib. Siguro nagpapasalamat lang po ako sa oportunidad at tiwalang binibigay ng Viva for us to play and do these projects.

"Some people can say na, 'Ah they're there. They're doing something good.' Of course, malaking bagay po yung sa fans. Kasi, kung hindi nila sinusuportahan yung projects na ginagawa namin, wala po kami rito."

Sabi pa ni Bea, nagsisilbi itong inspirasyon para sa kanya para lalo pang magpursigi sa trabaho.

"Of course, kahit ano namang projects, there's always pressure. But for me, siguro inspiration siya to push even further sa lahat ng ginagawa ko, na gagalingan pa palagi. Siyempre, maraming naniniwala at nagtitiwala. It's not a small thing, malaking challenge siya."

Sa parte naman ni Wilbert, bagama't nagpapasalamat siya, mas mainam daw kung walang anumang pagkukumpara sa ibang love team.

"Personally po, I prefer appreciation without comparison po sana," sabi ng aktor.

"Kasi, I'm grateful sa chance na binigay sa amin, sa projects. Of course, sa fans kasi wala naman kami dito kung hindi dahil sa init ng pagtanggap nila sa lahat ng roles na ginagampanan namin. We're just grateful lang sa mga nangyayari."

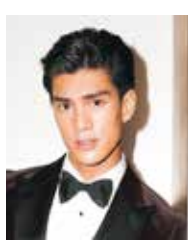
Nabanggit din niya na bukod sa kanilang team-up ni Bea, may kanya-kanya rin silang mga proyektong pinagkakaabalahan.

"About us naman po kasi, may kanya-kanya kaming mga ginagawa. Ako, I have music. Siya, meron din po siyang business, hosting, and all. Very thankful lang po sa nangyayari sa amin," pagtatapos ni Wilbert.

Anthony Constantino admits he still has many to learn in acting

Grateful ang Sparkle actor na si Anthony Constantino sa oportunidad na gumanap sa digital series na 'From Vlog to Love.'

Naghatid ng kilig at saya sina Shuvee Etrata at Anthony Constantino sa kanilang digital romcom series na From Vlog to Love.



Sa "Unang Balita" ni Athena Imperial para sa Unang Hirit, grateful si Anthony sa oportunidad na gumanap bilang Bullet sa naturang serye. Aminado ang Sparkle actor na marami pa siyang dapat i-improve sa pag-arte.

"I think patience on the camera is something that I can improve on because as a new actor, I tend to rush my emotions," pagbabahagi niya.

Labis din ang pasasalamat ni Anthony sa kanyang fans dahil sa kanilang pag-suporta sa kanyang showbiz career. Naganap kamakailan ang first fan meet ni Anthony sa Cubao, Quezon City at naka-bonding ang kanyang mga tagasuporta.

Aniya, "It's honestly just crazy that all of these people came here for me and I really feel the love. I really, really feel the love, and I appreciate them so much."

Bukod dito, nilinaw din ni Anthony na wala silang alitan ng kapwa aktor na si Gerald Anderson sa naganap na celebrity basketball match na Bida Sa Arena: The Rematch.

Matatandaan na naging usap-usapan online ang tila pagkompronta ng ama ni Anthony kay Gerald sa gitna ng umiinit na laban sa pagitan ng Team Sparkle at Team Th3rd Floor.

"We're just two basketball players that love the game and we love to compete. And I will always have respect for Kuya Gerald," paglinaw niya.

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‘UPAAT@50: A Year-Long Celebration of Legacy, Service & the Future’



Norma Bernal

New immigrants & the workplace





LEFT, The University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Toronto (UPAAT) hosted a forum. RIGHT, UPAAT President Agnes Manasan

The University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Toronto is launching its landmark golden anniversary countdown. As a proud member, I am sharing our milestones detailed below by UPAAT President Agnes Lopez-Manasan. You can access the registration links and full event schedules on the official UPAAT Website https://www.upaatoronto.com/ . For UP graduates who are interested to participate but are not yet members of the association, we are more than glad to have you. Here’s the contact information of the the UPAAT president, agneslopezmanasan@gmail.com

The UPAAT is gearing up for its Golden Anniversary in 2027, with a year-long celebration anchored on the theme “UPAAT@50” The milestone celebration will bring together generations of Iskos and Iskas to remember the past, celebrate UPAAT’s continuing contributions, and look ahead to the next 50 years.

The anniversary will feature four major events, beginning with the Christmas Kick-Off and Anniversary Launch on November 21, 2026, and culminating in the 50th Anniversary Gala and Alumni Homecoming in November 2027. The events will trace UPAAT’s journey through five decades while providing opportunities for members, families, friends and community partners to reconnect and celebrate. The four major celebrations are:

- Christmas Kick-Off and Anniversary Launch, November 21, 2026: A festive opening to the Golden Anniversary year, featuring memories of UP, Pasko sa UP and a lantern parade.
- Valentine’s Kapihan, February 13, 2027: A celebration of UPAAT couples and the relationships and friendships that have enriched the organization.
- Spring Dance, May 22, 2027: A celebration of UPAAT’s legacies, including its scholarship, mentoring and community engagement programs, with recognition of community partners.
- Summer Picnic and Sportsfest, August 7, 2027: A fun-filled gathering highlighting UPAAT today, with games, fellowship and participation from fellow UP alumni.

The festivities will reach their grand finale with the 50th Anniversary Gala and Alumni Homecoming in November 2027, bringing together alumni and friends to celebrate five decades of UPAAT’s presence and contributions in Canada.

But the Golden Anniversary celebration is much more than a series of events. Preparations have been underway since early 2026, involving working committees for events, marketing and promotion, fundraising, membership engagement, community engagement and university relations. Volunteers are being mobilized, venues and programs planned, sponsors and partners engaged, and members encouraged to reconnect and take part.

To build excitement, UPAAT is also launching a storytelling campaign featuring “50 Faces of UPAAT” and “50 UPAAT Stories,” highlighting alumni memories, UP experiences, migration stories, volunteerism, friendships and the many ways UPAAT has touched lives. Videos, throwbacks, member spotlights and stories of UPAAT’s scholars and community work will help bring the anniversary theme of ‘Then, Now and Next’ to life.

Fundraising is another major part of the preparations, with sponsorship packages and donor outreach being developed to support the Golden Anniversary and a 50th Anniversary Project. Membership and community engagement efforts are likewise underway to involve both active and less-active alumni, as well as UPAAT’s Filipino-Canadian partners.

As UPAAT approaches this historic milestone, the Golden Anniversary is envisioned not simply as a look back at 50 years, but as a celebration of what UP and UPAAT have given to generations of alumni—and what those generations can give to the future. It is an invitation to remember, reconnect, participate and help shape the next chapter of UPAAT’s story.

UPAAT@50. The celebration begins in November 2026—and everyone is invited to be part of the journey.

Direk Antoinette Jadaone, grateful to Marian Rivera, Angel Locsin sa dating business



Hindi raw malilimutan ni Direk Antoinette Jadaone ang suportang ibinigay ng Darna actresses na sina Marian Rivera at Angel Locsin sa dati niyang business.

Witty sa pagne-negosyo ang popular film director, producer, at podcast host na si Antoinette Jadaone.

Sa latest episode ng Ang Walang Kwentang Podcast kasama si JP Habac, inalala ni Direk Tonet ang raket niya noon bilang isang production assistant nang itayo niya ang planner business na tinawag niyang Witty Will Save the World.

Pagbabalik-tanaw ng That Thing Called Tadhana director: “Noong late 20s ako, what if gumawa ako ng anti-Starbucks planner na hindi mo kailangang ng stickers; na eto ‘yung planner na nagsasalita nang Tagalog. ‘Tapos, lahat nung mga dates nun ay pop-culture events like, for example, kailan nag-break si Rico [Yan] at Claudine [Barretto]?”

“Ako ‘yung creatives, ako yung writer; ‘tapos, si Chinggay [Nuque] ‘yung business partner ko, siya sa business side. Pareho kaming walang alam sa business parang gusto niya ako i-support. Tapos, sobrang daming bumili!

“Sobrang dami pero kami lang ni Chinggay ang ano pa namin na nakikipag-meet up, may meet up na noon. Si Chinggay sa may Pasig, ako sa QC.”

Hindi rin malilimutan ni Direk Antoinette na isa mga una niyang customer ang Kapuso Primetime Queen na si Marian Rivera at ang former Mulawin actress na si Angel Locsin.

Pag-alala niya, “Ginawa ko yun nung habang nag-pi-PA ako, mga unang binentahan ko yan sina Marian Rivera. Si Marian, ang daming binili. Si Angel Locsin, ang daming binili, ginawa niyang giveaway nung Pasko, ‘yun talaga ‘yung ano namin.

“Sila ‘yung una parang talagang ‘tapos dinilever ko sa mga bahay nila ganun... Sobrang naging maganda ‘yung planner business namin, nag-quit siya [si Chinggay] ng day job niya. Sobra wala kaming kalam-alam sa publishing, hindi namin alam kung ano ‘yung publishing.”

Kamakailan lang, ni-launch din ni Antoinette Jadaone ang bago niyang venture na film studio na Ilaya Ilaya.



Filipino Centre Toronto Holds Summer-End Bazaar & Garage Sale Festival

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT-Retired

TORONTO - The Filipino Centre Toronto (FCT), as a purposeful part of its community outreach program, successfully held its " FCT Bazaar and Garage Sale Festival" on September 26, 2026 (Saturday) from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm. at the FCT Main Hall and Front Building grounds at 4935 Sheppard Avenue East, Scarborough, Toronto. The occasion had a fundraising element in support of the Centre's targeted projects benefiting community members.



Meaningfully delivered, the annual community event has covered day-long festivities, entertainment numbers and family-focused activities. Free to the public, the fun-filled gathering presented a sale of new and once-loved clothing, shoes, books, housewares, kitchen stuff, and other useful items. The day's program featured musical performances by accomplished entertainers and budding local talents. Merryful mini-games for children & youth and adults were additionally held, including line dancing and bingo for the adults.

Members of the FCT Seniors Artist Painting (SAP) group, together with other notable Fil-Can visual artists, exhibited their respective "obra maestras". Harworking FCT Board Director and SAP's painting maestro, Frank Cruzet and FCT Executive Vice-president Theresa Lumanlan collaboratively and artfully organised the well-admired photo gallery. Over 60 paintings were displayed and price-tagged from $ 25 to $ 2000 each. Affordable novelty items and Filipino delicacies were sold and served by the more than ten participating vendors. Certain merchants promoted their specific products and services to the festival-goers.

Organised by the FCT Executive Directorate, led by President & CEO Mary Ann S. San Juan, and wonderfully supported by Jennifer Sy, Nitz Rejdik, Wally Yerro, Dan Mandigma, Wendy Arenas and other members of the Centre's Board of Directors with their spouses/partners. Present also at the event were Carlos, Marifi, Alvine, Rene, Gerry, Jimmy and other friends of the Centre. The FCT Ukulele group, headed by Relly Pardinas, performed to the delight of the crowd.

BAZAAR page 13

Gehlee Dangca dreams of collaborating with BINI as she begins solo career

Former UNIS member Gehlee Dangca is ready to take on a new chapter in her career as a solo artist. She also hopes to collaborate with the nation's girl group, BINI.

In an exclusive interview with PUSH ABS-CBN, Gehlee shared how much she admires the Filipina girl group and expressed her excitement at the possibility of working with her "ates."

"Yung mga ate ko sa BINI po. When we were with UNIS, we did a 'Pantropiko' cover and it was so much fun," Gehlee recalled.

Gehlee, together with her former UNIS co-members Elisia Parmisano and Lim Seowon, covered BINI's hit song "Pantropiko" in 2024 as part of a medley for 1theK Originals' World Wide Cover.

The trio also performed "Contigo" by Karol G and Tiësto, Beyoncé's "Texas Hold 'Em," noa's "Any Angle," and PLAVE's "Way 4 Luv." Their "Pantropiko" performance became the most replayed part of the video, which has since garnered more than 3.6 million views.

Beyond their music, Gehlee said she admires BINI's bond as a group and the joy they have in performing together.

"Seeing them online din, it seems they love their job so much. Their chemistry with each other is so nice to see. The sisterhood that they have is so admirable. And their performances? Nasa-starstruck ako sa kanila," she admitted.

Now that she is back in the Philippines and starting her journey as a solo artist, Gehlee is not closing the door on the possibility of finally working with her idols.



"If a collaboration ever happens, I think I would explode," Gehlee shyly said.

Gehlee even took the opportunity to send a message to BINI, saying: "Hi po, mga Ates! I think you are so cool po. I love you and I idolize you before I even debut in UNIS. Nasha-shy ako. Parang namumula ako... If you want to collab, give me a call."

Gehlee recently returned to the Philippines following the conclusion of her group's, UNIS, contract with South Korean agency F&F Entertainment on September 26.

She received a warm welcome from her family and fans upon arriving in the country, a moment she described as heartwarming.

"Everybody is so sweet. I saw a photo online that shows everyone is like lining up and they are so cute. The bouquet, the cheer, my grandparents on the side and then may tarpaulin pa. It's so heartwarming," Gehlee said, recalling her airport arrival.

Bringing what she has learned as a UNIS member, Gehlee is looking forward to discovering what she can do more on her own.

"I'm super excited to explore the opportunities as a solo artist and learning more about myself as a solo artist because it is super different from being in a group. Everybody else is supporting each other but now I'm all on my own," she said.

"It's exciting to have a lot more creative freedom and I'm excited about it."

As she begins this new chapter, Gehlee has one message for the fans who have supported her since the beginning of her journey.

"Salamat po talaga sa lahat ng suporta niyo. I love you guys so much. Thank you for supporting me since the beginning of our journey and welcoming me home whenever I visited. Now I'm here and I hope you guys are in for a ride," she expressed.

Heart Evangelista tungkol sa mga mayayaman: 'Not all the time you're happy'

May opinyon si Heart Evangelista tungkol sa tunay na tagumpay sa buhay! Alamin dito.

Tila naging real talk ang usapan sa masayang GMA Comedy original game show na The People Have Spoken!

Humarap ang celebrity players at People sa tricky question na: "Paano mo susukatin ang success o tagumpay ng isang tao? Sa dami ng pera at kayamanan, sa nararamdamang happiness, o sa dami ng nagmamahal?"

Para sa Team GLAIBY (Glaiza de Castro at Gabby Eigenmann), kaagad nilang pinili ang pera at kayamanan.

"Sa panahon kasi ngayon, kailangan ng pera e. Parang 'pag wala kang pera, malungkot ka. Automatic 'yun 'pag may pera ka, masaya ka. Pero kung tagumpay o sakses, actually, sa totoo lang, 'yung tatlong 'yan dapat magkaakibat 'yan. Pero pera talaga," paliwanag ni Gabby.

Pareho rin ang naging sagot ng Team MATTONG (Matt Lozano at Betong). Bagama't maganda sana kung happiness o pagmamahal ang kanilang pipiliin, mas pinanigan pa rin nila ang pera.



"Sa panahon ngayon, iba talaga 'yung kasiyahan talaga kapag meron kang (pang-share). 'Di ba sharing is caring?" ani Betong.

"Tsaka hindi na kami magpapanggap ni Kuya Betong. Mukha kaming pera talaga," paboring hirit ni Matt.

Ngunit para kay Heart, iba ang kanyang pananaw sa tunay na sukatan ng tagumpay.

Sang-ayon naman siya na masarap sa pakiramdam ang pagkakaroon ng maraming kayamanan, ngunit hindi ito ang itinuturing niyang tunay na success sa buhay.

"But 'pag madaming pera mo at madami kang kayamanan, sad to say, the reality is not all the time you're happy at not all the time madami ang magmamahal sa'yo. 'Cause not a lot of people will be happy for you," aniya.

"So para sa akin doon ako sa dami nagmamahal kasi siguro kapag dumating 'yung panahon na gagraduate ka na nga, ang importante sa akin madaming mga nakahawak sa akin and I shall pass happy."

Sa huli, nagulat ang lahat nang mas pinili ng People ang "nararamdamang happiness" na may 49 percent votes!



Why newcomers are learning French for permanent residency

by LUIS MIGUEL DE CASTRO-LJI REPORTER

TORONTO - As temporary residents across Canada look for ways to improve their chances of obtaining permanent residence, some are turning to French-language study as an immigration strategy.

This is driven in part by federal Express Entry draws that prioritize French proficiency.

Filipino Canadian immigration lawyer Maria Deanna Santos said interest in learning French has intensified in recent years.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has increasingly used category-based selection to invite French-speaking candidates.

"Express Entry rounds of invitations have been focusing mainly on French category-specific draws," Santos said.

"These draws have had the most number of invitations to apply."



Filipino-Canadian immigration lawyer Maria Deanna P. Santos says more Filipino temporary residents are considering learning French as a way to improve their chances of obtaining permanent residence in Canada.

French-language proficiency remains one of the categories used by IRCC for category-based Express Entry selection.

To qualify for the French-language category, candidates must have a minimum score of Niveaux de compétence linguistique canadien, or NCLC, 7 in reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Candidates must also meet the requirements of one of the immigration programs managed through Express Entry before entering the pool.

Filipino-Canadian immigration lawyer Maria Deanna P. Santos says more Filipino temporary residents are considering learning French as a way to improve their chances of obtaining permanent residence in Canada. Submitted Photo

Santos said French-language draws have attracted attention because their Comprehensive Ranking System cutoffs can be lower than those in some other types of Express Entry rounds.

"This has become the more realistic route for Express Entry candidates to get invited to apply for PR," Santos said.

Beyond becoming eligible for French-language category selection, strong French skills can also increase a candidate's CRS (Comprehensive Ranking System) score.

Candidates who achieve at least NCLC 7 in all four French abilities can receive 25 additional CRS points if they have lower English scores or have not taken an English test.

Those who also achieve at least Canadian Language Benchmark 5 in all four English abilities can receive 50 additional points.

However, for Filipino applicants, Santos said the prospect of learning another language can initially be intimidating.

"A lot of them are already having problems getting high enough scores in their English test that it appears to be a remote, if not impossible, step to take," she said.

Despite that hesitation, Santos said she has noticed a shift among Filipino clients.

"I've seen increasingly more Filipinos who are being open to the possibility of learning French, and a lot of them succeeding," she said.

Reaching the level needed for French-language category selection can take considerable time.

Santos said achieving NCLC 7 may take years for an average learner, particularly for Filipinos who have had little exposure to French.

French can also provide immigration options before someone reaches that level.

Santos pointed to the Francophone Mobility work permit, which allows eligible French-speaking foreign nationals with a job offer outside Quebec to obtain an employer-specific work permit without a Labour Market Impact Assessment.

The program generally requires applicants to demonstrate at least NCLC 5 in French speaking and listening, along with meeting the other

FRENCH page 18

Star Magic warns of legal action over online harassment of Michelle Garcia



Michelle Garcia and her father Patrick Garcia

Talent agency Star Magic has spoken out after its 13-year-old talent, Michelle Garcia, daughter of actor Patrick Garcia, received hurtful comments online.

In a statement posted on its official social media pages, Star Magic expressed concern over the comments directed at Michelle and called on the public to refrain from involving the teenager in issues concerning adults.

"Star Magic is deeply concerned about the hurtful comments directed at our artist Michelle Garcia, who is only 13 years old.

"We ask the public to refrain from involving Michelle in matters concerning adults that happened before she was born.

"We are prepared to take appropriate action against those who continue to harass Michelle, in accordance with laws protecting children from abuse and libel.

"We continue to support Michelle and look after her well-being."

The agency did not identify the individuals behind the comments but warned that it may pursue appropriate action against those who continue to harass the young actress. The issue stemmed from Patrick Garcia's interview with Ogie Diaz, where the actor discussed his 2008 breakup with Jennylyn Mercado and his absence during her pregnancy.

Patrick said he decided to speak about the matter after his daughter, Michelle, received criticism online, questioning why he had not previously shared his side of the story.

The controversy also prompted statements from Jennylyn's camp, her husband, actor Dennis Trillo, and her manager, Becky Aguila.

In a statement, Jennylyn's camp said the actress would not comment on Patrick's remarks, citing her desire to protect the privacy and peace of both families.

Her camp also appealed to the public to stop the hate, particularly toward Michelle.

Viva boss Vic Del Rosario on Sarah Geronimo: 'Next year, magtatrabaho na'

Viva patriarch Vic Del Rosario has addressed the pregnancy speculation surrounding Sarah Geronimo, saying the singer-actress is expected to return to work in 2027.

During the closing ceremony of Philippine Film Industry Month, entertainment reporters directly asked Del Rosario about Sarah and the recent buzz surrounding her personal life.



"Next year magtatrabaho na. 'Yun lang ang masasabi ko," the veteran producer said.

Del Rosario did not directly confirm whether Sarah is pregnant, but indicated that she is currently not in a position to return to work.

"Ayokong manggaling sa akin, pero parang alam naman ng mga tao na hindi siya puwedeng magtrabaho. Hanggang dun lang," he said.

"Sa ngayon, e, hindi pa siya puwedeng magtrabaho... next year, dahil ano, she's enjoying her happy life," he added.

His comments come amid renewed speculation that Sarah and her husband, Matteo Guidicelli, may be expecting their first child.

The pregnancy rumors gained traction earlier this month after a man who said he met Matteo at a coffee shop in Quezon City shared a photo with the actor on Facebook.

In the post, he recalled his friendship with Matteo and their past military-related activities before adding: "P.S. He is soon to be a daddy. Congratulations, bro!"

The post quickly circulated online, prompting speculation that Sarah and Matteo are expecting a baby.

Neither Sarah nor Matteo has publicly confirmed the pregnancy.

Sarah and Matteo married in 2020 after several years of dating. Since then, Sarah has maintained a relatively low profile, making occasional public appearances while largely keeping her personal life away from the spotlight.

Anne Curtis responds to netizen who called her "retokada"

Mahinahong sinagot ni Anne Curtis ang isang netizen na inakusahan siyang "retokada."

Sa X (dating Twitter), nagkomento ang netizen ng ganito: "Retokada yarn? Exhibit A – anak."

Idinamay pa ng netizen ang anak ni Anne na si Dahlia, na tila ikinukumpara ang hitsura nilang dalawa.

Hindi ito pinalampas ni Anne.

Ngunit sa halip na magalit, kalmado ang It's Showtime host sa kanyang sagot.

Ipinagmalaki ni Anne na hindi umano siya retokada.

At para raw sa kanya, maganda siya at ang kanyang anak na si Dahlia.

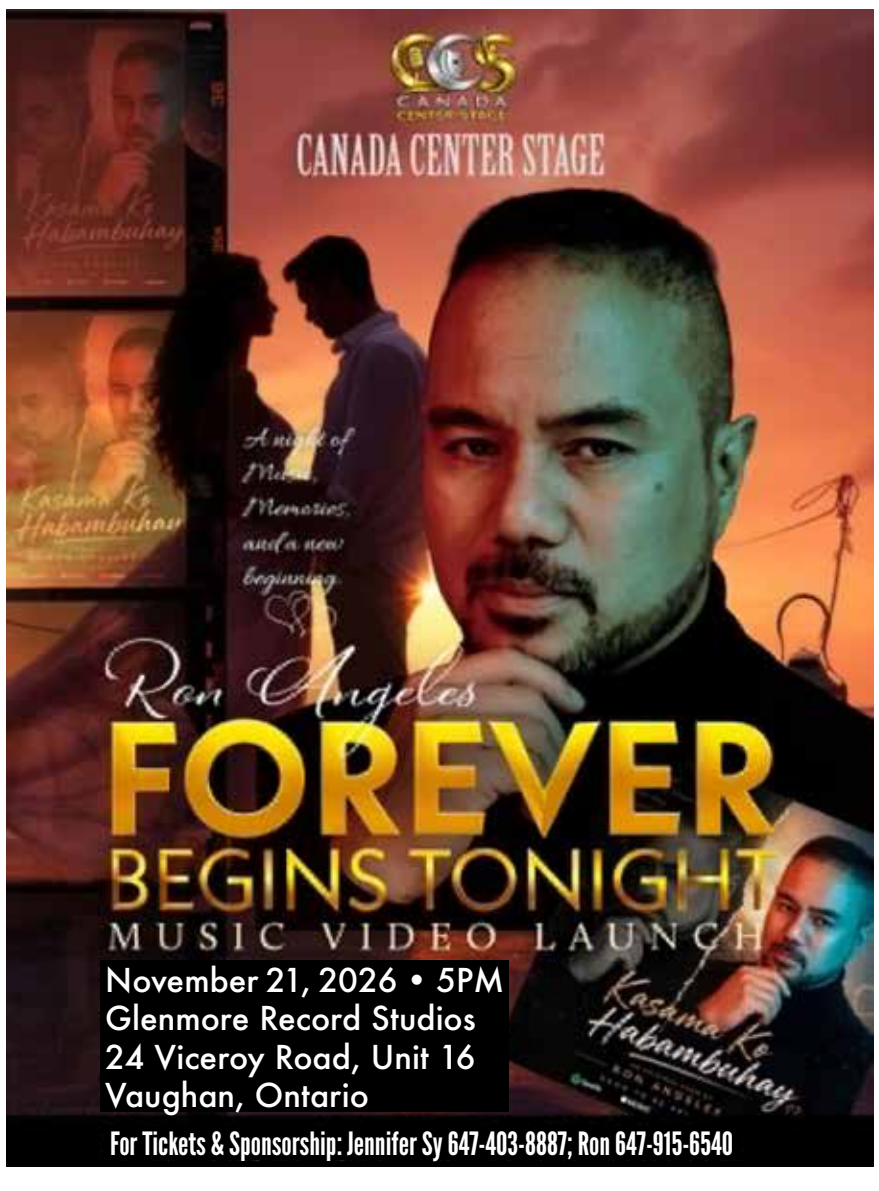
"Can proudly say I'm not retokada at all and for me, for me lang naman, my daughter and I are both beautiful."

Hindi raw basta-basta sumasagot si Anne sa bashers, pero nais daw niyang makaramdam ng kabutihan ang netizen.

Pagtatapos ni Anne: "I usually don't give people like you the time of the day but wala lang.

"I don't know who hurt you or why you're so angry with me but nonetheless sending you some kindness maybe you [need] some in your life.

"Big virtual hug I mean that, sincerely. Good night!"





Joey Baking The Sociallist

"October is crisp days and cool nights, a time to curl up around the dancing flames and sink into a good book."

JOHN SINOR

"Worry pretends to be necessary but serves no useful purpose"

ECKHART TOLLE



1

1. Mahistrado Fashions presented their new models and beauty queens; 2. Marky Hugh Productions families watched Forgotten island after the recital.

Well, the last month of Summer is Gone



2

What can we say about September? Filipino*lly* speaking, September is the start of the Christmas season. It's the month that begins to lift our spirits, savor the cool breeze in the air, but feel the warmth as we put "Christmas in our hearts" as the song says by the Philippines' Mr. Christmas, the compose-singer Jose Mari Chan. Then, there's "All I want for Christmas" by Mariah Carey which she says must be sang starting only in November, but makes exceptions for her Filipino lambs, her term of endearment for her Filipino fans. Knowing how much we love Christmas, she says we can sing it starting September 1.

Merry Christmas everybody.



Jenifer Camacho holds her concert Jenifer Forever at the Chinese Cultural Centre. I don't know how long ago I've watched a concert by Jenifer. I've watched her since she was a teenager with her own band. Now, she's a real estate agent. She has a life partner in Danny and a son Nate, who is also a real estate agent. Real Estate is her job but singing is her passion.

In the middle of a concert, Jenifer tells the story of the birth of Nate.

To me, this revelation made the concert.

"I was told by the doctors to terminate my pregnancy because of a medical condition. So, if I give birth, I would be giving birth to a child with a medical condition. That is why I sympathize with parents with a child with special needs. I decided to keep him. And after lots of ultrasounds, eventually, the problem was gone."

And she sings "You and me against the world."

This wasn't a concert by a singer.

It was a mother holding a concert.

Congratulations Jenifer on being a good singer and an even better mother.



Asialicious Festival is still going strong. Mh productions had a one hour slot on Saturday from 11 am to 12 pm. From my pint o view, it was a good time slot. You open the festival, the parking is easy, the rest of the day is free already. Well, not everyone sees it that way, like the parents of the performers.

"Oh my God, we'll have to wake up early," says Vicel, one of the parents.

"Iyong nga lang," I said.

Besides having to wake up early, there's the reality of performing before empty seats, with nobody watching except the parents of the performers.

Anyway, the MH talents performed their numbers and everyone has a free day. As for me, I still have to cover an event in the evening.

Congratulations to MH Productions.



With Asialicious during the day, Mahistrado Fashions had it's glamorous fashion show in the evening. Fashion designer Kim Mahistrado holds his twice-a-year fashion show modeled by beautiful men and women, young and old. It is a well-attended black tie event, attended by families, relatives and friends of the models. I've covered this before. I think it was two years ago. Photographer Willy Santiago never misses covering this. But this year, he's missing this year. Willy works at a gun retailer and they were having a show that weekend. So, I took his spot on the platform. The evening started with dinner. Of course, there is lechon which was donated by Apo Foods in Wilson Avenue.

After that, the show started.

It was a glamorous evening and fabulous fashion show.

Congratulations to Kim Mahistrado.



Filipino Centre Toronto held a Bazaar & Art Show on the last weekend of September to raise funds for the centre. Organized by Jennifer Sy, it was a well-attended event. There were 25 vendors including one offering facials and massage. There food vendors, Rachelle's Kitchen and The Edge Barbecue were happy. In the evening, they had a bingo game.

Congratulations to Jennifer Sy for organizing a very successful event and The Filipino Centre Toronto. Thank you to Mh Productions' BAJJ Retaso group for staying and help clean up at closing time.

MH Productions held their vocal and acting recital on the last Sunday of September at Viceroy Theatre in Vaughan. This is the first recital I know where acting is included. But MH productions is now making movies, so it is just natural that they will train their students how to act.



Afterwards, the parents and their children went to watch the animation movie Forgotten Island at Yorkdale.

Produced by DreamWorks Animation Forgotten Island has Filipino talents behind the production.

The movie features Filipino and Filipino-American voices including Liza Soberano as Raissa, H.E.R. as Jo, Lea Salonga as Manang, Dolly de Leon, Manny Jacinto, and Jo Koy.

Forgotten Island is inspired by Filipino culture, mythology, and folklore, bringing Filipino stories and representation to a major Hollywood animated film.

"As a Filipino filmmaker, it was exciting to see our culture, mythology, and talented Filipino artists represented on the big screen. Definitely a movie worth supporting," says Marky Hugh.

Kylie Verzosa "gave up on love" before she met Emil Eriksen

Dumating sa buhay ni Miss International 2016 Kylie Verzosa ang kanyang non-showbiz at entrepreneur fiancé na si Emil Eriksen nang hindi inaasahang ito na ang lalaking pakakasalan.

Tatlong taong magkasintahan ang couple bago nag-propose si Emil kay Kylie. Inanunsiyo nila ang kanilang engagement noong February 2026.

Nagkakilala raw sila ni Emil "through a common friend."

Kuwento niya: "I feel like when you give up on love, that's when love comes. So I gave up. I'm like, 'There's no one here. Ah, bahala na si Lord.'

"So I feel like when you stop wanting something so much, that's when it comes because you're done with everything."

Hindi raw sila yung tipong gusto na niya agad ang fiancé nang magkakilala sila.

"Not instantly. He had to, like, kind of prove it," nakangiting saad niya.



Nang maging sila ni Emil ay mas lalo raw lumawak ang kanyang mundo.

Mas naging inspirado raw siyang gawin ang mga bagay na mas magpapa-grow sa kanya bilang indibidwal.



Paano niya nalaman na si Emil na ang lalaking gusto niyang makasama habambuhay?

Sagot ng beauty queen-actress: "I just knew. They always say when you know, you know. So that's it. Yeah."



MH Vocal & Acting Recital

Marky Hugh Productions held a vocal and acting recital. Afterwards, they went to watch the animation movie Forgotten Island, nspired by Filipino culture, mythology, and folklore, bringing Filipino stories and representation to a major Hollywood animated film.



PHOTOS BY Pitikgrapiya

Ahtisa Manalo still unsure of acting as career: 'I'm just going with the flow'

Ahtisa Manalo has snagged a major role in the upcoming thriller "Red Crown," with another project already in the works, but she remains unsure if acting is something she wants to pursue full-time.

For now, the beauty queen said she is taking her acting opportunities one project at a time and seeing where they lead.

"As of now, medyo tuluy-tuloy pero tingnan natin," she told us during a recent conversation.

Does this mean she is yet to decide if she is going to pursue an acting career, we asked.

"Hindi pa siya concrete plan as of now. I'm just going with the flow," she answered.

Her role in "Red Crown" marks a new challenge for Ahtisa, whose career has largely been rooted in pageantry.

In "Red Crown," Ahtisa plays Dolly, the Queen of Quezon in the fictional Queen of the Islands beauty pageant.

Although the film centers on a beauty pageant, Ahtisa said acting requires a different kind of preparation and performance.

She underwent several acting workshops for the project, but said one of the biggest adjustments for her was learning how to express emotions more openly in front of the camera.

"For me, it was about getting used to showing emotions in front of the camera. Kasi as a beauty queen, it's a whole different scenario where you need to be polished. Eto, parang kailangan emotion yung lumalabas and that's not something I'm comfortable with so, yun ang naging challenge."



Despite the adjustment, Ahtisa said she is excited about the opportunity to explore acting.

"Super excited, super happy, kasi it's a whole different challenge," she said.

"Pero let's see if this is gonna be my new world. Tingnan natin kung para sa akin siya," she ended.

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



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Filipino Centre Toronto Holds Summer-End Bazaar & Garage Sale Festival by

by Tony A. San Juan, OCT-Retired

BAZAAR from page 8

Little Manila Confidential publisher Jose "Joey" Baking covered the proceedings, and Paul Arenas provided the audio-visual system. A complimentary individual physical massage was undertaken for interested guests by volunteers of the Seventh-day Adventist congregation.

Indeed, the Saturday affair was a family-focused distinctive gathering, with guests and attendees happily going home with lots of memories and free giveaways from generous donors and sponsors.



Organizer Jennifer Sy and the BAJJ Retaso of Marky Hugh Prodcutions stayed for clean-up. Thank you.


jennifer Sy pulls the numbers at bingo.

FCT Table


Rhiley




jennifer Sy , Janicka, Krystelle Rivas, Raeschelle Gavin








Free rice by Lillian Arenas (2ND FROM RIGHT)


FCT Ukulele ensemble


Orya Rivas & daughter Krystelle, Josette & daughter Nathalie Bondoc


BAJJ Retaso Alice, Jewel, Bhelle, Janicka


The Edge Barbecue


Bingo players in the evening.














Mom with Sherry Lacson


Rachelle's Kitchen



Toronto Kapuso Lions Club

Fulifilling it's hunger Outreach program (story on page 19)






Relly Pardinas, Miss Little Glam International 2026 Avria Ramirez Sabado, Miss Teen Canada 2026, Miss Chloe Sabatin, Seeds of Pinakbet founder Sherry Lacson

Historic Milestone for Scarborough & Ontario

First-Ever Medical School in Scarborough Now Open

Scarborough's first-ever medical school welcomed its inaugural class this September. The Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health (SAMIH) marks a major step forward for local healthcare, education, and the future of Scarborough.

INVESTING IN LOCAL TALENT

Scarborough-Made Healthcare Starts Here

Our priority is connecting our community to world-class healthcare by training the next generation of providers right where they live. By prioritizing local students, we ensure that those who understand Scarborough best are the ones caring for its residents.

SEAT ALLOCATION



The vast majority of undergraduate seats are reserved exclusively for Ontario residents — ensuring that Scarborough trains Scarborough's future doctors.

A DREAM WITHIN REACH

We are turning aspiration into reality — strengthening our local clinics and hospitals, and positioning Scarborough as a global leader in medicine. SAMIH is more than a building. It is a promise: that where you grow up will never limit how far you can go.

ANNUAL GRADUATES

Building Our Future Healthcare Workforce

40 Physicians	**56** Physician Assistants
30 Nurse Practitioners	**40** Physical Therapists

300 Health Sciences Students graduated for every year

> ***"For many young people growing up in Scarborough, the dream of becoming a doctor no longer requires leaving home."***
>
> **- VIJAY THANIGASALAM, MPP FOR SCARBOROUGH - ROUGE PARK**

Did you know?

This is the first new medical school to open in Toronto since 1843 — and it's right here in the heart of Scarborough. SAMIH welcomed its inaugural class this September.

Vijay Thanigasalam

MPP for Scarborough - Rouge Park

vijay.thanigasalam@pc.ola.org

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SCENES IN the City

Jenifer Camacho's Concert


Son Nate, Jenifer, partner Danny


Chloe Tiongson


Jenifer Camacho


Lexie Zane Sales






FV Foods owner Mel Galeon happily serves customers.





CANADA CENTER STAGE

TOP, Marky Hugh Productions family showed their support for their very own talents, Francesca, Lorence, Princess & Kuya Arnold, at the Center Stage Singing Competition!

LEFT, Scott Brown and jennifer Sy pose with Canada Center Stage 3rd Batch Preliminary contestants!

Gehlee Dangca rejects idea PH return as lost opportunity



Gehlee Dangca pushed back against the idea that returning to the Philippines after UNIS means losing career momentum. UNIS was a multinational K-Pop group.

The Filipina singer came home following the group's disbandment on Sept. 26 and said she hopes people will not see the move as a setback.

"I just wish the people wouldn't see me coming home to the Philippines as a losing opportunity," Gehlee told ABS-CBN News.

She said the Philippines remains home and that reconnecting with family, friends and her hometown is part of her decision.

"Home ko rin ang Pinas. I am here to be connected to the people, to my hometown and my family, my friends to catch up with them. And also my priority is to study rin po."

Gehlee also assured fans that she plans to stay active after UNIS.

"I will not disappear ever, so please don't worry about it. And my bond with my sisters will always be so strong."

She has yet to reveal her next projects.


Model and Face of Mahistrado titlist Corrina Marie Delacruz Whitehead walks the runway at Mahistrado fashion show.

Toronto Councillor Jamal Myers visits FCT



Toronto incumbent Councillor Jamal Myers drops by the Filipino Centre Toronto. He promised a $1.00 fare for seniors if re-elected. He is running against fromer MP Shaun Chen and Dan Hong.

Canadian Books Reaches Philippine Schools

BOOKS from page 1

said.

The sisters have entered this contest before. But this time, sisters Chloe, 16, and Catherine, 13, have combined their talents in a duet.

The pair chose the song And I Am Telling You by Henry Krieger and Tom Even, made famous by Jennifer Hudson in the film Dream Girls and Amber Riley in the first episode of the TV show Glee.

The song is strong and powerful, said Catherine. Normally a solo song, they chose to sing it together, and the blending and chemistry on stage came naturally, said Chloe.

"I think our voices complement each other," said Catherine.

When they got on stage, nerves almost got the better of Chloe.

"I was actually pretty nervous," Chloe said. "I don't know why. It was just like, I had like a really big heartbeat in my chest."

The anxiousness subsided in the end.

"When I found out that my sister and I won, I felt a great sense of accomplishment because we'd put a lot of work towards that, and the hard work paid off," she said.

"I felt really happy when I heard



that we won," Catharine added.

"She was actually not feeling well on the day of the finals," says their mom Jovelyn of Catherine.

"She was crying, she was scared, but thankfully, she managed to sing well."

Chloe, who attends Grade 11 at Father John Redmond Catholic Secondary School, and Catherine, who is in Grade 8 at St. Giovanni Scalabrini Catholic Elementary School, both started singing as young children. Their mother is also a strong singer, they said.

"I think I started singing when I was like three or four," said Chloe. "I would just pick up what I heard, like Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, like the lullabies. But I think I started learning technique and taking it somewhat seriously around the age of seven."

Catherine followed her sister's lead.

"I would always hear my sister's TV shows or just random things on the TV, and then I would pick it up and just sing at random times," she said. "I would sing to my mom. I would go up to her and then start singing random Disney songs when I was like four or five."

She started voice lessons around five or six years old.

Both are students at the JDL School of Performing Arts, which helps them gain confidence, their father, Gil Tiongson, said.

They now post singing videos regularly to social media. Some of Chloe's TikTok videos have over one million likes.

The sisters prepared for months with their vocal coach, Alisa Grace Datu, for the CNE competition.

Tiongson said he encouraged his daughters to consider a duo rather than entering the competition with solo performances.

"I told them it is better if you sing together, and I think you will be more powerful, and it happened," said Tiongson. "I'm very, very proud of them. I'm so lucky that I have these two talented daughters."

As for the future, both sisters would love to pursue careers as singers or study science. For now, they hope to enter more competitions.

"We want to represent Mississauga on bigger stages, if given any opportunities, and just broaden our audience," Chloe said.

The CNE competition has a legacy of nurturing provincial talent, with past winners including jazz sensation Matt Dusk and award-winning choreographer Blake McGrath.

In addition to winning a $3,000 prize, the Tiongson sisters will be invited to participate in next year's CNE at various events including the singing of the national anthem at the opening ceremonies.

Kris Aquino eyes acting comeback, wants Ian Veneracion as leading man

Kris Aquino is eyeing a return to scripted acting, with a micro-drama project in the works.

The actress and television host said the project's format and genre have yet to be finalized, although horror remains one of her preferred choices. Comedy and reality programming are also being considered.



Asked how far she is willing to do given her health condition, Aquino joked that it all depends on the budget.

"The higher the pay, the more they will see," she said with a laugh.

If the project requires a leading man, Aquino already knows who she would want: Ian Veneracion.

"I work very well with him, and he is a true professional," she said. The potential project comes as Aquino gradually finds her way back into the entertainment industry after stepping away from regular showbiz work to focus on managing multiple autoimmune conditions. She has recently taken on brand campaigns and promotional appearances, including a Netflix Philippines campaign in August that marked another return to the screen. Aquino has said she hopes to become more active in 2027, although she continues to work around her medical needs. Still, she said being active and returning to work have had a positive effect on her well-being. "I noticed that when I am active, I am happy. And when I am happy, health-wise, I notice that my blood pressure is nicer. And then, even my skin, I feel it's better," she said.

Aquino has also expressed gratitude to the people who continue to pray for her as she manages her long-term health conditions. Despite the challenges, she said she intends to keep living and working whenever her health allows.

Liza Soberano keeps international streak going with new Audible series

Liza Soberano is keeping her international momentum going with another overseas project, this time through Audible's upcoming comedy series "The Moons of LA."



The actress joins a cast that includes Ken Jeong, Randall Park, Daniel Dae Kim, Jae Suh Park, Alyssa Abiera, Jimmy O. Yang, John Cho, Sherry Cola, Vivian Bang and Sydney Park. The scripted audio series follows a child obsessed with true-crime podcasts who uses her investigative skills to try to save her parents' marriage. Liza's specific role has not yet been revealed.

The project comes as Liza continues promoting DreamWorks Animation's "Forgotten Island," now showing in Philippine cinemas.

Mikee Quintos, ayaw masayang ang tuition kaya tinapos ang pag-aaral sa UST

Nagbunga ang pagpupursige ni Mikee Quintos na pagsabayan ang kaniyang showbiz career at pag-aaral nang makuha na niya ang kanyang college diploma noong 2025. Umabot man ng 10 taon, proud graduate na si Mikee sa kursong Architecture sa University of Santo Tomas (UST). Marami raw hinarap ang Kapuso star para lang makapagtapos, at ito ang inilahad niya kina Chariz Solomon at Buboy Villar sa Your Honor.

Isa raw sa mga ito ang naging isyu noon na pabigat d a w siya sa groupmates niya noon pagdating schoolwork.



Ani Mikee, "Unang show ko pa lang yun, and wala naman showbiz sa pamilya ko. Hindi ko alam kung magkakaroon ako ng career after, so it doesn't make sense na mag-shift ako or mag-quit ako ng school."

"Yung journey noong sampung taon, it was a back and forth, 'Ah gusto ko ba 'to? Hindi na. Bakit ko ba ito ginagawa?' Ganun 'yung pinagdaanan ng utak ko.

"Yung pivotal moment nung na-hate ako, dun sa 'thesis' hate ko."

Pag-alala pa ni Mikee, "Ginawa pang content ni Sassa Gurl 'yun e. Kaya nag-ano pa sa Saving Cherry and everything. Kinonfront ko siya dun. Diniretso ko sa isa sa mga inuman after taping."

Ayon kay Mikee, diniretso niya ang Saving Cherry co-star at sinabing nainis siya sa ginawa ni Sassa matapos i-content ang tungkol sa thesis.

Pagdating naman sa isyu sa schoolwork, ani Mikee, "Sabi nung groupmate ko sa school, pabigat daw ako sa group work. Tapos, pumutok kasi akala ng public it was a thesis. It was a landscaping class, hindi siya thesis. Individual ang thesis namin."



PHILIPPINE CONSULATE IN TORONTO AND UPAA HOLD FORUM ON SOUTH CHINA SEA ARBITRAL AWARD

By Tony A. San Juan, OCT- Retired

TORONTO - The Filipino Canadian community in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) welcomed and learned for the first time through a community forum on the "2016 Arbitral Award on the South China Sea", a historic international law decision regarding the so-called ongoing "South China Sea/ West Philippine Sea territorial sigalot or dispute". The significant forum was held on September 19, 2026 (Saturday), at the Filipino Centre Toronto(FCT), Scarborough, Toronto, Ontario, in commemoration of Maritime and Archipelagic Nation Awareness Month (MANA Mo).

Professor Jay L. Batongbacal (JSD), Director of the Institute for Maritime Affairs and the Law of the Sea at the UP Law Centre, University of the Philippines, Quezon City, Philippines, conducted the lecture. The special afternoon gathering was sponsored by the Philippine Consulate General in Toronto, in partnership with the University of the Philippines Alumni Association-Toronto (UPAAT). After the one-hour presentation, Professor J. Batongbacal fielded questions during the Q & A segment.

The event was conducted in relation to Proclamation No. 316, S. 2017 of the Philippine government, declaring the month of September as the "Maritime and Archipelagic Nation Awareness Month" or MANAMo, which means "your heritage" in Filipino, to synchronise maritime-related events and activities and foster unity and pride among Filipinos in preserving Philippine maritime heritage. According to Philippine Consul Rodney Sumague, "this year's MANAMo theme, "Karapatan sa Karagatan, Sama-sama nating Alagaan", underscores the Philippines' unwavering commitment to defend its legitimate maritime rights based on international law, and emphasises stewardship, cooperation, and shared responsibility in protecting its seas and maritime heritage."





Hence, as part of the September celebration, the Philippine Consulate organised the lecture, which was "intended to facilitate a deeper understanding of the significance of the 2016 Arbitral Award to Filipinos and what they can do to help defend Philippine maritime rights and promote a collective responsibility for the preservation of its maritime heritage." Coincidentally and sadly, however, a day before the scheduled lecture, according to Philippine news reports, the Philippines and the United States on Friday, September 18, 2026, condemned the China Coast Guard (CCG) for ramming a civilian vessel, a BFAR ship, on a humanitarian mission in the West Philippine Sea (WPS).

The 2-hour afternoon program opens with registration, the reading of the land acknowledgement, and singing the national anthems. Philippine Consul General in Toronto, Honourable Kristine Leilani R. Salle, delivered her welcome remarks and introduced the guest speaker, Prof. Jay Batongbacal. Philippine Consul Rodney Jonas Sumague ably served as the program emcee and moderator. UPAA President Agnes Manasan, who helped organise the occasion, gave the acknowledgement and closing remarks. After which, a hearty merienda of pancit, lumpia, turon, ensaymada, sandwiches, pastries, and coffee was served during the photo ops and mix-and-mingle time.



Among those in attendance were notable Fil-Can community & business leaders, professionals, and social-issue advocates, including the Philippine Consulate staff, UPAA officers & members and the Filipino Centre Toronto executive officers headed by President Mary Ann S. San Juan. Definitely, it was a great learning experience for all the guests and attendees on a relevant but never-ending political issue impacting ang ating bansang Pilipinas. (Tony A. San Juan, OCT-Retired)

Regine Velasquez opens up struggle with 'menopause voice' ahead of 'finale' concert

While many fans would agree that Regine Velasquez remains timeless, the singer opened up about learning to work with a singing voice that has changed as she goes through menopause.

During the press conference for her upcoming "Finale" concert, Asia's Songbird revealed that she previously went to Singapore to have her voice checked, and despite having no problems detected in her vocal cords, she experienced what she described as a "menopause voice."

"I went through something like... it's called the menopause voice. My vocal cords are actually very clean, there's no polyp, there's nothing, but somehow, alam mo 'yung nagka-crack 'yung boses ko, and somehow, I cannot control it," she said.



"There was a time, parang nakalimutan kong kumanta, and I couldn't figure out what was going on with me, but every time I would go and see my doctor, there was nothing wrong," she added.

Velasquez admitted that she felt devastated with the experience as she explained that her voice is still there although it no longer sounds the same.

"It's a system of menopause, and it's actually devastating. Not all women experience it, but sabi ni (Vicki) Belo, it apparently affects 50% of women in the absence of estrogen. 'Yung parang kumakapal na 'yung vocal chords, nawawala 'yung elasticity ng vocal chords which is unique," she said.

"I still have my voice, it never left; it's just that it's in a different form, so I have to work with what I have now. I can no longer be what I used to be 10 or 20 years ago. I can no longer sound like that," she added.

The award-winning singer also revealed that she became emotional after seeing the poster for her "Finale" concert.

"I cried, tapos nahiya ako sa asawa ko. I did not want to show him I was being emotional about it. Of course, I am menopausing, so I am more emotional," she said.

Her husband, Ogie Alcasid, surprised Velasquez during the media conference. He briefly stopped by the venue before heading to the taping of "It's Showtime."

Velasquez has also reiterated that "Finale" does not mark her retirement from the entertainment industry but she plans to step away from mounting large-scale concerts.

"More than anything, I can't handle na talaga yung pressure na mag-stage ng huge concerts because of everything that comes with it, you know, what it entails," she said.

Given the magnitude of her discography that would be impossible to cover throughout the three-night sold-out concert, Velasquez plans to vary the repertoire.

"Ang dami kong kanta. Hirap pumili. So ginawa namin, iba-ibang repertoire each night. Siyempre may naka poste na pare-pareho. Siguro opening and finale song. Pero gitna iba-iba. Para ma-cover ko at least 50 percent," she said.

Velasquez also opted not to disclose who would be the guest performers for the anticipated three-night concert as well as the set list.

Meanwhile, Asia's Songbird also said that at the moment, she has no plans to go back to acting. What fans can look forward to is a musical production that she will take part in. The project is related to Alcasid.

TONY'S TAKE: TRENDS AND TRIVIA THAT MATTER

By Tony A. San Juan, OCT.



BUDGET- DISCOUNT STORES

A popular Greek discount retailer Jumbo, will open its first Canadian location, "à la Giant Tiger", in Vaughan, Ontario, according to news reports. Jumbo will sell in its new 47,000-square-foot store, a wide variety of toys, home & household goods, and seasonal products. Currently, there are 134 Jumbo locations across southeastern Europe, with €1.23 billion in sales in 2025. Franchise partner Fox Group plans to open 5 to 10 Canadian locations by 2029. Making its way to Canada, this European chain will offer a budget-friendly shopping experience. Discount stores have continued to lead in retail expansion this year, keeping up a trend sparked by inflationary condition. Other international discount stores that recently arrived in Canada include Panda Mart, a South African chain that's been called an "IRL Temu", and Flying Tiger Copenhagen, a Danish home goods store eyeing 50 Canadian locations by 2030. To meet consumer demand, domestic retailers are opening more budget stores while grocers are allocating "bargain shelves", often reconverting traditional stores in the process. Canada's "discount king" Dollarama, a favourite bargain shop, has raised its annual sales growth forecast. This trend matters as a sign of the times that most foreign retailers entering Canada are peddling either luxury goods or budget fare. That doesn't bode well for the state of the average Canadian customer and will also expose more shoppers to low-quality products, some retail analysts said.



APPLIED AI MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM

By Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

A new graduate degree program in Applied AI (Applied Intelligence) was launched by Northwestern University Toronto and is coming to Toronto, beginning this fall. The new AI degree program offers two routes:1) the Master of Professional Studies in Applied AI (MPS in Applied AI) and 2) the MPS in Applied AI – Connect, an option for those without a STEM or technical background. Designed for 3 different starting points, the graduate program offers: 1) Direct entry gives one a next step if they already have a technical undergraduate background; 2) The Connect pathway helps a student build the technical foundation required for the master's if they are new to tech or AI; 3) Applied learning helps a learner develop practical AI expertise for a career move or for a current role. The MPS in Applied AI degree program focuses on practical, career-ready skills that underscore human-centred solutions, including key management and ethical issues throughout the data lifecycle. Meanwhile, the Connect offering includes "three bridge courses to bring those without technical experience up to speed. Northeastern University is a private research university with its main campus in Boston, Massachusetts, United States. Northeastern University's Toronto campus was established in 2016 as the university's first international location. NU offers graduate degrees in biotechnology, project management, analytics, regulatory affairs, informatics, information systems, and software engineering. Students build a strong foundation in modern AI concepts and in computer vision, natural language processing, and probabilistic learning. No matter their aims in the AI program, learners are offered pathways to high-impact careers in the demanding field of the superintelligence industry.

Baron Geisler breaks silence: 'I am well and I am able'



Baron Geisler addressed fans amid renewed attention surrounding his personal life, assuring them that he is doing well and is currently with his family.

"See you all soon," the actor said in a social media video posted Thursday, Oct. 1.

Geisler also laughed off what he referred to as "false news," although he did not specify which reports he was addressing.

"Yes, I am well and I am able, and I am so grateful na kasama ko ang mga anak ko," he said, while thanking those who had expressed concern.

"I want you to know that I'm well and I'm safe. I'm home and with my family," Geisler added. "God is good and soon I'll be very busy again."

Geisler's remarks came after his wife, Jaime Evangelista, previously said in an interview that the actor was "recovering in a treatment facility" and receiving professional care.

Geisler did not directly address Evangelista's statement in his video.

The actor also hinted at a return to work, although he kept details about his upcoming project under wraps.

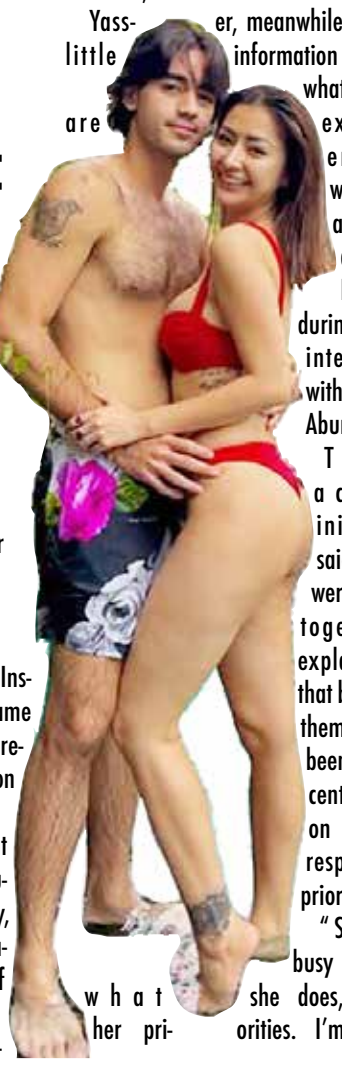
"Hindi pa pwedeng sabihin kung sinong kasama ko," he said.

The couple previously made headlines after they unfollowed each other on Instagram.

The move came after Evangelista shared, then deleted, cryptic social media posts about a married employer and a personal assistant. She also drew attention in July after commenting that Geisler should seek drug rehabilitation, a remark that was likewise later deleted.

As of writing, neither Geisler nor Evangelista has publicly confirmed that their marriage is going through a difficult period.

Yasser Marta gets emotional over Robb Guinto: 'We're going through something'



Robb Guinto and Yasser Marta have confirmed that they are currently facing challenges in their relationship, but both have asked for privacy as they deal with the situation.

Robb addressed the issue on Instagram Stories after Yasser became emotional while discussing their relationship during his appearance on "Fast Talk with Boy Abunda."

While she acknowledged that people may draw their own conclusions from what they see publicly, Robb said the details of their situation are known only to the two of them.

"We are going through something right now, and I believe some things are better handled privately," she said.

Robb also said she would rather not discuss personal matters publicly or make statements that could hurt anyone involved.

"I don't want to speak badly about anyone or disclose private matters just to defend myself," she said, asking the public to give them the space they need.

"Thank you to those who choose kindness," she added.

Yasser, meanwhile, gave little information about what they are experiencing when asked about Robb during his interview with Boy Abunda.

The actor initially said they were still together, explaining that both of them have been concentrating on their respective priorities.

"She's busy with what she does, with her priorities. I'm also busy with work, 'Delivery Boi.' Now, we're focusing on what we're individually doing," he said.

But when pressed him about their relationship, Yasser became emotional.

"Yes, Tito Boy. We're OK," he said when asked if they remained together.

He was unable to explain why he became tearful, eventually admitting that they were indeed dealing with something.

"Yes, in respect to her, I don't want to say anything at all," Yasser said, choosing not to provide further details.

Yasser and Robb made their relationship public in March. They first met while working on the film, "Desperada," and later shared moments from their relationship, including trips and outdoor activities.

Yasser had also previously called Robb his "lucky charm" after winning Best Supporting Actor at the Sinag Maynila International Film Festival.



We are the only generation to live an entirely analog childhood and a fully digital adulthood

We played outdoors, on cracked sidewalks, shuffled cards on kitchen table with the smell of food filling the house to playing alone in our rooms with someone half a world away with technology without ever losing our sense of humanity along the way.



If you look closely, you might notice gray hair, slower steps, or the quiet patience that time alone can teach. But if you truly listen to our stories, you will discover something far more extraordinary. We are not simply older people moving through the final chapters of life.

We are the survivors of one of the most breathtaking transformations in human history — a generation that walked from the slow, deliberate rhythm of an analog world into the dazzling speed of a digital one without ever losing our sense of humanity along the way.

Our journey began in a very different place.

Many of us were born in the 1940s, 1950s, and early 1960s, when the scars of World War II were still fresh across Europe and Asia and the world was slowly learning how to hope again. Cities rose from rubble. Families rebuilt lives after years of uncertainty. Childhood unfolded in ways that would feel almost unrecognizable to younger generations today.

Our toys were simple: marbles played in dusty yards, hopscotch drawn on cracked sidewalks, checkers and cards gathered around kitchen tables while the smell of dinner filled the house. When the streetlights flickered on in the evening, it was the universal signal that childhood adventures were over for the day and it was time to go home.

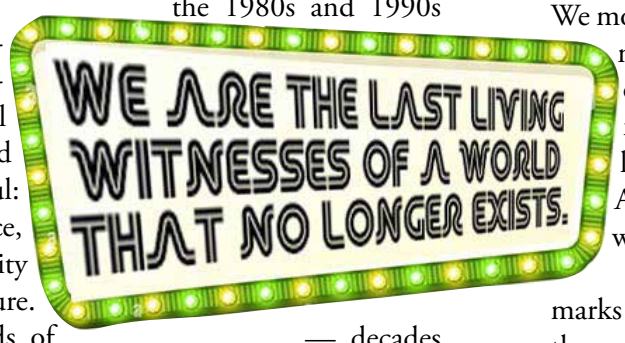
There were no smartphones, no streaming videos, no endless scroll of digital distractions. Instead, we built our memories in the real world — with scraped knees, laughter echoing down neighborhood streets, and friendships that formed face to face, without the mediation of screens.

Music became one of the defining soundtracks of our youth. The 1960s and 1970s arrived like a wave of color and rebellion. We watched culture shift around us, carried by electric guitars and voices that dared to question the world.

For many of us, gatherings like the legendary Woodstock Festival of 1969 symbolized something powerful: the belief that peace, music, and community could reshape the future. Hundreds of thousands of young people stood together in muddy fields, listening to artists who poured raw emotion into towering speakers known as the Wall of Sound. Those concerts were not merely entertainment; they were moments when strangers felt like a single generation singing the same hope under an open sky.

Education looked different then, too. Our notebooks were filled with handwritten notes carefully copied from chalkboards. Research required patience, long hours in libraries, and stacks of heavy books rather than a quick internet search. We learned to slow down and think through ideas because information did not arrive instantly. Mistakes were corrected with erasers and ink, not with the click of a delete button.

Love carried a different rhythm as well. We fell in love while vinyl records spun on turntables and cassette tapes clicked softly inside plastic players. Music became the background to first dances, long conversations, and dreams about the future. Those relationships grew into marriages, families, and lives built step by step through the 1980s and 1990s



— decades that saw technology begin to reshape the world around us.

Yet nothing compares to the bridge our generation has crossed. We are the only generation to have experienced an entirely analog childhood and a fully digital adulthood.

We remember waiting days — or sometimes weeks — for handwritten letters to arrive in the mail. We remember rotary telephones and party lines where neighbors could accidentally overhear conversations. Communication required patience and anticipation. Today, we can see the face of a loved one across the ocean instantly on a screen small enough to fit in a pocket.

The world changed in ways few could have imagined. We watched humanity land on the Moon in 1969, a moment when millions of people sat in living rooms staring at black-and-white televisions as Neil Armstrong took humanity's first steps on another world.

We saw the rise of personal computers, the birth of the internet, and eventually the arrival of smartphones that placed entire libraries of knowledge in our hands. Machines that once filled entire rooms now exist on devices lighter than a paperback book. We moved from punch cards and mechanical tools to artificial intelligence and global networks connecting billions of people instantly. And through every shift, we adapted.

Our bodies carry the marks of the times we lived through as well. We grew up during fears of polio and tuberculosis, illnesses that once terrified entire communities before vaccines helped bring them under control. We witnessed the global challenges of pandemics and health crises across decades, including the recent silence and uncertainty of COVID-19, which reminded the world that resilience is still required in every generation.

Science itself transformed before our eyes. We saw the discovery of the structure of DNA in 1953, the decoding of the human genome at the turn of the century, and the early steps into gene therapy and advanced med-

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Kaladkaren tells Paolo Ballesteros' generosity on 'Drag Race PH'

Kaladkaren and Paolo Ballesteros

Paolo Ballesteros is known not only for his hosting and acting skills but also for his kindness towards people he works with.

News anchor and "Drag Race Philippines" judge Kaladkaren shared Paolo's generosity after a fan asked what she admire most about him in a post on X ."Yung sahod niya every finale, pinapa-raffle sa staff. Ganyan siya ka generous," Kaladkaren wrote.



According to Kaladkaren, Paolo views the staff and drag queens he works with on the show as more than just colleagues, as he makes it a point to ensure they are well taken cared of.

"Napakabuti ni Mama Pao. 'Pag may kailangan kami ng mga kasama niya, staff or queens, inaasikaso at inuuna niya kami. Pag may pagkain siya lahat din kami bibigyan niya. Kumbaga isusubo niya na lang ibibigay pa niya sa iba," she added.

Kaladkaren also shared that Paolo is one of the first to arrive on set during the taping of "Drag Race Philippines." His preparations reportedly last until 5 a.m., making it seem like he practically lives at the studio during the filming season.

It is no surprise, then, that many of his colleagues on the show admire Mama Pao.

Paolo has hosted "Drag Race Philippines" since its Philippine edition premiered in 2022, while Kaladkaren serves as one of the judges alongside Jon Santos.

Sophia Laforteza skip Katseye's Europe tour as hiatus continues

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eligibility requirements.

"If they're not quite able to meet the NCLC 7 yet, but are able to meet the NCLC 5, then they can at least stay on valid work permits and then continue to learn French," Santos said.

Still, Santos cautioned temporary residents against viewing French as a guaranteed path to permanent residence.

Before committing to classes and language tests, she said people should consider the cost and how much time remains on their temporary status.

They must also look at their willingness to continue learning outside Canada if necessary and researching other immigration options.

Maintaining legal status is particularly important, she added, because a person's immigration history can affect future applications.

"It's a case-to-case basis," Santos said. "You have to evaluate their situation on a case-to-case basis."



THE FILIPINO VOTE: A DUTY WE CAN NO LONGER IGNORE!

By Tony A. San Juan, OCT-Retired

On October 26, 2026, every eligible Filipino-Canadian residing in the province of Ontario has a choice to make. Not just at the ballot box, but about what kind of community we want to be, and also what reasonable expectations and developments we want to achieve for ourselves and our families.

For too long, we have been one of the fastest-growing communities in Canada, and yet one of the quietest..."parating tahimik", at the polls. "Pero sa Pinas, laging matapang at maingay! Ngunit kabaligtaran at kakaibang kilos dito sa ating pangalawang bayan." An embarrassing contradiction of sound behaviour and practice.

We are nurses, caregivers, teachers, technicians, factory workers, service providers, small business owners, and practising professionals. We pay taxes, we raise families, we buy goods, we buy homes, we buy cars, we send help back home, we work and work, and we help build this country every single day since arriving in Canada. Right?!?

Yet when decisions are made differently and directly impacting and affecting us in City Hall, Queen's Park, and on Parliament Hill, our voice is often absent or never heard. "Walang impluwensiya, wika nga." No clout, unarguably, if not sadly and sorely characterised.

We cannot complain about the cost of living, the lack of affordable housing, the skyrocketing apartment rents, the long wait times in healthcare, the credentialing that keeps our professionals unemployed or underemployed, or the absence of Filipino-Canadian representation in the halls of power–if we did not bother to vote and/or support a kababayan candidate in our ward or electoral riding.

Voting is not just a right. It is a civic duty, a noble duty. We exercise this responsibility every 3 or four years, so we have to be intelligent and diligently honest



PCCF President Rosemer Enverga and FCT board member Wally Yerro poses with incumbent Councillor Jamal Myers.

to engage and elect the candidate whom we believe will deliver the goods and the promise. Or else, we will have to suffer and wait for the next election call.

Many of us came from a country where our people and forefathers fought and died for democracy and freedom, including the right to vote. We line up for hours under the hot sun and humid air, "sa ating bayang sinilanganan", to cast our ballot. We should not take it for granted here in Canada, where we have that same precious right.

On October 26, 2026, come out and vote as one community!

Vote because your parents or your older siblings or relatives sacrificed to give you a better future in Canada, and this is how you honour that great sacrifice.

Vote because if you don't, someone else will decide for you–on your jobs, your schools, your roads, your hospitals, your benefits, your safety, and your future.

Vote because democratic representation is not given in open arms; it is earned.

Politicians listen to communities that show up. If Filipinos show up in numbers at the polling booth, every party and every candidate will have to listen to us... Filipino-Canadians, after the election, and when they start governing.

To our kababayans in Toronto, Ajax, Aurora, Brampton, Hamilton, London, Markham, Mississauga, Niagara Falls, Oshawa, Ottawa, Vaughan and other Ontario cities and towns: bring your family, bring your friends and neighbours, bring your elderly relatives, bring a first-time voter and those who are citizens and eligible to vote to use the right of suffrage,

We are more than 1 million strong in Canada and over 400,000 in Ontario. Imagine what we could do if all eligible Filipinos voted. We have the numbers to be the swing vote. Use it! Iboto natin ang mga Filipino- Canadian candidates for Councillors and School Trustees in your Wards or Ridings!

This October 26, 2026 (Monday), and beginning October 6, 2026 (Tuesday) for advance voting, stop complaining on the sidelines."Tigilan ang paghihimutok. Tigilan ang paulit-ulit na panghihinayang at pagsisisi sa huli. Itama ang nararapat gawin para sa iyo at sa iyong pamilya." Get out, step into the booth, mark your ballot, and make your vote count. Mabuhay tayo ! Mabuhay ang Pilipino!!! (Tony A. San Juan, OCT-Retired)

Toronto Kapuso Lions Club and Pinakbet International organizes a hunger Outreach program

On October 3, a joint community feeding outreach program was organized by Seeds of Hope Pinakbet International Inc and Toronto Kapuso Lions Club. GROW, SOW AND FEED KGO featured locally produced vegetable meals in Saturday Filipino dish menu. Chicken adobo, Garlic Fried Rice and Pinakbet sautéed with vegies and bread through the Eco-Food Hub windows of East Scarborough Storefront. Seeds of hope for the economically challenged citizens. Job well done by volunteers

Maria Sherry Lacson Tan talks about the program.

Another project for 2026 done with Toronto Kapuso Lions Club, thank you for the collaboration on Sowing the Seeds of Hope Pinakbet Pack at 1 Westhill Drive, Seeds of Hope Pinakbet International Inc Children Learning Garden, and Growing the Pinakbet Vegetable and Harvesting to cook the Pinakbet Dish our Most Healthy Traditional Filipino Recipe, The most popular Chicken Adobo from TKLC Lion President Reilly Pardinas Biclar, and Rice also fresh vegetables, bread and donut from Miss Judith Gonzales .Happy Birthday to you. To all Toronto Kapuso Lions Club who were present today.A big thank you for making this project a success.

Thank you East Scarborough Storefront for providing us your Eco Food Hub to cook and to do our community food outreach at Kingston, Galloway and Orton Park Community. Thank you to our East Scarborough Storefront Grassroots Community Outreach Manager Intasar Mir, Krystyne Gunnis Grassroots Community Outreach Strategist, Desrene Cole Grassroots Community Outreach Leader Program Coordinator, and for opening the kitchen to us and providing support. To our 3 volunteers.

Thank you to my Mother Teresita H.Lacson my Senior Ambassador and no.1 supporter. Thank Miss J for believing in my community advocacy and as Seeds of Hope Pinakbet International Inc Parent Ambassador.

Thank God for such a beautiful day and for making our first project a success despite our challenges with our vegetables not growing well.

Thank you to our Miss Teen Canada 2026, Miss Chloe Sabatin Frederick Sabatin and wife Michelle ,and Miss Little Glam International 2026 Avria Ramirez Sabado (SOHPII Child Ambassador) Charlene Ramirez , Chad Sat .

This is what Beauty with a purpose is all about.

Keep shinning!











Jodi Sta. Maria claps back for comment on movie 'Midnight Girls'

Jodi Sta. Maria took to social media to answer a movie review about 'Midnight Girls': "Pero honestly, 'yan na yung [takeaway] mo sa buong film?"

Actress Jodi Sta. Maria clapped back at a moviegoer for their comments about her most recent movie, Midnight Girls.

Midnight Girls is the story of four women: Jodi, Sanya Lopez, Loia Andalio, and Jane Oineza, four Filipinas who worked as entertainers in Nagoya, Japan.





On X (formerly Twitter), a netizen reposted a review a moviegoer made of the movie, saying, "Life choice: I think you can still find a decent job if you really want to. Just saying."

The netizen who reposted the review then questioned what happened to media literacy if this was the only takeaway for the moviegoer.

Like the netizen, Jodi also questioned whether that was truly the only takeaway the moviegoer had. The actress said that while it's true that there are other career choices, what's more important is the understanding of why their characters made theirs.

"Para sa 'kin it was more about understanding that people make choices based on their situation, struggles, and survival. Malungkot ang realidad na hindi lahat nabibigyan ng same opportunities, support, or even starting point sa buhay," Jodi wrote.

She added, "Sadly, life is not as simple as 'just find a decent job.'"

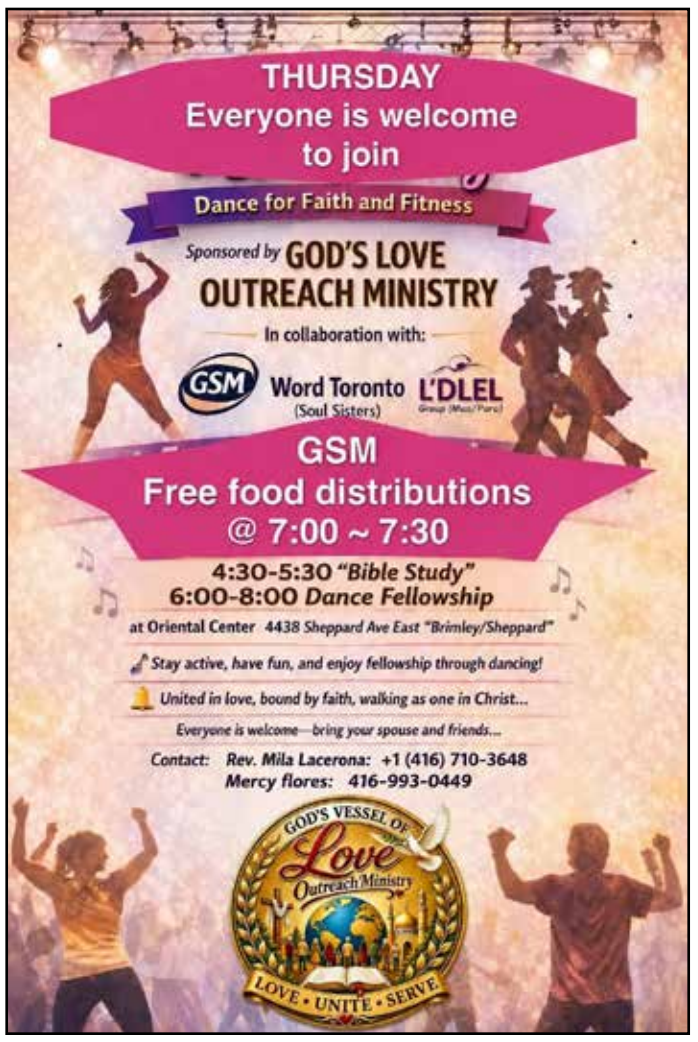
Several netizens commented on the post, agreeing with Jodi's statement. One even noted how some "out-of-touch, privileged people" are quick to disregard the hardships of others they did not experience.

"There are just way too many out-of-touch, privileged people quick to dissect a concept of reality that resonates to their upbringing w/out empathizing w people truly experiencing struggles of not having options," the netizen said.

Another comment read, "A 'decent job' doesn't define good life choices. Minsan, hindi ka naman namimili–survival lang talaga ang choice. And choosing to keep fighting and living? That's a damn decent choice."

One netizen noted how some people watch movies without fully understanding the concept. Others commented that in the real world, not everyone is given a lot of choice because of the circumstances surrounding them.

"There are really so many choices in life, but sadly, the choices aren't the same in every circumstance of life! Many people's choices are bad, ugly, or even worse! Lucky are those whose choices have something good in them," a netizen said.



Mahistrado fashion show puts Filipino talent in the spotlight

by LUIS MIGUEL DE CASTRO-LJI / MabuhayCanada.org

MAHISTRADO from page 2

es inspired by debutantes, quinceañeras, and beauty queens.

Models also stepped away from the runway to showcase other talents throughout the night, with performances ranging from singing and dancing to painting.

For Mahistrado, however, the event is also an opportunity to teach the next generation of models and beauty queens.

"Ultimately, the whole thing is that I want to make my parents proud and to be a teacher," Mahistrado said during an interview on stage.

Mahistrado said part of his motivation comes from parents who did not have the same opportunities to pursue modelling or pageantry when they were younger, but can now watch their children take part.


Ralph Abella

"I know some of the parents here were deprived to be a model or a beauty queen," he said.

"Each and every one of the parents want to see their daughters or children become beauty queens and kings."

That emphasis on confidence and mentorship was reflected by models who have spent years working with Mahistrado.

Ralph Abella, the reigning Mr. Glam International Canada 2026-27, said he has been involved with Mahistrado Fashions for about six years.

Mahistrado first encouraged him to try walking the runway, which eventually led to opportunities beyond Canada.

"I've been on the runway, but also representing Canada at the international stage," Abella said.



Saturday's event marked a return for Abella, who said he had been away from the runway for about a year and a half before returning to modelling two weeks before the show.

Models showcase casual looks during the Mahistrado Fashion Show. Photo by Luis Miguel De Castro

"I'm slowly getting back into the arena of runway and the international stage," he said.

Among the pieces he wore were designs by Louis Pangilinan.

Abella said his favourite was a blue finale outfit representing air and the environment, which he previously wore while competing at Mr. Mesoamerica.

For Abella, working with Filipino designers also carries significance beyond the runway.

"As a proud Filipino Canadian, it's been an honour to represent Mahistrado and as well as the other designers that are in our Filipino community," he said.

Modelling helps youth gain confidence

For younger models, getting to the runway required hours of preparation.

Aidan Azzopardi said he first met Mahistrado shortly after beginning modelling and has since participated in several of his runway shows.

Preparing for Saturday required several hours of rehearsals, with Azzopardi estimating models practised for eight or nine hours.

"The finale was the hardest, by far, to learn," Azzopardi said, adding that having to catch up is one of the more challenging parts of modelling.

Azzopardi said the experience has helped him find a community and achieve things he did not expect.

"I've made so many new friends and completed so many achievements and experiences that I didn't think I could ever accomplish," he said.

His favourite look of the night was a barong, which he said stood out "because it represents Filipino culture."

That sense of belonging was also shared by Ryeanna Ponce de Leon, who said modelling has encouraged her to become more confident and step outside her comfort zone.

Ponce de Leon said the variety of clothing was part of what she enjoyed about the show.

"I like the outfits because they're unique and different from each other," she said.

After rehearsing ahead of the event, Ponce de Leon said walking the runway was a highlight of the night.

"It felt amazing, and it felt like I was the star of the show," she said.

But it was the relationships between the models that stood out most to her.

"Being part of this fashion show is like being in a family full of models, and we treat each other with respect and kindness," Ponce de Leon said.

by LUIS MIGUEL DE CASTRO-LJI / Mabuhay-Canada.org

Nikka Garcia stands by Patrick amid backlash: 'I won in this life'

Nikka Garcia has publicly expressed her support for her husband, Patrick Garcia, as he faces criticism following his recent tell-all interview about his past relationship with Jennylyn Mercado.

In an Instagram Stories post that has since expired, Nikka reflected on her marriage to the former actor and said she remains grateful for the man she chose to build a life with.

"I won in this life. I fell in love with a good man and I'll never stop being grateful for that," Nikka wrote.

She described Patrick as a self-made, hardworking and gentle man who makes her feel safe and takes care of her "in all the ways that matter."

"I love you," she added.

Nikka's post came as Patrick's comments about his past with Jennylyn drew widespread attention and prompted reactions from people close to the actress.

In his interview with Ogie Diaz, Patrick addressed long-standing questions about his relationship with Jennylyn, including his absence during her pregnancy and his delayed introduction to their son, Alex Jazz.

Patrick said he decided to speak publicly after his daughter began receiving hateful comments on social media because of issues involving him.

"People are hating on us too much, and I think it's unfair. That's why I'm telling my story," he said.

Jennylyn has declined to comment on Patrick's statements and instead appealed for the bashing to stop.



Her husband, Dennis Trillo, also weighed in, saying he does not support online bashing while thanking Patrick for remembering Jazz in the context of the criticism directed at his daughter.

Jennylyn's longtime manager Becky Aguila likewise defended the actress, saying there were "a lot of things" Patrick did that hurt her but that Jennylyn chose not to discuss them publicly out of respect for him as the father of her child and for his family.

Amid the continuing discussion, Nikka's message offered a personal glimpse into her perspective on her husband and their marriage.

Patrick and Nikka married in 2015 and have four children together.

Shannon Sizon reveals family ordeal behind decision to pursue law

VMX actress and former beauty queen Shannon Sizon opened up about the family experience that pushed her to pursue a law degree, recalling how legal disputes between her parents exposed her to the difficulty and cost of seeking legal help.

During the press conference for VMX Tapes: Volume 2, Shannon shared that her interest in law started years ago, but she was initially discouraged from pursuing it.

"I asked my father about it, but he told me I couldn't do it because I wasn't smart enough," she recalled.

Shannon said that after her parents' separation, her father was absent for three years before returning and filing cases against her mother. She said watching her mother deal with the legal disputes gave her a closer look at how difficult it can be for families to find legal representation.



"When we started looking for a lawyer, we realized how expensive it was. We also couldn't go to the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) because we didn't qualify. Life was really difficult for us at the time," she said.

The situation eventually led Shannon and her family to take legal action against her father as well.

"We filed a case against my father. We would see each other in court," she said.

For Shannon, confronting her father was difficult because of the relationship they once had.

"I've always loved my father. I'm a daddy's girl. I never thought he would do those things to my mother and our family. Standing up to him was a big move for me," she said.

She added that what happened within her family became one of the reasons she wanted to continue studying law.

"People might see me as a strong, independent woman, but what happened in my family really pushed me to become better," Shannon said.

Now a first-year law student at Manuel L. Quezon University, Shannon is considering either criminal or family law, although she is leaning toward criminal law. She said she also wants to help people who may not fully understand their legal rights.

"If I do become a lawyer, I want to focus on pro bono cases," she said. "A lot of people are afraid of being sued or responding to a case because they think hiring a lawyer is too expensive or too difficult here in the Philippines."

Shannon returns as host for VMX Tapes: Volume 2, which she said takes the concept of the first installment further with sexier material.



We are the only generation to live an entirely analog childhood and a fully digital adulthood

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icine. Transportation evolved from simple bicycles and steam engines to hybrid vehicles and electric cars gliding almost silently through city streets.

Few generations have witnessed such sweeping change. And yet, despite everything that evolved around us, certain things remain unchanged. We still understand the joy of a cold glass bottle of lemonade on a hot afternoon. We still remember the taste of vegetables picked straight from a garden. We still know the value of a long conversation that unfolds slowly without a keyboard or screen interrupting it.

Our memories stretch across decades. We have celebrated births, mourned losses, watched friends depart, and carried their stories forward. Those of us who remain share something rare: the experience of standing at the crossroads of history, holding memories from a world that younger generations know only through photographs and stories.

But we are not relics. We are living bridges. Our perspective reminds the modern world that

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Filipina pageant winner hosts self-defence workshop in Toronto

SELF-DEFENSE from page 1

Participants will be introduced to a trauma-informed approach that includes recognizing risks, setting boundaries, verbal de-escalation and practical self-defence techniques.

Luna said the goal is for participants to leave with skills they can use before a situation becomes violent.

"Most of all, I hope they take away confidence and the feeling that they have the tools to prevent and resist violence, and a community standing behind them," she said.

That sense of community is also central to why Luna wanted to hold the workshop in Toronto.

She said her Protect Hearts advocacy focuses on personal safety and well-being, particularly for women and others who may experience violence.

She pointed to gender-based violence as an issue affecting people both in the Philippines and Canada, while also noting that those involved in pageantry can face additional exposure because of their public roles.

"As an Ate, I have dreamed that women of all ages and walks of life feel safe," Luna said.

"That's Protect Hearts in action."

Bayanihan spirit

By bringing the workshop to the Filipino-Canadian and pageant communities, Luna said she hopes participants will not only learn together but also look out for one another.

"That bayanihan spirit is exactly what turns a workshop into a movement, as we hope," she said. Protect Hearts is one half of a broader advocacy that Luna said predates her current journey with Summit International Pageants.

Protect Paws focuses on compassion and support for rescue animals, while Protect Hearts centres on people's safety and well-being.

Her community involvement has included outreach work alongside her grandmother, programs supporting marginalized girls and volunteering with the Philippine Red Cross.

She now works as a sleep apnea nurse clinician in Canada.

Those experiences shaped an advocacy focused less on awareness alone and more on connecting people with practical support.

"I have seen the good and a lot of bad, and I know change doesn't come from words alone," Luna said.

"It comes from showing up."

Learn in a supportive environment

She said she hopes to use her advocacy and involvement with Summit International to build partnerships and help connect communities with organizations and resources that can support them.

For those who have never taken a self-defence class, Luna emphasized that no previous training is required.



"I was a beginner once too and honestly, I'll always consider myself a beginner, always learning," she said.

Rather than approaching the workshop as a test of physical ability, Luna wants participants to see it as an opportunity to learn in a supportive environment.

"You won't be doing it alone," she said.

"We show up for each other, we learn together, we uplift one another and nobody gets left behind."

Luis Miguel De Castro -LJI Reporter Filipino community / MABUHAYCANADA.ORG

FILIPINO CENTRE TORONTO
4395 Sheppard Avenue East
Scarborough ON
October 17, 2026
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Ralph de Leon, reject nga ba ni AZ Martinez?

Kumusta na kaya ang puso nina Ralph de Leon at AZ Martinez?

Patuloy na pinupusuan at tinatangkilik ng fans ang nakakakilig na duo ng Pinoy Big Brother Celebrity Collab Edition stars na sina Ralph de Leon at AZ Martinez (AzRalph).

Mula sa kanilang sweet moments sa loob ng Bahay ni Kuya hanggang sa kanilang bonding sa outside world, marami ang hindi mapigilang kiligin at matuwa sa chemistry ng dalawa.

Kaya naman marami ang nagtatanong: ano na nga ba talaga ang namamagitan kina Ralph at AZ?

Sa isang episode ng Gandang Gabi Vice new season, tila nagbigay ng pasilip si Ralph tungkol sa kanilang pairing.



Marami ang napahiyaw nang ibunyag ni Ralph ang kanyang ipapahulang "Deep Truth" statement.

"Niligawan ko si AZ pero nireject ako," aniya.

Agad na tinanong ni Vice Ganda ang kanyang Geng Gang member na si Vince Maristela kung niligawan nga ba ng Kapamilya star ang Kapuso actress.

Ang masasabi lamang daw ni Vince, "Ako, hindi ko aakbayan 'yung isang babae kung wala akong gusto."

"Feeling ko, niligawan niya si AZ pero hindi ako naniniwala na rineject siya, e. Kasi 'yung charm niya, secured siya, napa-confident."

Sang-ayon din ang Unkabogable Star na posibleng niligawan nga ni Ralph ang aktres, ngunit hindi siya naniniwalang binasted ito.

Samantala, "charot" o hindi totoo ang naging sagot ng Geng Gang sa "Deep Truth" statement ng aktor.

Ang sagot naman ni Ralph, "Meme, ang deep statement ko ay... charot."

Dagdag niya, "Dahil very special friend ko talaga si AZ. Tsaka 'yung ano naman doon, wala naman rejection ang naganap."

"Walang rejection? So sinagot ka," hirit ni Vice, na napatili ang lahat sa audience.

Si Ralph, pabirong nagkibit-balikat na lamang.

"Ongoing," banat naman ni Verna Perwinkle.

"Basta walang rejection," ani Vice.

Nagwagi si AZ Martinez bilang 4th Big Placer ng PBB season kasama ang kanyang duo na si River Joseph.

Samantala, sina Ralph De Leon at Will Ashley naman ang itinanghal na 2nd Big Placer.

Bukod sa kanilang on-screen love team, lalo pang kinikilig ang fans sa sweet moments ng dalawa sa kanilang public appearances at Instagram posts.

Isa na rito ang kanilang pagdalo sa concert nina KZ Tandingan at TJ Monterde noong February.

Celeste Cortesi finally confirms split from Jonathan Sterling: 'We've broken up'



So, there was a breakup after all.

After months of speculation, former Miss Universe Philippines Celeste Cortesi has confirmed that she and British entrepreneur Jonathan Sterling have split.

"We've broken up right now. We just have to prioritize our baby. Again, I do believe this baby is a blessing," Cortesi said in the finale of her reality docu-series "Celeste Unscripted," which aired Tuesday, Sept. 29.

Cortesi said her priority now is maintaining a healthy co-parenting relationship with Sterling.

"For me, what's important is still having a good co-parenting relationship with Jonny," she said. "We'll just see in the future. It's (relationship) not something I want to think about now. I want to prioritize our baby."

The confirmation comes after months of breakup speculation.

In June, Sterling publicly addressed the rumors and said he and Cortesi were still together, while Cortesi said their focus remained on their family.

In August, Cortesi acknowledged that they had moments when they needed to "take space or separate," but said they knew the truth about their relationship and preferred to keep matters between themselves.

Now, Cortesi has made their current status clear.

And while the relationship has ended, Cortesi admitted she still has feelings for Sterling.

"Of course," she stammered before breaking down in tears.

"It's important to, after everything, also think about the good things, not just the bad," she added.

Sterling, in a separate interview featured in the finale, revealed that Cortesi was the one who ended the relationship.

He said he had been planning to propose during their trip to Amanpulo in Palawan, with their crew preparing a sunset beach proposal.

"Actually, she broke up with me," Sterling said.

Sterling said he still loves Cortesi and acknowledged that he made mistakes in their relationship.



Heart Evangelista Is New York Fashion Week's celebrity voice

At New York Fashion Week, where the front row is as closely watched as the runway itself, Heart Evangelista has emerged as the season's most influential celebrity voice.

The Filipino fashion personality generated $7.6 million in Media Impact Value (MIV) during the September 2026 season, which presented the Spring/Summer 2027 collections, placing her firmly at the top of the celebrity rankings.

According to fashion analytics firm Launchmetrics, Evangelista was NYFW's "Top Celebrity Voice," with a commanding lead over Paris Hilton, who generated $2.5 million in MIV, followed by Jung Hae-In at $2.3 million, Lingling Kwong at $1.9 million, and Love Pattranite at $1 million.

The numbers are notable not only for Evangelista but also for the growing visibility of Filipino fashion voices on the international stage. At a fashion week long shaped by the influence of American celebrities, Evangelista has carved out a distinctly global presence, bringing her own blend of art, glamour, and Filipino sensibility to the New York fashion circuit.

Her influence extended beyond the front row.

The Asia-Pacific region accounted for $19.2 million, or 42 percent, of the total MIV generated during this season's NYFW events, which unfolded at some of New York's most recognizable landmarks, including the Empire State Building and Central Park.

New York was only one stop in an already packed fashion calendar.

From the Big Apple, Evangelista headed to Paris, following an appearance at Milan Fashion Week, where she attended shows for 14 major luxury labels, including Prada, Diesel, Jil Sander, Fendi, Missoni, MM6 Maison Margiela, Onitsuka Tiger, Max Mara, Anteprima, Alberta Ferretti, Roberto Cavalli, Sportmax, Ferragamo, and Dolce & Gabbana.

Season after season, Evangelista has become a familiar presence in the most coveted front rows. Her fashion choices have also taken on a more sensual, daring edge, reflecting a confidence that feels increasingly effortless.



That same sense of authorship carries into her digital presence.

On social media, Evangelista appears entirely in her element, treating the medium less as a promotional platform and more as an extension of her creative world.

Her reels and fashion imagery are meticulously conceived, often combining styling, art direction, photography, and storytelling.

In a previous interview, Evangelista revealed that she personally works on the scripts and shot concepts for her social media content.

The result is a fashion persona that feels distinctly her own: part celebrity, part artist, part entrepreneur, and increasingly, a global style voice whose influence extends well beyond the front row.

We are the only generation to live an entirely analog childhood and a fully digital adulthood

GENERATION from page 20

progress does not have to erase wisdom. The speed of technology does not have to replace patience, kindness, or reflection. We remember what life felt like before everything moved so fast — and that memory carries quiet lessons worth sharing.

So when someone calls us "elderly," we can smile. Because behind that word lies something extraordinary. We are the generation that crossed two centuries, witnessed eight decades of transformation, and walked from the age of handwritten letters to the era of artificial intelligence.

What a life we have lived. What a remarkable story we continue to carry. And if you belong to this generation, take a moment today to look in the mirror and recognize something powerful.

You are not simply growing older. You are living history. You are part of a generation that will always remain one of a kind. And perhaps, in the quietest and most meaningful way, you are becoming legendary."

"We are often called "the elderly," but that quiet label hides a truth most people rarely pause to consider: we are the last living witnesses of a world that no longer exists.



Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

FILIPINO CANADIAN COMMUNITY EVENTS IN-OCT 2026

October 3. "Kwentuhan with Kasamas", A Community Civic Engagement Event by Filipino -Canadian Civic Action Network (FCCAN), at BGC East Scarborough, 2nd floor, 100 Galloway Road, Toronto, starts at 1:00 pm. RSVP: https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/kwentuhan-with-kasama

October 3. "Atin Ito 50th Anniversary Gala Night", A Celebration of Community Service, Friendship, and Filipino Pride, by Atin Ito Fil-Can Newspaper Feature, at Pearson Convention Centre, 2638 Steeles Avenue East, Brampton, Ontario.

October 3. "Sow. Grow. Feed: Plant Hope, Cultivate Community, Share Blessings" by Seeds of Hope Pinakbet International Inc. and Toronto Kapuso Lions Club, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm., at East Scarborough Storefront, 4040 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto.

October 3. "The Recipe for a Better Community", Cooking Up Conversations about Local Democracy, by Leny Rose Simbre's community initiative, at All Saints Kingsway Parish Hall, 2850 Bloor St. W., Etobicoke. 1:30 pm onwards.

October 6. "Advance Voting for the Municipal Elections in Ontario", Beat the Lines on Election Day: early voting options include in-person, online, telephone and mail ballots. To vote, proper identification is needed, such as: A valid Ontario driver's licence, Ontario photo card, Cancelled personalized cheque, Insurance policy or statement, mortgage statement, or statement of Old Age Security T4A

October 10. "2nd Pinakbet Pinoy Ratatouille Harvest Festival", Celebrating Filipino Harvest Community, Culture, Food and Fun, by Seeds of Hope Pinakbet International Inc., from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm at Malvern Resource Centre, 90 Littles Road, Scarborough, Toronto, ON M1B 5E

October 13. " A Dedicated Listening Session for Professional Caregivers and PSWs", hosted by MP for Eglinton-Lawrence Vince Gasparro at Columbus Centre, 901 Lawrence Avenue West, North York, from 6:0 to 7:30 pm. Attendees must RSVP by emailing vince.gasparro@parl.gc.ca by October 9th

October 17. " Kris Lawrence: The Philippines R & B Prince" show, Korean Canadian Cultural Centre, 1133 Leslie Street, North York, starts at 6:00 pm

October 26. "2026 Municipal Elections for Toronto, Mississauga, Brampton, Vaughan, Markham, Ajax, and Pickering ", (Nine (9) Filipino Canadian are candidates for Councillor or School Trustee seats).

October 31. "Adhika Annual General Meeting", by ADHIKA, at Igorot Canadian Cultural Centre, 296 Wilson Avenue, North York, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. RSVP info@adhika.org.

Why this Scarborough harvest festival is all about pinakbet

by Luis Miguel de Castro - -LJI REPORTER FILIPINO COMMUNITY

PINAKBET from page 4

"Seeds of Hope Pinakbet International Inc.'s mission is to teach our younger generation to sow seeds of the pinakbet for food," Tan said.

For Tan, growing vegetables is also an opportunity to bring generations together and pass along skills that can be used beyond the garden. "Gardening is another way for family to bond with each other and learn the basic skills of survival and sustainability through gardening," she said. The organization's work has expanded through three initiatives: Adopt a School, Adopt a Community or Barangay and Adopt a Global Community Garden and Food Outreach. Tan said the programs have supported schools and community organizations in the Philippines while her work in Canada has included partnerships with community gardens and organizations across the Greater Toronto Area.

The importance of growing food became particularly clear during the COVID-19 pandemic, she said.

"During COVID everyone was stuck at home, but if you grow your own vegetables, you still have healthy food to eat from your garden to your kitchen," Tan said.

Her advocacy later expanded into children's education.

In April 2024, Tan published The Pinakbet Family Superheroes, a book featuring cartoon characters inspired by the six vegetables in the Pinakbet seed pack. After publishing the book, Tan decided to create a festival where gardeners, urban farmers and the wider Filipino community could celebrate the harvest together.

Now in its second year, the festival will include competitions centred on pinakbet, homegrown vegetables and creative vegetable basket arrangements.

Attendees can also participate in Filipino activities including sungka, sipa, luksong lubid and pabitin.

Other activities will highlight Filipino traditions, including a Barong Tagalog and Filipiniana couple competition and a family challenge involving the assembly and decoration of a bahay kubo-inspired tent. The celebration is also intended to reach beyond the Filipino community. Tan said she is interested in learning how other cultures use the same vegetables associated with pinakbet in their own cuisines.

"I also want to know how each culture makes those six vegetables in their own way of cooking," she said.

For Tan, bringing those different elements together makes the festival an extension of the community work she started with a packet of seeds in 2018 while allowing families to celebrate what they have grown.

"I decided to have a festival to encourage everyone—the community gardeners, urban farmers and our Filipino community—to celebrate the bountiful harvest and the end of the gardening season," Tan said.

Luis Miguel de Castro / MabuhayCanada.org

Seeds of Hope Pinakbet International Inc receive a grant for the 1st time at the In To Parks Peoples Ravine Project Title : Roots of Ravine: Nature Walk, Arts and Wellness



Candid CAMERA



Filipino Centre Toronto seniors painting club every Wednesday also involves pot-luck and birthday celebrations.

SCENES IN the City

ASIALICIOUS FESTIVAL

Marky Hugh Prodcutions opened the festival on Saturday morning.

















Toronto Kapuso Lions Club held their monthly meeting at Agincourt Community Centre on September 17, 2026.







Zsara Laxamana widens her lane beyond sexy films

VMX artist Zsara Laxamana is now preparing to introduce another side of herself as an artist

Showbiz newbie Zsara Laxamana is spending less time making sexy films and more time behind a microphone, whether as a host, performer with the VMX Babes or, soon, a recording artist. Her latest project, Masahe, puts her in front of the camera in a different capacity. The VMX special has Laxamana hosting a look at different forms of sensual massage alongside Joko Rivera and Yasmin Alba.



Laxamana said Viva has been trying to move her toward other projects.

"I'm not doing sexy films anymore. I only do specials like this," she told reporters during the media conference for Masahe. "Viva is really trying to help me cross over."

The shift, however, does not mean Laxamana herself has turned her back on sexy roles.

"I actually still want to do them. Boss V is the one who doesn't want me to anymore. I would still do them if I could," she said, adding that she remains open to whatever opportunities Viva gives her.

Before joining VMX, she performed with the Mocha Girls.

"I didn't really have a hard time adjusting because when I started performing with Mocha Girls, I was already hosting shows almost every night," she said. "The approach here is just different." That experience has also carried over to the VMX Babes, where Laxamana gets to return to what she considers her first love: singing and dancing.

"I'm very happy that Viva is giving me the opportunity to do that now, especially with the VMX Babes, where we can sing and dance," she said. "We get to show our talent, so I'm happy that I'm getting back to what I really wanted to do." Laxamana said she has already signed with Viva Records and is waiting for her formal launch while work continues on a music video and new songs. She is also looking at more mainstream acting opportunities. Asked what genre she would want to explore, Laxamana immediately picked comedy.

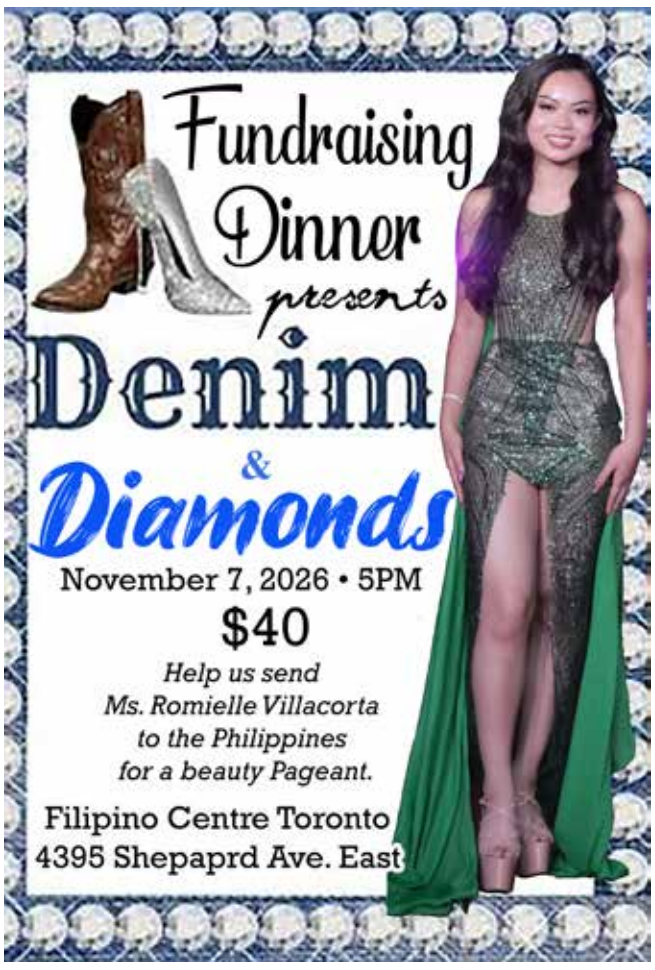
For now, Masahe still allows her to play with the image audiences know her for.

"There's a surprise at the end. I think that's what made it special," she said. "Since I'm no longer doing sexy movies, Direk prepared a surprise here."

And while Viva may already be looking at what comes after her sexy-film phase, Laxamana admitted she would not have minded staying in it a little longer.

"I still feel sexy," she said. "It would be a waste not to show it while I still can."





Seniors in Action

Seniors in Action at Rouge Valley Community centre rehearse ukulele sep 17 & 18, 2026. The group were given a Thursday and Friday timeslot for their activities like ukulele practice, choir practice, walking exexercises, and line dancing among others.







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KZ Tandingan admits she's not ready to be a mother yet

KZ Tandingan admits she once wanted to leave TJ Monterde during depression.

Hindi lang kilig at tawanan ang naging laman ng pagbisita ng mag-asawang sina KZ Tandingan at TJ Monterde sa Gandang Gabi Vice na umere sa GMA-7 nitong Linggo, September 27, 2026.

Naging bukas ang mag-asawa tungkol sa ilang sensitibong bahagi ng kanilang pagsasama.

Kabilang na rito ang panahong muntik nang makipaghiwalay si KZ kay TJ at kung kailan sila magiging handang magkaroon ng anak.

Anim na taon nang kasal sina KZ, 34, at TJ, 36.

Na-engage sila noong 2019 at ikinasal noong 2020.



KZ Tandingan reveals that she once considered leaving TJ Monterde because she felt she could no longer give him the love and attention he deserved. The couple also opens up about baby plans, their wedding night, and the challenges they have faced together in their marriage.

KZ ALMOST ENDED HER RELATIONSHIP WITH TJ

Isa sa pinakamalaking rebelasyon ni KZ ang pag-amin na dumating siya sa puntong gusto na niyang makipaghiwalay kay TJ, noong magkasintahan pa lang sila, habang dumaraan siya sa depression.

Pagbabahagi ni KZ: "Nung nasa pinakababa ako na I didn't even have love for myself, si TJ yung... nakikipag-break ako sa kanya nito.

"Sabi ko, 'Makikipaghiwalay na ako sa yo kasi I'm not able to give you the love that you deserve. Hindi kita nabibigyan ng atensiyon.'

"Kasi nung time na yon, depressed talaga ako, like, depressed.

"I was pushing people away. And si TJ nandun din siya.

"Tapos sabi ko sa kanya, 'Makikipag-break na ako sa yo kasi hindi ko na kayang bitbitin ka dito sa dark pit of depression na nararamdaman ko.'

"And nakikita ko how it affects him...

"Tapos sabi niya, 'Alam mo, kung hindi mo kayang magmahal ngayon, ako ang magmamahal para sa ating dalawa.'

"Nung time na yon, I would refuse to pray. I would refuse to acknoweldge God, ganun.

"Tapos siya ang nagsasabi na. 'Kung hindi mo pa kayang magdasal, ako ang magdadasal para sa ating dalawa.'

"So, parang yun talaga yung, 'Okay, Lord, thank you so much. Parang hinanda mo na meron akong makasama sa pinakamadilim na pangayayari na to ng buhay ko...'

"Grateful ako dito," pagtukoy niya sa asawa na hindi siya iniwan maging sa pinakamadilim na bahagi ng kanyang buhay.

KZ TANDINGAN NOT YET READY TO BE A MOTHER

Napunta rin ang usapan sa pagkakaroon nila ng baby.

Diretsahang sinabi ni KZ na si TJ ang mas handang maging magulang sa kanilang dalawa.

Saad niya: "Personally, sa aming dalawa talaga ni TJ, siya talaga yung ready na maging daddy.

"Ever since naman, siya yung talagang nag-o-open up na ready na siyang maging tatay, ganyan."

Ipinaliwanag ni KZ na may mga bagay pa siyang gustong maabot sa kanyang career at personal growth bago tuluyang maging ina.

"It's more on my side na nandun pa ako sa may gusto po akong gawing bagay sa career ko.

"May mga gusto pa akong i-build sa sarili ko as a person, as a woman."

May isa pa siyang mahalagang dahilan: "I want to make sure that I'm not a baby taking care of a baby."

Para sa singer, hindi sapat na financially stable ang isang couple para masabing handa na sila sa pagiging magulang.

Paliwanag ni KZ: "You will never be ready sa pagiging magulang, but I also think it's your responsibility to at least try to be ready...

"It's a lifetime responsibility. Ayoko siya na parang mag-anak lang ako because I was pressured into becoming a mom.

"Ayoko lang maging nanay kasi may mag-aalaga kapag tumanda."

Pinag-usapan daw nilang mag-asawa nang masinsinan ang tungkol dito.

"Sinabi ko talaga na, 'Ngayon, I'm not yet ready. May mga gusto pa akong gawin. I don't want to be unfair to you. I don't want to be unfair to our future children.'

"Pag naging nanay ako, gusto ko focused ako sa anak ko.... I wanna be a mom because I wanna be a mom," diin ni KZ.

Sa kabilang banda, wala raw pressure mula kay TJ na madaliin ang kanilang pagkakaroon ng anak.

Saad ng singer-songwriter: "I always believe, sa mag-asawa, it's a mutual decision.

"Hindi siya puwedeng desisyon ko lang. Kasi dalawa kaming parents, e.

"So, pag sinabi niyang hindi muna siya ready, then so be it."

Para kay TJ, sapat na muna ang kanilang pagsasama bilang mag-asawa.

"I also believe that a couple is a family. So, parang for me, kaming dalawa, sapat na sa akin yun, e.

"So, kung magkaka-baby kami in the future, that's a blessing.

"But kung kaming dalawa lang, then I'm already very, very happy with my life right now with my wife," saad ni TJ.

Kris Lawrence fans 'kilig' frenzy over 'Kami na' post with Katrina Halili

Kris Lawrence fans 'kilig' frenzy over 'Kami na' post with Katrina Halili

Kris Lawrence and Katrina Halili continue to spark hope in romantics with the singer's latest post spending time with his former flame teasing "Kami na" in a new post.



The exes, who share a daughter named Katie, have been posting sweet videos and photos together in social media. These clips and snaps, often featuring their daughter, have generated massive likes and following among their fans who are hoping for a second chance between them.

"New chapter. I told you I gotchu, and I meant that. No need to rush anything... One Step at a Time, enjoying where this takes us.

"All I know is I'm happy... KAMI NA bahala where this new chapter takes us," Kris wrote on his Facebook page on Monday.

It came with a photo of him and Katrina posting for a selfie.

Kris confirmed last June that he was courting Katrina again. He and Katrina dated from 2008 to 2014. Katrina gave birth to their daughter Katie in 2012.



Little Manila LM confidential

Apl.de.Ap, nag-react sa pag-viral muli ng 'Bebot'

Nag-react si Apl.de.Ap sa muling pagba-viral ng 'Bebot' ng Black Eyed Peas.

"Love letter" daw para sa Pilipinas ang bagong extended play (EP) ni Grammy award-winning artist Apl.de.Ap.

Pinamagatang PPP, tungkol sa pagmamahal at pagpapalakas ng mga boses ng Pinoy ang mga awit sa album.

"It's about love–love for our people, our culture–and encouragement to speak up and try to inspire people with my music. (It's) a word of positive affirmation and we hope that things will turn around and by us helping each other, embracing each other. I had our country in mind when I was writing these songs," paliwanag ni Apl.

Ang title track naman ay pinamagatang "Why" at collab ito kasama ang Pinoy rock star na si Bamboo.

"I think we have the same values and same concerns on what's going on in our country. This is my first EP outside of the Black Eyed Peas and (it's) very personal to me," lahad ni Apl.

Nag-react din sa Apl sa resurgence ng Black Eyed Peas global hit song na "Bebot."

Matatandaang ni-release ito noong 2005 bilang isa



sa mga kanta sa Monkey Business, ang fourth studio album ng grupo.

Matapos ang mahigit dalawang dekada, muling sumikat ang kanta at naririnig ito sa mga viral 2000s-inspired makeup transformation video.

"(I) just really feel super supported and proud that it's being embraced by our kabayans around the world. I think a lot of FilAms and diaspora are discovering themselves and who we are. We're being recognized around the world, our culture," ani Apl.

"I remember writing that song, calling my mom, trying to check my Tagalog if it was right because I haven't spoken in a while. It's becoming, I'd say, it's an anthem," dagdag niya.

Rovelyn Baterbonia, Angelica Yulo, may matinding resbak sa mga basher?

Hindi matitinag ng pambabatikos ang masayang pagkikita nina Rovelyn Baterbonia at Angelica Yulo.

Tila may hamon sina Rovelyn Baterbonia at Angelica Yulo sa mga bashers matapos magkahiwalay na sumailalim sa mga pambabatikos sa social media.

Sa Facebook, ibinahagi ni Rovelyn Baterbonia, ang ina ng namayapang basketball player na si Rene "Bobet" Baterbonia Jr. ang ilang litrato kasama si Angelica Yulo, ang ina ng two-time Olympic gold medalist at Asian Games champion gymnast na si Carlos Yulo.

Caption niya sa kaniyang post, "Basher attack."

Ni-reshare naman ni Angelica ang naturang post at nag-caption ng "FINALLY!!!"

Nakakuha ng atensyon ang naturang pagkikita ng dalawa dahil parehong naging sentro ng online discussions sina Rovelyn at Angelica patungkol sa kani-kanilang mga pamilya.

Matatandaan na nakakuha ng pambabatikos si Rovelyn magsimula siyang magbenta ng merchandise at



memorabilia ng anak na si Rene pagkatapos nitong pumanaw. Sa 'Fast Talk with Boy Abunda' kamakailan lang, nilinaw niya na ang anak ang unang nakaisip ng ideya na magbenta ng memorabilia.

Samantala, naging usap-usapan din ang naging lamat sa relasyon nina Angelica at Carlos pagkatapos manalo ng huli ng dalawang gintong medalya sa 2024 Paris Olympics. Kamakailan lang, lalong naging mainit ang usapin tungkol sa mag-ina nang magpahaging ang Olympian na ayaw niyang imbitahan ang kaniyang pamilya sa kasal nila ng girlfriend na si Chloe San Jose.

Lalong tumindi ang isyu sa pagitan nila sa cryptic post ni Angelica tungkol sa posibilidad na magbago ang isip ng dalawa tungkol sa hindi pag-imbita sa kaniya, na sinagot naman ni Chloe.

Gehlee Dangca recalls moment she wanted to give up during K-pop journey

Gehlee Dangca on her UNIS journey: "Being in UNIS taught me a lot."

Gehlee Dangca is starting her solo artist journey with many unforgettable lessons from her time in UNIS.

In an exclusive interview with GMANetwork.com, the Filipina singer shared that she learned a lot during her UNIS days.

"Being in UNIS taught me a lot. I experienced a lot of training," she said.

She added, "But I learned the most is to stay disciplined and to never stop growing."

Gehlee admitted that there were times when she wanted to give up during her journey as an idol. However, she gained strength from her fans, especially her Filipino fans.



"There were times when I [wanted] to stop, pero like when I took the moment to remember how much fans were like looking up to us. It just drove me to just keep going," she shared.

As she begins her solo artist journey, the young star revealed that she will carry those lessons into her new chapter, particularly "the heart of keeping going even when things are not the best."

Gehlee also expressed her appreciation for her Filipino fans for their unwavering support.

"I want to say, above all, salamat po talaga sa lahat. Thank you so much for supporting me since the very beginning," she said.

"I love the Philippines so much. [At] my first performance, I was wearing a Philippine sash 'cause I love being a representative for the Philippines," she continued.

Recently, Gehlee returned to the Philippines to begin a new chapter in her career as a solo artist.

She is currently in partnership with Universal Records Philippines as her recording label, alongside GLXY Talent Management and Star Horizon TV Production.

In 2024, she officially debuted as a member of UNIS with the group's extended play (EP), We UNIS. The group officially concluded its activities as a full group on Saturday, September 26, 2026.

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Gabbi Garcia knows the value of a hard-earned peso



After 12 years in show business, careful planning, research and advice from her parents guide Gabbi Garcia as she manages her earnings and looks for ways to make her money grow

Gabbi Garcia may have a steady stream of projects and endorsements, but the Kapuso actress is making sure her growing income does not simply sit idle.

In a recent interview, Garcia revealed that she has become increasingly careful with her finances, particularly after 12 years in show business.

"I'm very careful and smart in handling money because it's, of course, my hard-earned money. And I've been working for 12 years already, so I have to make sure where my money goes," she said.

Being financially responsible, however, does not mean Garcia deprives herself of the things she wants.

She also believes financial independence should remain a priority even after marriage, saying she wants to have her own savings and the freedom to spend her money without having to depend on her husband.

"Even if I get married or have a family of my own, I have to have my own money, my own savings, so that I can spend whatever I want to spend on. That way, I'm not dependent. Times have changed. Not everything is shouldered by the guy."

Garcia also believes earning money is only half the job. The other half is figuring out how to make it grow.

"You just can't work and work hard, and your money is just dormant. It has to earn," she said.

Her parents remain part of that financial conversation. Garcia said she is open about her finances with them and continues to value their guidance.

"A lot of time. I'm very open when it comes to my finances to my parents because they guide me all the time. And I believe they contributed so much in my life for them to have a knowledge about what I'm earning. They also give me advice on how to spend and how to take care of it."

Garciaalso has a message for younger people who are beginning to earn their own money: Treat financial decisions with the same care given to planning a friendship or a holiday.

"Always remember that your money is something that you worked hard for. If you can carefully plan for your friendships or travels, so also should you invest in your own money," she said.

She admitted that investing can be intimidating, especially at the beginning.

"I can't say that don't be afraid because at first, I was also very much afraid," Garcia said. "But research. Doing your research can be a huge help. Be intentional with what you want to do with your money. Knowledge on the matter is important. You can't rely on hearsay. You have to back it up with your own research and ask advice from the right people."

Nyoy Volante looks back on his closeness with Jennylyn Mercado

Theater actor and singer Nyoy Volante recently addressed an old question about his relationship with Jennylyn Mercado.

During a television guesting, Volante was asked whether he had courted Mercado and whether their closeness had developed into a romantic relationship.

"Actually, there was a point in time when



Jennylyn and I got very close. She watched my shows back then," he revealed.

Asked whether their relationship had developed into something deeper, Volante stopped short of putting a label on it.

"I can't say. There was no label. What we had was what we had. It wasn't–I mean, it was there. I was very fond of her," he said.

He stressed that whatever existed between them was never formally defined.

"But whatever we had before, it's not for being safe, there was no label or anything. What I knew was that we became very close."

That chapter is now firmly in the past. Volante is married to theater actress Mikkie Bradshaw, while Mercado is married to actor Dennis Trillo.

Piolo Pascual on 'passing the baton,' being his own competition

As Piolo Pascual nears the big 5-0, he finds himself looking at his place in show business a little differently.

There are younger artists coming in, and after decades in the industry, the actor sees that part of this stage in his career is also about "passing the baton."

"Siyempre may mga bago nang mga bata and, you know, as much as you don't wanna mentor them, (you also) groom them to follow in the footsteps. Or at least, the good things you've done you've shared in this business and hopefully they get to do the same thing," he told The STAR in an interview post-presscon at the Nobu Restaurant of City of Dreams Manila.

Piolo with Cornerstone executives and his team as they gear up for Papa P's series of major projects and events.

But "passing the baton" doesn't mean he's ready to step aside. If anything, Piolo has been active more than ever as an actor, singer and producer, and appears to be no longer concerned about keeping up with anyone else.

Asked by this paper about the pressure of staying on top, Piolo said he has learned not to measure his career against another artist's success.

"I'm my own competition, so I compete with myself. The moment I compare myself to another person's success, that would be my downfall," he said.

He continued, "I'm good knowing that I have projects that I can be busy with. But once I think that, you know, mas maraming project ito kaysa sa akin, that will be my demise. I don't think I will ever be okay comparing myself to another person's success story."

Such mindset has become even more pronouncedl as he turns, as mentioned earlier, 50 years old.

"Aging-wise, I embrace it. Whenever I see my son (Inigo), who's freaking 29 years old, I'm reminded of my age, so kailangan mong umayos, 'di ba? Alangan naman ganoon pa rin ang attitude mo in front of your kid," he said.

He added that getting older is something one eventually has to acknowledge, especially when people begin to see you differently even as you still feel young.

For the perennial leading man, however, this stage of life doesn't translate to slowing down."I don't see myself retiring anytime soon... As long as there are offers, as long as there are new grounds to break, as long as there are things that I can still do as a performer, as an artist, as a producer, I won't stop," he said.

"Ano'ng gagawin ko? 'Di ba? Mas gusto kong busy."

He continued, "The retirement happened



10 years ago hahaha! As I turned a leaf again, wala na talaga siya sa horizon."

In fact, before the year ends, he has three major projects lined up: a new album under Star Music, a self-published coffee-table book titled "In Transit" and a gala concert at City of Dreams Manila.

The album, produced by veteran music producer Jonathan Manalo, has been five years in the making and is targeted for release later this year.

Singing remains important to Piolo, alongside acting.

"Singing for me is close to my heart, same as acting, and it's a nice way to celebrate, you know, the milestones in your life and just to carry on," he said.

His coffee-table book, meanwhile, brings together photos taken during his travels over seven years, from 2019 to 2026, covering destinations in Australia, New Zealand, Belgium and France, as well as different parts of the United States.

The title, "In Transit," could define how he views his own life.

"Like in my book, In Transit, we're always moving, you're always evolving and you're always growing," he said.

Then on Nov. 24, Piolo will headline a self-titled gala concert.

The concert will benefit Hebreo Foundation, the non-profit organization Piolo founded in 2008 to help provide educational opportunities for underprivileged children.

He stressed that education has always been the real purpose behind the foundation.

His schedules are also being planned three to six months ahead that's why "mas may oras na ako sa sarili ko unlike before."

Kris Aquino declares she's not giving up her 'crown' in Tatler cover return

Kris Aquino made it clear she has no plans of surrendering her place in the spotlight as she returned as Tatler Philippines' October cover star.

The television host posed in glamorous looks for the magazine after years away from major cover shoots, including a striking red gown featured on its latest issue.

"Do you honestly think I'll give up the



crown? No way. It's gonna be glued to my head!" Kris told Tatler.

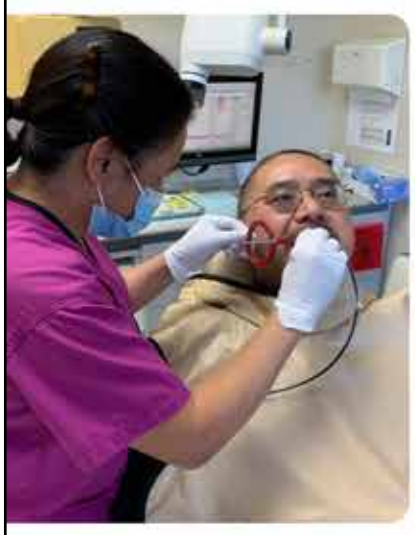
The magazine described the shoot as part of a new chapter for Kris following years marked by health challenges and time away from regular showbiz work.

Tatler also said the cover reflects the wisdom she has gained from her experiences while retaining the wit and personality that have long defined her public image.

The cover follows Kris' recent return in front of the camera through a Netflix Philippines campaign and several public appearances.

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