

## Duterte Orders PNP Stop To Drug War

STORY INSIDE



## KLEA Pineda

The Future Looks Bright

Duterte Suspends Peace Talks with Reds

### Prepare for a Long War

MANILA - That is what President Rodrigo Duterte ordered Philippine soldiers after he suspended peace talks with the communists and urged its leaders involved in peace talks to come back to the country and surrender themselves.

"I will request the Philippine contingent to fold their tents and come home. I am not ready to resume peace [talks]," he said as he visited his mother Sole-dad's tomb in Davao City on her death anniversary.

"Peace with the communists might not come in this generation," he reiterated.

Asked if he was scrapping the peace talks entirely, he said: "Yes, entirely...Do it after my term, if there is still one."

"I tried everything, I walked the extra mile, released prisoners, released their leaders so they can go to Oslo [Norway] to talk, now they want 400 prisoners who fought the gov't under a rebellion released. That is only given after a successful talk. What is there to talk about kung i-release ko sila?" he said.

**SCAPEGOAT**  
continued on page 19

### 'Southern Philippines' in Trump's travel ban?

Despite a claim by a US law firm, the American Immigration Lawyers Association quotes the State Department as saying that this is a rumor

MANILA - Hammond Law Group LLC, a 26-year-old law firm in the United States, said a revised executive order (EO) by US President Donald Trump might include the southern Philippines in the controversial travel ban.

"Hammond Law Group LLC has learned that a draft of an Executive Order modifying President Trump's January 25, 2017 Executive Order, Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States, is currently being circulated for review," the firm said February 1.

"This Executive Order, if signed, may add the following countries to the travel ban implemented on January 25th: Egypt, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Colombia, Venezuela, southern Philippines, trans-Saharan (Mali), and Sulu/Sulawesi Seas Littoral.

**SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES BAN**  
continued on page 22

### Miss Heart

Sponsor Harold Guarin of Roadsport Honda poses with Miss Heart 2017 Nenita Raqueño Lora held at the Prestige Bar. It was the When Cupid Meets The Hearts (WCMH) 2017 Pageant.



### Support

Manny Yanga of Scarborough Toyota supports Team Canada NBTC through FBL sponsorship. Leslie Calma Ruiz accepts the cheque.



### Filipino Pride



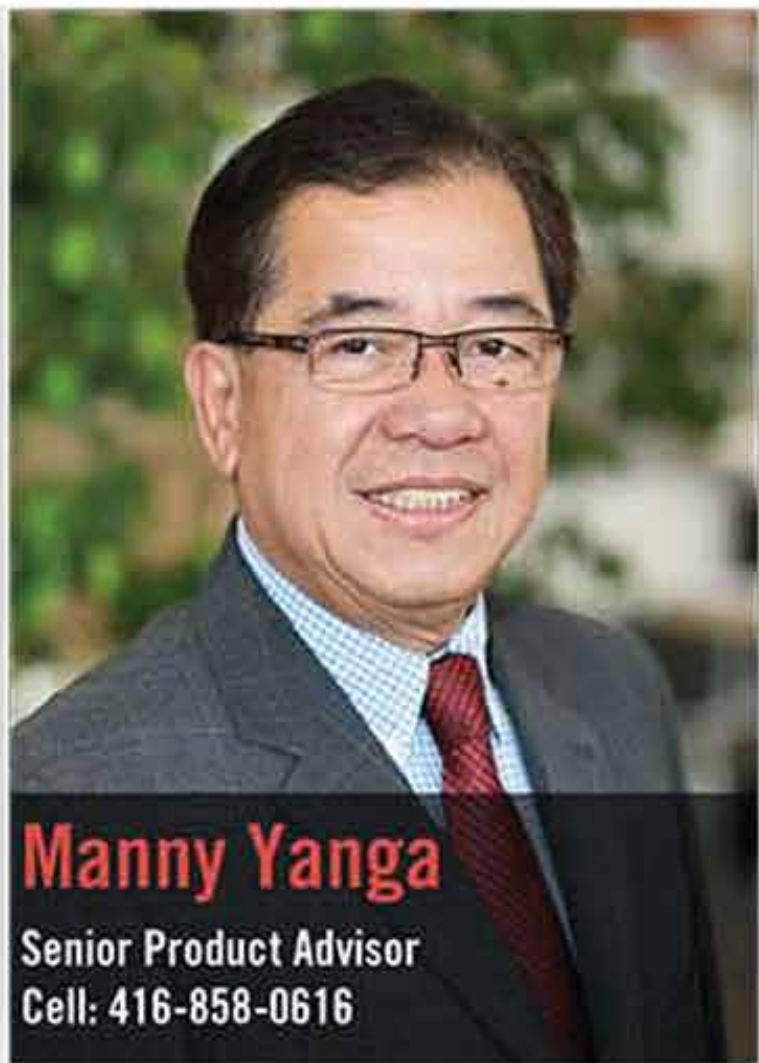
Dr. Eileen de Villa has been appointed as Toronto's Medical Officer of Health. STORY INSIDE



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## Erich, Daniel 'moving on' after breakup

MANILA – Erich Gonzales and Daniel Matsunaga are both moving on after their bitter breakup, one of their friends said, amid reports that the two were getting cozy in the United States.

Speaking on behalf of Gonzales, makeup artist RB Chanco sent a statement to ABS-CBN entertainment reporter Marie Lozano.

Chanco made it clear that “what happened in the US is a request from the producers of their show and to give appreciation for those who have supported them.”

“Together with Star Magic, Erich and Daniel have arranged and settled things peacefully. Both are now starting to move on separate from each other’s lives,” Chanco said in the statement.

Over the weekend, Gonzales and Matsunaga looked sweet together as they performed in front of fans at Cache Creek Casino in Brooks, California. This fueled speculations of them getting back together.

Prior to their US show, Gonzales and Matsunaga had a meeting with their manager, ABS-CBN’s Star Magic, to discuss issues regarding their split.

The two were in a relationship for more than a year, and even had a daytime show titled “Be My Lady.”

# Honey Shot



Kayla is not one delicate girl. She plays rugby and is into martial arts, specifically, kickboxing. She wants take up neuropsychology someday. She likes to travel and the one place she wants to go is Greece. She is the daughter of Patricia. We wish her all the luck in her endeavours.

## Kayla Vitasa

## Bakit nahihiligan ni Sheena Halili ang paggawa ng travel vlogs?

Kasalukuyang nahihilig si Sheena Halili sa pag-video blog o vlog ng kaniyang mga travels. Mayroon ngayong dalawang uploads si Sheena sa kaniyang YouTube channel.

Ayon sa exclusive interview ng GMANetwork.com sa Kapuso actress, since lagi raw siyang nagta-travel, marami siyang nakokolektang videos tungkol sa kaniyang mga nae-experience sa ibang bansa.



Ani Sheena, “In-encourage ako ng manager ko na mag-vlog kasi ang hilig ko raw umalis so bakit hindi ko gamitin ‘yung mga personal videos ko [and turn them] into vlog? Tinulungan naman nila ako sa editing and all.”

Very hands on naman si Sheena sa pag-produce ng kaniyang vlogs, aside from filming, may tumutulong sa aktres pagdating sa editing.

“Mayroong nag-aalalay sa akin na nage-edit for the video pero siyempre sinasabi ko rin ‘yung kung ano ‘yung gusto ko para mas personal. Gusto ko kasi ‘yung mas makulit, ayoko ‘nung typical [na vlog], doon din naman kasi ako minahal ng tao para hindi sila ma-bore ‘pag nanood sila,” sabi niya.

Ano naman kaya ang dapat asahan ng kaniyang subscribers sa mga susunod niyang uploads?

“Next month, March, magia-Japan ako ulit with family and friends pero maga-allot ako ng day for vlogging. Kasi kadalasan pag nagia-Japan madaming make-up, pampanganda at skin care so isa ‘yun sa ire-raid ko don.”

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## NPA Not Interested In Peace

At least now we know, the NPA are not interested in peace. They just want to plunder and pillage, steal or extort money, properties, kill, rape, kidnap for ransom all under the guise of social justice. In short, live like senators, congressmen and other politicians without having to spend time and money getting elected.

### Where did President Obama fail that President Trump achieve?

President Trump managed to silence his own party - the Republican party. Not even former Democrat President Obama was able to do this. Now, it seems that the Republican party do not know how to show their support for him without getting blamed on election time in case those policies come back to haunt them. After all, they now have the Presidency, congress and the senate. So, they control everything. They have no one to blame anymore if things go wrong. For example, President trumpo keeps bringing back the issue of election fraud, accusing the democrats of busing voters from out of state as the reason he did not win new Hampshire. This is an issue the republicna party does not want to dig up because it is not true.

### Trump Crackdown?

With big-talking US President Trump, people do not know whether he is already enforcing his crackdown on immigration or it is part of the usual crackdown unrelated to his pre-election statement. Unfortunately, we will never know because any raids by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and other agencies will be attributed to him by the usual media establishment. Immigration recently had a crackdown and everyone is blaming President Trump. Did he order it or special-interest groups are using it for their own

agenda to vilify him?

### I'm ready for my close-up

In an old Hollywood movie "Sunset Boulevard," that was the line said by a has-been star. I am starting to wonder why there are so many peopla wanting to testify about anything and anyone in the Philippines. Why are there so many people willing to testify against President Duterte about so-called abuses? Some of these people have testified already. Now there is this person who is testifyin again. And this time, he is sayong the exact opposite of what he said the first time. And the senators agreed to hear him. If he is going to change his story, it means he lied the first time. If he lied the first time, why bother hearing him again? If he did not lie the first time, then how can this testimony be true, considering that they are the complete opposite of each other? Both cannot be true.

Senior Police Officer 3 Arthur Lascañas, is now claiming that he was part of a death squad headed by President Duterte when President Duterte was mayor of Davao.

In his tfirst testimony, he denied that there was a death squad. Now, he is testifying again and saying there was a death squad.

Which is the truth?

Only one can be true. But if one is a lie, why bother giving this guy screen time? Do these witnesses just want to be on TV to start a showbiz career?

Sus Guinoo.

## MTRCB chief wants to regulate internet films



DAGUPAN CITY, Philippines – The new chief of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) is planning to regulate movies not yet shown in cinemas but are accessible through the internet.

Rachel Arenas, who assumed the MTRCB post yesterday, said that while there is a body that handles piracy, the MTRCB would like to encourage the people to go to movie houses.

"When there is a good promotion for a certain movie, people look forward to watching it in the movie house," Arenas said.

She said there is an internet app that enables anybody to access movies and the MTRCB is studying how to regulate this.

Arenas said a majority of Filipinos no longer watch movies in cinemas and opt to do it in the comfort of their homes, in front of television sets, computers or even cellular phones.

She said the movies, although not yet shown in cinemas, could be easily accessed with just one click either on Netflix or Facebook.

Although surprised by her appointment, Arenas welcomed the privilege to work with the President. "I am very grateful for their trust and confidence in my ability to serve."

She said she would continue the strides gained by her predecessors in the last six years in the agency and would check on what more

she can improve as head of the MTRCB.

She said there have been many positive changes at the MTRCB since the time of Sen. Grace Poe's leadership.

"We in the MTRCB would rather classify than censor television programs and movies," she said.

"As a collegial body, when board members decide, we decide as one and it must be a consensus as in the past," she added.

Arenas said she respects the diversity of opinions of the MTRCB's board of directors and their freedom of expression.

She said she understands the burden of work of the agency's directors, in whose hands is great responsibility for millions of televiewers and moviegoers.

Asked about MTRCB being Poe's "stepping stone toward the Senate," Arenas said President Duterte does not want to appoint somebody with political ambitions to use the position to advance his or her political plan.

"I am thankful to him for giving me the chance to head this agency and this means a lot to me and our beloved province of Pangasinan."

The former Pangasinan representative said she plans to hold dialogues with stakeholders as well as network executives to know their assessment of the system prevailing in the agency and how to further improve it.

## Study: people don't actually like looking at selfies

A couple of weeks ago a Sony-sponsored study found that consumers are ready to embrace selfies as a tool. Now a research paper, published by Sarah Diefenbach and Lara Christoforakos of Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich published in *Frontiers in Psychology* in January suggests that a majority of smartphone users enjoys taking selfies, but very few people like looking at selfies of others.

The paper is titled "The Selfie Paradox: Nobody Seems to Like Them Yet Everyone Has Reasons to Take Them" and is based on a study that surveyed 238 people from Austria, Germany and Switzerland. Of those who responded, 77% said they take

selfies at least once a month and 49% said they receive selfies from others at least once a week. While respondents thought of their own selfies as somewhat ironic and playful, they had less favorable views on others' selfies.

*Altogether, participants expressed a distanced attitude toward selfies, with stronger agreement for potential negative consequences (threats to self-esteem, illusionary world) than for positive consequences (e.g., relatedness, independence), and a clear preference (82%) for viewing more usual pictures instead of selfies in social media.'*

Many respondents also thought selfies could have an adverse effect on self-esteem and create a superficial and inauthentic image of the person taking and sending them. 90% of participants regarded others' selfies as self-promotion. However, only 46% of respondents said the same about their own selfies. The research team acknowledges that the results are potentially biased towards the surveyed regions, and that other cultures have more accepting attitudes towards selfies. As so often in science, further study is required.



**LM confidential**

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### CORRESPONDENTS

Ed Tubale



## Maja on Bea's renewed romance with Gerald

MAJA Salvador's career is doing very well, thank you. She has a new soap on ABS-CBN, "Wildflower", and she has a new movie, "I'm Drunk, I Love You", but her love life is not as rosy. So it seems the saying lucky in career but unlucky in love is true in her case?



"Hindi naman ako unlucky in love," she says. "Kung wala akong love life ngayon, it's by choice. May non-showbiz guys akong nakaka-date, pero maraming trabaho, e, so work muna ang priority ko. Also, dapat, mag-ing mas maingat na ako, dahan-dahan lang, hindi 'yung pag na-in love, todo agad like before. Siyempre, pag na-hurt ka, you're more cautious in looking for your THE one. Realistic lang ako kasi marami akong natutuhan from my past relationships. After all, I'm already 28, so hindi na ako basta-basta papasok ngayon sa isang relasyon."

She's happy to star in a revenge soap like "Wildflower", where she plays Lily.

"The role of Lily/Ivy is very challenging for me kasi ngayon lang ako nabigyan ng ganitong role na magiging wild ako sa hangad niyang makapaghiganti," Maja adds. "E, hindi naman ako wild sa totoong buhay, kaya ibang-iba talaga ang magiging atake ko rito from what I really am. Marami kong gugulatin dito sa pagiging wild ko sa emotions ko sa mga taong nagkaatraso sa pamilya ko. Gagamitin ko yung mga lalaki rito sa paghihiganti ko."

What can she say about her last BF, Gerald Anderson, who's now with Bea Alonzo? "Naku, nauna namang maging sila, 'no? If Bea is happy, kaibigan ko siya, so happy ako for her."

Does she see herself also reconciling with an ex in the future? "Ayoko na. Ako kasi, once I'm done, I'm done. Hangga't maaari at hangga't kaya, wala nang balikan."

## Toronto gets new public health guardian

Dr. Eileen de Villa will be in charge of protecting the health of Torontonians and face issues including marijuana legalization.

TORONTO - Dr. Eileen de Villa will take over as the city's new medical officer of health in March after her appointment was approved by city councillors at Tuesday's meeting.

In a news release issued by the city, Villa is described as a "distinguished scholar and physician" who studied medicine and public health at the University of Toronto.

She also holds a Master's degree in Health Science, a Master's in Business Administration and a certificate in health law from Osgoode Law School.

Dr. de Villa replaces Acting Medical Officer of Health David McKeown, who took over the position after Dr. Barbara Yaffe's retirement.

Mayor John Tory and Coun. Joe Mihevc, chair of the Board of Health, both issued written statements on Tuesday afternoon expressing their confidence in the city's new top doctor.

"Throughout the selection panel process, she demonstrated solid leadership and management skills, in-depth understanding of public health issues and a passion for public health promotion that will surely benefit the residents of Toronto," Mihevc said.

Dr. de Villa will officially start her new position on March 27.



## Zsa-Zsa wedding tuloy

IT was in May last year nang sumambulat ang paghihiwalay ng engaged couple na sina Architect Conrad Onglao at ang tinaguriang Divine Diva na si Zsa Zsa Padilla ending their two-year relationship. Ang dating couple ay nakatakda sanang magpakasal sa isang lugar in Europe noong nakaraang

September pero ito'y naudlot nang magkahiwalay ang dalawa. Pero almost five months after their break-up ay muling nagkabalikan ang dalawa last October.

Marami ang naniniwala na malamang ituloy pa rin nina Conrad at Zsa Zsa ang kanilang planong pagpapakasal sa ibang bansa na malamang mangyari within the year.

## Announcement!

To all Bicolanos and Bicolanas

The 3rd month Novena Devotions to the Virgin of Penafrancia will be on March 19, 2017, Sunday .

Feast Day Celebrations will be on the 3rd Saturday of September, September 16, 2017.

This month's Novena Devotions:

Date : March 19, 2017, Sunday  
Place : Our Lady of Assumption Church (OLA)

2565 Bathurst St. Toronto

Time : 2:00 pm Devotion starts

Rosary

Novena to the Virgin of Pnaf-

rancia

Holy Mass

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the Church Hall

Sponsors for this month - Devotees of the Virgin of Penafrancia from Sorsogon, hosted by Toti and Nati Gutierrez.

We encourage all bicolanos from Sorsogon to attend and participate in the sponsorship of this novena to the Virgin, for abundant blessings for the province of Sorsogon and the Bicol Region.

Our Lady of the Virgin of Penafrancia is the Patroness of the BICOL region. SHE listens and Loves us all !

**Viva la Virgen !**

**For more information please call :**  
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## Mining Firms ordered closed

Presid Lopez unfazed by possible graft raps

MANILA, Philippines - Environment Secretary Gina Lopez is unfazed by possible graft charges that mining firms may file against her.

Lopez stood firm on her decision to close down 28 operations and cancel 75 mining contracts.

"I have followed the law at every step of the way. I am backed up by the Constitution and law and everything I have done is within my powers as DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) secretary," Lopez told The STAR.

Lopez was responding to claims of the mining industry that she is violating the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

Industry sources bared majority of the affected mining companies are planning to file graft cases against Lopez for lack of due process in her orders to close down the operations of several mining firms.

Lopez refused to address the possible graft charges, saying it might hamper her scheduled confirmation by the Commission on Appointments (CA).

"I don't do things to get confirmation. I do things because it's the right thing to do. I just let the dice fall where they may," Lopez said.

"We simply cannot and must not mine our watersheds. We have a severe water shortage coming because of climate change," she added.

Lopez has failed to get the nod of the CA and was just reappointed by President Duterte as DENR chief.

Her confirmation was originally slated last Feb.15 but she requested to have it rescheduled to March 1.

Ronald Recidoro, legal and policy vice president of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP), maintained companies that will choose to file cases against Lopez have the right to do so as stated in their contracts.

"We insist on due process. We feel that her announcements failed to comply with due process. She cancelled and suspended operations without giving firms the opportunity to rebut the finding against them or remediate the alleged violations," Recidoro said.

Stakeholders also urged the government to put in motion Resolution No. 6 of the Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC) to form a multi-stakeholder committee that will review and advise the DENR on the operations of mining companies in the country.

"While we are grateful (for the resolution), we are also confused because Lopez seems to have other ideas," Recidoro said.

The MICC resolution states that the review shall be based on the guidelines and parameters set forth in the specific mining contract and other pertinent laws, taking into account the valid exercise of the state's police power to serve the common good.

### Investors and labor worries

While international and local business communities have expressed uncertainties towards the current investment environment in the country, Lopez maintained that investors who put premium on local communities and the environment are the only ones welcome.

"We welcome investments in areas where



they can make money, but they are helping everybody else improve also," she said.

About \$22 billion worth of mining investments in the pipeline were supposed to be developed since 2013 but are now on hold.

### No mass displacement

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), on the other hand, said there will be no massive displacement of workers in the mining industry.

Labor Undersecretary Joel Maglunsod, however, noted closures of mining companies might affect over 20,000 mining workers in the Caraga Region.

"There is no suspension yet, but based on our data, about 20,589 mining workers may possibly be affected with the closure of 13 mining firms," Maglunsod said.

Of these workers likely to be affected, Maglunsod said half or about 10,974 are direct-hires while the rest are under contract or sub-contract employment.

"There is off-season in the mining industry because of the weather. Operations of mining companies slow down when the weather is bad," Maglunsod pointed out.

DOLE has yet to undertake a study on the possible impact of mining firms' closures on employment.

Assistance will be given to affected mining workers through the DOLE's Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/ Displaced Workers Program (TUPAD).

Those to be hired under TUPAD will be paid with the regional minimum wage and will be working for a minimum of 15 days and maximum of 30 days.

DOLE will also extend training for workers wanting to upgrade their skills with the help of the Technical Education Skills and Development Authority (TESDA).



## Pagiging viral ni Ash, sinamantala ng GMA7

MABILIS ang action ng GMA7 dahil sa kasikatang tinamo ng kanilang contract star na si Ashley Ortega sa phenomenal Jollibee "Crush" commercial na pang-Valentine's Day. Alam ba ninyong mahigit nang 16 million views ang naitala sa Youtube at Facebook ng naturang commercial? Dito napansin ang kakaibang acting talent at beauty na di kasasawaan tingnan ni Ashley.

Kaya naman, agad isinalang ng GMA7 si Ashley sa episode ng Magpakailanman ngayong Saturday. May title na "Love Knows No Age: The Mitch Tandingan and Gil Moreno Millennial Love Story," isa itong May-December affair story ng isang letter sender.

Katambal niya rito ang Eat Bulaga Ultimate Bae na si Kenneth Medrano ng Cebu. Pinalakapan ni Direk Neil Del Rosario ang acting ni Ash dito dahil sa husay niyang magsalita ng Visayan language kahit sandali lang niya itong pinag-aralan.

Kasama rin nila sa episode sina Sherilyn Reyes at Shyr Valdez.

Magpakailanman is hosted by Mel Tiangco.

Bukod sa Magpakailanman, nakatakda ding mag-guest si Ash sa Wish Ko Lang at Pop Talk ng GMA News TV, Channel 11.

Bukod pa rito, kinuha na ng Octo Arts Films si Ash bilang non-exclusive contract star. Unang project ni Ash ay isang horror movie na ididirek ni Jose Javier Reyes.

## Ysabel Ortega happy that President Duterte was a guest at her 18th birthday party

Dream come true kung maituturing ng Star Magic at kapamilya artist na si Ysabel Ortega ang pagdiriwang ng kanyang 18th Birthday dahil sa pagdalo ng kanyang malalapit na kaibigan, kamag-anak at ang Pangulo ng Pilipinas na si President Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

"Overwhelming po ang experience especially andito po si Mr. President and grateful for every-

one na talagang nagbigay oras po para sa debut ko."

"I know he's busy pero nag-give time pa din po siya for my birthday. Talagang unforgettable po talaga," ani pa ng celebrator.

"Birthday wish ko po, yun sana po yung career ko po, I will still be able to do what I love and of course, good health," sabi pa ni Ysabel.

Sa panayam din na ito, naibahagi ni Ysabel na masaya pa din umano siya kahit na hindi nakarating ang kanyang ama na si Lito Lapid sa kanyang pagdiriwang.

"Kasi po yung mommy ko po, yung love na ibinibigay po niya sa akin parang it's more than enough to make me feel I'm in a complete family.



## No such thing as oust plot vs govt

MANILA - National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon shrugged off reports of a plot to destabilize the Duterte administration.

"If ever there are [such attempts], leave it to us. We'll monitor it. We will be on top of the situation," said Esperon.

He added that the government is ready to quell any plot if necessary.

"The government has to protect the interest of the Filipino and it has an interest in protecting itself," Esperon said.

Esperon also dismissed the likelihood that Senator Leila de Lima—who is on the verge of arrest on drug charges—could be a rallying point against the President.

"Why should a case of an individual be the convergence point? It should be nation-building," he said. "What will they do? Stage People Power to defend one case? I don't think Filipinos are that gullible."

The military, meanwhile, said it has not monitored any plot to overthrow the Duterte administration.

"Based on our monitoring, negative," AFP spokesperson Edgard Arevalo said. "We have not monitored any destabilization attempt that will be done on this government of President Duterte."

Earlier, Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año made the same point.

"The AFP is solid and shall continue to do its mandate of protecting the people and the state," Año said.

He added that the AFP would stay out of politics.

The views of the top security officers contradicted pronouncements by Communications Secretary Martin Andanar, who said there is "a protracted political drama aimed [at destroying] the President" and toppling his administration.

Andanar said that he doesn't care if the press does not like him, but insisted there are plots to oust the President.

"The media doesn't [sic] need to like me ... I was hired to run the office of the Presidential Communications Operations Office and to satisfy the Filipino people," the former news reader said, following a heated confrontation with a newspaper reporter whose fairness he questioned.

Pressed again on the call of Senate reporters for him to substantiate his claims that they were offered \$1,000 to attend a press conference or apologize, Andanar again refused to do either.

"You can see and read that I never alluded to a reporter [who] received this kind of money. I was just saying that there was this amount that circulated," he added.

## Lacson exhorts PNP to keep purging its ranks of rogues

FORMER Philippine National Police chief-turned Senator Panfilo "Ping" Lacson yesterday exhorted the 170,000-strong police force to keep cleansing its ranks of misfits and scalawags if it really wants to regain the trust and confidence of the public and most importantly, President Rodrigo Duterte.

Speaking at the 5th founding anniversary of the PNP Anti-Kidnapping Group headed



by Sr. Supt. Glenn Dumlao, Lacson paid tribute to outstanding police officers and men, who have contributed significantly to the gains of the force, but scored a few, who have tainted the name of the organization, the

latest of them the group of policemen from the now disbanded PNP Anti-Illegal Drugs Group involved in the kidnapping-murder of Korean Jee Ick-joo last October 18.

"Hayaan ninyong simulon ko ang aking

maingsing mensahe sa pamamagitan ng pagbahagi ng mga salita ng pinakamayamang tao sa mundo sa kasalukuyan. Ayon kay Bill Gates: "It's fine to celebrate success but it is more important to heed the lessons of failure." Today, speaking before the PNP's primary arm against kidnap-for-ransom gangs almost instinctively strikes sentimentality from reflections of decades ago," he said.

The senator expressed full confidence to de la Rosa and Dumlao that they can get the job done when it comes to fighting kidnappings and rogues in uniform



## People...are talking about

Maxine Medina

With almost two million tweets during the coronation day, the country's bet to the



65th Miss Universe definitely proved that people's eyes were on her in her bid to win the coveted crown. As a gracious host delegate, Maxine represented the country well amid the brouhaha surrounding her performance during the Q and A portion and the great pressure for her to deliver the goods. People already knew that Maxine dreads public speaking and what she showed during the pageant was already a better version of herself.

Ethel Booba

Still talking about the recently concluded Miss Universe pageant, this Twitter rock star flooded the microblogging site with hilarious tweets that could make people forget about pressing problems that confront the country today. Kidding aside, Ethel is one of the personalities people watch out for during special and national events. We should give her a special moniker just for that.



Rachelle Ann Go

After her stint as Gigi in the restaging of Miss Saigon and Fantine in Les Misérables, the Filipina singer scores another important role in an international production. Rachelle Ann is set to play Eliza Hamilton in the phenomenal West End production. In less than two years, the musical has become an icon of American pop culture receiving the highest accolades from Tony Awards. And Rachelle Ann being part of this production says a lot on how the producers of the show see her as a talent.



## People...are not talking about

Can't Help Falling In Love

The upcoming film's director, Mae Cruz-Alviar, is making a strange appeal among KathNiel fans online. The filmmaker is disappointed with the fans for posting



behind-the-scenes photos of Kathryn Bernardo and Daniel Padilla. Hence, she took to Twitter to tell them to stop posting photos from their shooting. According to her, the photos posted by fans pre-empt and spoil this Star Cinema movie. It goes to show she's not confident with her work because she considers social media posts a threat to the success of her film. Really strange!

Ogie Alcasid

The singer-songwriter has finally signed a

management contract with ABS-CBN. The contract is exclusive, which means he wouldn't be able to work with other networks like he used to. And considering the fact that he's got little options when it comes to shows that he can be part of, his partnership with the network will only limit his visibility on TV. Unless of course he's that too important ABS-CBN would give him his own regular show, which is apparently not happening to more popular and more creative artists.



Kris Aquino

A top gun from APT Entertainment has just confirmed that no talks to produce a TV show happened between them and the former TV host. And future talks will not ever happen, too. Now, this leaves Kris settling for an online



show, which doesn't even have an audience. Since she can't go back to her former network, will she finally enter politics like what washed up celebrities do? We heard that's her next plan.

## Concerts and the Pinoy audience

Martin Nievera on Instagram described his most recent concert "challenging."

I must agree. As a performer myself and for 24 years now, I consider my fellow Filipinos the most difficult-to-please audience in the whole world.



I have performed all over the United States, Europe, Middle East, China, and Australia, but nothing compares to Pinoys.

Arnel Pineda, who performed with Journey at the Mall Of Asia (MOA) concert grounds last weekend, was also "challenged" by Pinoy audiences.

I watched the show with my husband, coming in right as the band was playing "Separate Ways," one of their biggest hits.

I was expecting to see people screaming their heart out by then but everyone was quiet, as if they were attending a prayer meeting.

Arnel kept on prodding his fellow Filipinos to get up and dance, screaming one-liners like, "C'mon guys" and "This is a rock concert" but to no avail.

Yes, some were waving their arms and singing along, particularly as the band performed "Open Arms" but they looked quite lethargic.

I told my husband, "I'm sure after this concert, Arnel's American band mates will tease him and say, 'Oh my goodness Arnel, your people are the most boring audience of all time.'"

Eventually, at one point, Arnel lectured the crowd: "Guys, we just came from countries like Korea whose audiences were dancing and partying. This is a rock concert. As my kababayans, pakita naman natin what we've got! This is my hometown!"

Like actors given instructions by a director, it was only then that people in the crowd stood up to rock to the music.

I remember performing as front act for 2NE1 some years ago and the fans of the group were electrifying. They didn't know me but they gave me the warmest welcome. I guess concerts are all about youth and vigor. So attend them while you can still rock and make your country proud.

## Camille Prats, pinapatulan ang kanyang mga bashers?

Isa sa mga most followed celebrities si Kapuso star Camille Prats. Sa kabila ng kanyang



kasikatan, may mga tao ring naninira sa kanya, lalong-lalo na sa social media at aminado naman ang aktres na talagang pinapatulan niya ang mga ito.

"Meron akong hindi pinapalagpas, lalo na kapag foul na o feeling ko parang hindi naman talaga totoo. Meron naman kasing iba na may masabi lang, 'yun dedma talaga but meron talagang may gusto patunayan [at] hinahamon ka talaga. Sumasagot talaga ako," kuwento niya sa Mars.

Sensitibo para sa TV host-actress kapag may nababasa siyang mga komento tungkol sa kanyang anak, "About Nathan, patola talaga ako." Nakakuha rin ng kanyang atensiyon ang mga komento tungkol sa kanyang pagbubuntis tulad ng "Agad-agad nakabuo?" at "Nagpakasal ka ba dahil nabuntis ka?"

"Gusto kong pumatol pero there are also nice people na sila na mismo ang 'yung [nagde-defend]. Naalala ko noon, nag-type ako nang mahaba tapos dinelete ko din. Papatulan pa ba kita? 'Pag ganun, dedma na,' sambit ni Mrs. Yambao tungkol sa mga bashers.

Dagdag pa niya, "People will always have something to say at meron din talaga akong naiisahan."

Choose your battles wisely, mga Kapuso!



## John Regala did not have a stroke

Contrary to reports, actor John Regala did not suffer a heart attack.

It may be recalled that a viral photo of the actor by a certain Bhadloy Lopez featured him sprawled in the steps of a building.

In an interview with Kapuso Mo Jessica Soho, the actor himself clarified that he fainted at a supermarket in Cavite due to extreme heat. "Nangangatog 'yung tuhod ko eh, biglang nawalan at nag-pass out talaga ako," said John.

"Hindi ako na-stroke at hindi po ako inatake sa puso, malakas po ako. Katunayan eh malakas na malakas pa ako at kaya ko pa lumabas (sa pelikula)," He added. The said interview gave one of the most acclaimed kontrabidas to meet and thank the person who helped him during the said incident. "Akala ko wala ng nagmamahal sa akin. Akala ko nakalimutan na ako ng tao," he said. He likewise thanked his supporters who prayed for him when he passed out.

"Kaya minsan nade-depress ako dahil mahal na mahal ko mga tagahanga ko. Ngayon ko napatunayan, hanggang ngayon pala ang pagmamahal pala ng tao ay nanatili pa din sa akin," John ended.

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## Cops appeal judgement 150 cops defy Duterte's Basilan deployment order



Send-off of "police scalawags" bound for basilan at villamor airbase

MANILA - Only 53 of the 311 "scalawag" policemen showed up at the Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig on Tuesday morning, February 21 for their deployment to Basilan.

The remaining 258 who ignored the order will be charged with gross neglect of duty.

According to CNN News, the erring cops headed to Villamor Air Base in Pasay at around 5 a.m. where they boarded a C-130 cargo plane to Zamboanga.

It was reported that Philippine National Police chief Ronald Dela Rosa said the cops will work in Basilan for two years.

Gen. Eduardo Ano, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), earlier clarified that the deployment of the 311 cops from Metro Manila will not be concentrated in Basilan alone.

"Our discussion with the PNP (Philippine National Police) is not only actually Basilan but they will beef up forces in priority areas," said Ano.

"Their main job is to take care of the town centers, urban centers so that the AFP will concentrate on the hinterlands," he added.

## AFP puts forward terms of peace gab

MANILA - THE New People's Army must first prove their sincerity and show that they are united with their political wing in the quest for peace before any new negotiations can take place, the military said.

"First they must be united in the goal of seeking peace and they must show sincerity by complying with all peace negotiation agreements, especially on the part calling for the cessation of attacks against government troops," said Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the Armed Forces public affairs office.

Arevalo was responding to a question about what the military would seek if President Rodrigo Duterte decides to resume talks that he broke off with the communist rebels last week.

Earlier, he noted, the National Democratic Front negotiating panel headed by Fidel Agcaoili said that the NPA unilateral ceasefire would continue while Jorge Madlos, the top communist leader in Mindanao, said the ceasefire would end on Feb. 10.

"Before seeking any new peace negotiations with the government, the NPA must show that its leadership and units on the ground are united in the goal of seeking a just and lasting peace," Arevalo said.

On Friday, Armed Forces chief Eduardo Año said he saw no reason for the President to declare Martial Law, even though peace talks with the communists have collapsed and Abu Sayyaf and other terrorist groups continue to pose a threat.

"Well right now the PNP [Philippine National Police] and the AFP can still operate within the prevailing situation with full control so right now I don't see a reason why the President will declare Martial Law, although he has the discretion [and] authority based on the Constitution," Año said.

He added that even if the President does declare Martial Law, there are checks and balances available through the Constitution.

And should the Chief Executive ever decides



to do so, he said there are checks and balances available to ensure that its declaration are in accordance with Constitutional provisions.

"But right now, we don't see the reason [for Martial Law]," he added.

Año earlier said that close military and police cooperation is one of the strategies which will be employed by the Duterte administration in defeating the NPA insurgency threat.

He made this statement during the sidelights of the Joint Peace and Security Coordinating Council (JPSCC) meeting in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City on Thursday.

"In our meeting this morning, we strengthened the mechanism of the JPSCC particularly the creation of joint cells at the different levels, so in our planning and actions, the Philippine National Police and the AFP, will be always together, down to the provincial level," he said in Filipino.

The AFP and PNP also said they would intensify operations against the NPA.

"In view of the lifting of the unilateral ceasefire and the cancellation of the talks, we will intensify our operations together—the PNP and the AFP—to fight the NPA to defeat the armed group and put back into jail all those high-ranking personalities [earlier released to help in the peace negotiations]," he added.

At the moment, the AFP chief said there is no need to deploy additional troops in NPA hot spots in Northern and Eastern Mindanao as the military has enough forces in these areas.



## Alvarez wants to regulate social media use

MANILA - Alarmed by the prevalence of fake, malicious and spurious social media accounts, House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez wants to regulate the use of social media by mandating social media companies to verify the user applicants before they are allowed to open an account.

The House chief said it is about time to curtail the abuse and misuse of social media and impose penalties against the online identity theft.

"In many occasions, users use fake accounts by presenting themselves to the online world as persons whom they are not. This is a classic case of identity theft that is detrimental to society," he said in filing House Bill 5021.

HB 5021 or the proposed Social Media Regulation Act of 2017, provides that applicants for social media accounts be subjected by social media networks to effective identity verification in order to ascertain the authentic of an account. The applications of those found out as presenting himself as another person whom he is not shall be denied and the user accounts of other persons the authenticity of which are subsequently discovered as compromised shall be shutdown.

"This proposed bill seeks to afford a remedial measures on the foregoing matters and will regulate these social media by mandating social media companies (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc.) to reasonably verify the identity of user applicants before they are allowed to open an account. Penalties are also provided for failure to comply with this verification requirement," Alvarez said.

Violators of the proposed Act shall be punished with imprisonment of not less than six years and one day up to 12 years and a fine ranging from P30,000 to P50,000. Any person who owns or has control over artificial intelligence programs or similar programs that create social media user accounts that results in the irresponsible use of social media shall held liable.

Under the bill, every person who will communicate, exchange, deliver, blog or share information through social media must observe a responsible and fair exercise of his right to free expression and opinion. He is, however, prohibited from opening an account for his online presence using someone else's identity and presenting himself to the online world as that person whom he is not.

Alvarez also filed House Resolution 777 calling for an investigation on the failure of various social media networks to provide effective method or system to ascertain the authenticity of accounts registered with them, leading to a prevalence of fake, malicious and spurious social media accounts, which results to unchecked and rampant acts of online identity theft.



## Eugene is engaged?

Although her heart is currently happy, Eugene Domingo is in no rush to walk down the aisle.

"I'm very, very happy, thankful, and blessed," said Eugene.

Aside from her career, the actress's love life is also in full bloom. The comedienne is currently dating Italian film critic Danilo Bottoni.

"Ay, masaya!" Eugene blurted about how they spent Valentine's Day.

"Kay Mr. Bottoni, sa Italy kasi, walang Valentine's. They don't observe Valentine's. But, I think, every day sa kanila, Valentine's," she explained.

Eugene described his beau as "always passionate, romantic, and expressive every day."

According to the actress, her boyfriend was quite surprised that people in the Philippines "celebrate" Valentine's Day.

"E, sa atin, di ba, sabi ko sa kanya, ang Valentine's sa Pilipinas, it's like Christmas. Very commercial. Pero sa atin, importante na pini-prepare, maraming shows, di ba? May reservation sa hotel, mga restaurants," she said.

Eugene shared that her Italian beau is set to visit the country this coming April. The actress just brushed off the possibility of him asking her hand in marriage.

"Baka paal!" she joked.

"Hindi, wala, walang hingian ng kung anu-ano. We're just enjoying our time. Hindi naman na ako fifteen years old or seventeen years old," she said pointing out that they are just "enjoying" their time together.

The award-winning star emphasized that the society is just used to seeing couple getting engaged or hitched.

"Pero sa akin kasi, sa akin lang yun, ha, pasalamat na ako dumating pa 'yun eh. 'Di ba, pasalamat na ako? This is the best gift ever," she said.

Eugene ended, "At wala akong minamadali. I cherish every moment."

## Juliana, pag-aagawan

Lalong gumaganda ang 16-year-old daughter ng mag-asawang Richard Gomez at Lucy Torres-Gomez na si Juliana kaya tiyak na abangan na ng dalawang major TV networks, ang ABS-CBN at GMA ang pagpasok nito sa showbiz.

Hindi rin kami mag-tataka kung kontratahin din ng Bench ni Ben Chan si Juliana bilang miyembro ng Bench family kung saan ang kanyang ama (Richard) ang signature model.

Bukod sa ganda at talino, minana rin ni Juliana ang magandang height ng kanyang parents.

Ang ina ni Juliana na si Lucy Torres-Gomez ay nasa ikatlong termino na bilang kinatawan ng isang distrito ng Leyte habang si Goma (Richard) ay nasa unang term bilang mayor ng Ormoc, Leyte. Hindi rin kataka-taka kung balang araw ay sumunod din si Juliana sa yapak ng kanyang mga magulang sa pulitika.





**Kristoffer Martin celebrates transition from tween to maturity in contract renewal**

Kristoffer Martin proved his loyalty and showed his gratefulness to GMA as he signed another three-year contract with the network. He has been with the network for six years now.



"Six years na... Sobrang happy ako kasi GMA ang naging tulay, kumbaga, [para makatanggap ako] ng awards, ng mga opportunities na ipakita yung talent ko. Kumbaga

GMA 'yung kasama ko tumanda... Tweens pa kami [noon at ngayon, mas mature na yung roles]," he said.

More than the skills he acquired for his showbiz career, he also developed qualities that make him a better person.

"Yung respeto sa mga katrabaho, yun yung pinaka-importante sa 'kin... [Napabuti] kung paano ko i-handle 'yung mga tao, 'yung mga fans, yung [mg aka-trabaho ko] sa production," he added.

He also realized how important it is to share what he's learned to his peers. During his recently concluded show Hahamakin Ang Lahat, he grabbed the opportunity to help his co-star Bruno Gabriel feel more comfortable and learn from the experience.

"Kay Bruno, for example... bago lang siya, so ang mangyayari, tutulungan mo siya. Hindi 'yung mamatahin mo ['yung mistakes]. Dalawa kayong magtutulungan. Respeto [ang mahalaga]," he shared.

He looks forward to the new things he'll be doing and how else he can expand his craft. He knows he's in good hands, as he has been the past couple of years.

"Alaga. Alaga talaga [dito sa Kapuso network]. Ramdam mo yung worth mo bilang tao, kung paano ka i-value ng network and hindi ka talaga nila papabayaon," he concluded.

**Steve Nash Youth Basketball Now Available in the Durham Region**



Durham Crossover Basketball has partnered with Canada Basketball to deliver its Steve Nash Youth Basketball Program in the region. DCB Program Director Mike Cruz took this opportunity to streamline their DCB Skills Program with that of Canada Basketball and their Long Term Athletes Development. SNYB is a 12-week program that is focused on introducing the sport of basketball to 6 to 12 yrs. old kid through fun and games. Participant learn the basic of skills on basketball like ball handling, dribbling, passing and shooting. Each session culminates with a 3x3 Basketball which enables kids to have fun and play with each other.

The initial SNYB offering in the region started last February 4 along with the DCB Team Skills Clinic. A total of 25 participants for both clinics has registered and will undergo the 12-week curriculum from Canada Basketball after each participant is expected to enjoy the game and continue playing moving forward. The clinic is held every Saturday from 2:30 PM to 4 PM at Lincoln Alexander Public School in Ajax.

Present during the start of the basketball clinics are DCB Annual awardees to inspire the participants. Awardees include Baller of the Year Gabriel Lopez, Rookie of the Year Jerone Castronuevo, Defensive Player of the Year Vincent Jabonete, Most Improved Basti Villena and Sportmanship Awardee Imory Tres Bisarra. Joshua Satchell was also adjudged Tangerine Player of the week.

DCB is a not for profit basketball organization that promotes healthy living through the sports of basketball. Based at the Durham region it provides basketball skills development program. It's Rep Players participates in various local basketball tournaments like the newly formed Filipino Basketball League. DCB is open to all kids who would like to learn and enjoy the game or meet new friends. To learn more about the organization and its program one can visit its website [www.durhamcrossover-basketball.weebly.com](http://www.durhamcrossover-basketball.weebly.com) or contact one of its prime movers Coach M (4167958985), Abe Oligane (4165189987), Leslie Ruiz (4168047973) and Adrian Vicencio (4168215494).



**Glaiza de Castro marks over 10 years in GMA Network with contract renewal**

After being a Kapuso for over 10 years, Glaiza de Castro renewed her contract with GMA Network. For her, it has been a rewarding and enriching decade both personally and professionally.

"I've been with GMA since I was 18 so ganun na katagal. More than 10 years na... Hindi ako nagkamali ng desisyon na mag-stay talaga sa GMA. Kasi kumbaga, dito ako nag-grow eh, as an actor [and as a person]. Pero totoo 'yun, 'yung personal ko saka 'yung profession ko, nag-isa

**GLAIZA**  
continued on page 26

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# Philippines

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President Duterte keeps promise

## Pension Hike is Approved

MANILA - The Palace issued the formal order approving the P1,000 increase in the benefits of Social Security System pensioners, which President Rodrigo Duterte approved early last month.

The memorandum, signed by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, was sent to SSS chairman Amado Valdez.

"Upon representations made by SSS, and subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations, please be informed that the One Thousand Peso (P1,000) increase in benefits of qualified SSS retirees, survivors, and permanently disabled pensioners effective January 2017, has been approved," Medialdea's memorandum stated.

President Duterte gave the go signal for the P1,000 pension hike last month amid misgivings from his economic managers, who were concerned about the viability of the fund if the pension were to be increased.

Along with the pension increase, the President also approved a 1.5 percent contribution hike effective May 2017.

For his part, Valdez said that the P1,000 pension increase for some two million retirees of the Social Security System (SSS) is set to be released after receiving approval from Malacañang.



Half of the two-part P2,000 adjustment was supposed to be implemented on February 15, but the release order awaited approval from Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea.

The pension increase will be retroactive to January this year, said SSS president and chief executive officer Emmanuel Dooc.

The January differential of P1,000 will be released on March 3, while the February and

March differentials will be released on March 10 and March 17, respectively, Dooc said.

Starting April 2017, the additional P1,000 will be incorporated in the regular pension, he added.

The pension increase was among Duterte's promises during the 2016 presidential campaign.



## Solenn auditions for an int'l movie

AFTER being part of the sitcom "A1 Ko Sa'yo", Solenn Heussaff is glad to now be in the new comedy musical show, "Full House Tonight" that starts airing on February 18 after "Magpak-ailanman".

"Mas nakaka-pressure itong 'Full House Tonight' kasi ibang level ang comedy rito at puro comedians talaga ang kasama ko like Philip Lazaro, Kim Idol, Nar Cabico, Terry Gian, Sarah Brakensiek, and Tammy Brown at puro magagaling sila. But so far, so good, maganda ang bonding naming lahat. Masaya ang buong cast and I'm learning a lot from them on how to be funny, including from our main host, Regine Velasquez, who has a natural knack for comedy. She doesn't mind if she makes fun of herself or others are making fun of her at ganun din naman ako. We're ready for anything to make people laugh. I'm sure watching 'Full House Tonight' will soon be a regular weekend habit for local viewers."

So she's doing action-fantasy as Cassiopeia in "Encantadia" and she's making people laugh in "Full House Tonight". "Ang ganda nga, di ba? I get to do different kinds of shows. Tapos may Valentine show pa ako on Tuesday with Ogie Alcasid and Ai Ai de las Alas, '#HugotPlaylist' at the Kia Theatre, so I'm really so busy."

So she really has no plans of having a baby yet after her wedding to Nico Bolzico? "Not this year, baka next year pa. I'm making lagari in several shows now, kasi may 'Taste Buddies' pa ako sa GMA News TV. And I might do new movies kasi nag-audition din ako for an international film. Wala nga ako halos time for my husband. It's good he's very understanding kasi busy rin naman siya. Anyway, buong life naman namin, we will be together. So, next year na lang kami mag-try mag-baby kasi I'm turning 32 and my biological clock is ticking. When that happens, I have to lessen my workload para hindi ako masyadong mai-stress for the baby."

## FVR chides Digong over 'one-way' decisions

MANILA - FORMER President Fidel V. Ramos advised an 'insecure' President Rodrigo Duterte to avoid making decisions, particularly on policies and security without first consulting his Cabinet members.

"A lot of these fears being generated by him is because he is... insecure. Pardon me for saying this, Mr. President Duterte, but you must be at peace with yourself, do not talk about dying soon or being killed or not caring about your life," Ramos said in an interview with online news portal Rappler.



"You must preserve your life, you have a lot of things to do and people will support you. We don't want the President to be just disposed of like that. You are elected for six years, you fulfill it," he added.

Ramos expressed concern after observing Duterte making policy pronouncements without the knowledge of people around him, and urged him to make proper use of government mechanisms at hand.

"The way it is, there is a lack of consultation, as I said in the beginning, not just with his active commanders. Maybe not even with the Cabinet members concerned, but also with the rest of the citizenry," Ramos said.

The former president also decried what he called a "one-way kind of decision-making in law enforcement these days."

"There is a need for more consultation by the leaders, led by the President, with other stakeholders, meaning the people themselves, including the most ordinary guy," he added.

## Recto pulls out support for Cha-cha

MANILA - Senate Minority Leader Ralph Recto has withdrawn his support for Charter change (Cha-cha) after learning that the aim to amend the Constitution was political and not to improve the economy.

Recto took back his support for Joint Resolution No. 2 approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives last year calling for Charter change to review and amend provisions that hinder economic takeoff.

He announced his change of heart after yesterday's public hearing on resolutions proposing amendments to certain "restrictive" economic provisions in the Constitution conducted by the Senate Committee on Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes chaired by Senate President Pro-Tempore Franklin Drilon.

Asked why he withdrew his support for Cha-cha, Recto said: "I know that the purpose

today is more political. So I don't want to be a part of that, that's why I withdrew my resolution. Only economic changes, if at all. But since that is not the plan, I will withdraw."

Pressed whether he sees an attempt to railroad in the House the passage of a measure amending the Constitution, Recto said: "No. We know that the position of the President's party is to amend it for political purposes, particularly federalism."

# THD

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# Fil-Core 1st Christmas Gala Night and Benefit Concert

Concert Raises Funds for Displaced OFW'S in Canada

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ARIEL RAMOS

TORONTO - It was a very successful Christmas event for Fil-Core First Gala Night and Benefit Concert -Give Love on Christmas last Dec. 17,2016 at the Canadian Christian College, McVety Theater.

The 3 FilCore Divas, Miss Liza Silagan -2016 Miss Caregiver 1st Runner Up, Joji

Brown-2016 Miss Caregiver -2nd Runner Up and Merycyl Cauton - 2014 Miss Caregiver was the highlight of the event to showcase their wonderful voice and different style in singing. There was also a showcased of Creative gowns made of recyclable materials and of course, the Fil-core Dynamix, has proven there versatilities

in dancing and other featured guest performers. Give Love on Christmas was a fundraising event dedicated to the Caregivers Community to have an emergency temporary shelter for those who have lost their job and those who are sick and cannot work right away. This is a long term goal for FilCore Support Group for the money

raised will be saved until we reached the amount for a down payment of the said FilCore Support Group Emergency Shelter and its office where support and other services will be provided for the temporary residents that are Caregivers, Temporary Foreign Workers and those Kababayans who have no status and have nowhere to go.



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## Duterte targets online gambling

MANILA - President Rodrigo Duterte prohibited the assignment, sharing, lease, transfer or selling of online gambling licenses after he ordered authorities to intensify the government's fight against illegal gambling.

Under an executive order signed Feb. 2, online gambling operators who wish to operate outside the jurisdiction of the government authority must apply for a separate license.

"The license to operate online gambling granted to qualified operators shall not be assigned, shared, leased, transferred, sold or encumbered to any other party. Any gambling operator desiring to operate outside the jurisdiction of the government authority which issued its existing license shall apply for a separate license with the appropriate authority," the EO read.

"All gambling activities, and activities and services directly or indirectly related to or in support of such gambling activities, conducted beyond the territorial jurisdiction of the government authority which issued the license therefore, shall be dealt with as illegal gambling."

The same EO said that no licensed online gambling operator shall provide direct or

indirect betting outside of the territorial jurisdiction where it is physically located.

Nevertheless, participation of persons who are betting outside of the Philippine territory can still continue.

The President's order came as lawmakers investigated allegations that Chinese tycoon Jack Lam, who tried to bribe Philippine officials to allow him to operate an illegal online casino.

Duterte instructed the PNP, the NBI, and law enforcement agencies to "coordinate and promptly act on requests of gambling regulatory authorities to investigate and put a stop to illegal activities in their respective jurisdictions."

"The state condemns the existence of illegal gambling as a widespread social menace and source of corruption, as it has become an influential factor in an individual's disregard for the value of dignified work, perseverance and thrift," the President said.

The order also directs the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., Cagayan Economic Zone Authority, Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan, Aurora Pacific Economic Zone and Freeport Authority and other regulatory entities to submit a con-

solidated report on the progress of the fight against illegal gambling in their jurisdictions within six months and every six months thereafter from the effective date of the EO.

The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office on Friday said the 56 players of Small Town Lottery (STL) are expected to give more than half a million people jobs this year.

This is the reason the PCSO is doing its best to implement the government's campaign against illegal gambling, the agency said in a press release.

PCSO General Manager Alexander Balutan said that aside from the projected revenue from STL, legal employment of more than half a million people is another benefit of the operation of 56 accredited agent corporations that were given permits to operate STL nationwide.

He said that all illegal gambling operations are called on to go legal. This includes kubradors and kabos who work in the illegal numbers game. If they work under the STL, Balutan said, they would be given a legal source of income.



## Janice back where she belongs

JANICE de Belen is back as a Kapuso playing the quirky mother of Maine Mendoza in the new primetime soap that starts on Monday, "Destined to Be Yours".

"Gusto ko lang magtrabaho uli sa GMA para maiba naman," she says. "It's in GMA naman where Gelli and I did the morning show 'Sis' for several years. And now, I'm happy to be part of the first primetime drama of Alden Richards and Maine Mendoza, kasi personally, nakukyutan talaga ako sa kanila as a loveteam. They have something na nakakalilig talaga. Kakaiba ang chemistry nila. Ang cute nilang tingnan. Kakaiba rin 'yung role ko as Sally Obispo, na mahilig sa painting and to do psychic readings. Masayahin and optimistic in life."

How does she find Maine as an actress? "When we did our first scene together, I felt na ninenerbiyas siya so I told her to relax. Sabi ko, the more that you stress yourself, the more you can not deliver well. Being a new actress, wala pa siyang preconceived notions about technique so raw pa siya, basta kung ano yung dumarating, kung ano yung lumalabas from her, natural lang, which is good. And when it comes to doing comedy, she has good timing. It's a good gift and she has that."

Before this, she supported the DanRich love-team playing the mom of Erich Gonzales in "Be My Lady". This is the reason why she was shocked when she learned that Erich broke up with Daniel Matsunaga. "Nagulat talaga ako kasi ang tagal naming magkakasama while taping the show on location in Pampanga. I really thought, sila na ang magkakatuluyan. But such is life, di mo talaga alam what will happen."

## Heart Evangelista, ready na ba maging mommy this year?

Sa kanyang interview with the media during the unveiling of Pond's Beauty Council, naikuwento ni Heart ang family plans niya this year.

Aniya, "I think everything has to be perfect, especially [having] children."

Ano naman ang mga nagbago sa buhay niya ngayong taon?

Ika niya, "Being married is change. It changes your life, and being a mom eventually will differently change me."

Are they already planning to start a family?

Heart confirms, "This year."

Next year naman ay balak niya ulit mag-open ng art exhibit.

Very happy din si Heart sa bagong group ng Pond's Beauty Council this year. They are Toni Gonzaga for Pond's Age Miracle, Joey Mead-King for Pond's Age Miracle, Kathryn Bernardo for Pond's White Beauty, and Sofia Andres for Pond's Acne Clear.

Ani ni Heart, I'm so happy, I love [that they have] different personalities [that] different people can relate to.



## 3 OF 5 Duterte remarks 'foolishness'



MANILA - Listen to us more, not to the President.

That's practically the advice of presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella to journalists covering President Duterte, who had told reporters that three of every five statements he had made publicly were just wisecracks.

Abella himself, however, seemed to doubt the President's remarks, many of which had stirred up controversies and drawn condemnation from local and international groups.

During a regular news briefing in Malacañang on Thursday, Abella noted that Mr. Duterte "is very serious," although he "can be

quite humorous."

### 'Listen to us'

"Listen to [us during our] press conferences," he said after being asked how to determine if the President was serious or just joking.

Pressed to explain, Abella replied: "Well, technically, what we do emphasize in the press conferences are vetted and properly vetted."

He added: "I'm not saying [the President's statements are] not properly vetted. I'm simply saying that at this stage, when we say it, it simply means to say we have gone through the process of discerning whether it was a joke or not.

"When there's a particular statement that needs to be, for example, if it tends to be a policy... it would be underlined during the press conferences."

Addressing employees of the Bureau of Customs on Wednesday, Mr. Duterte said reporters were "not really attuned to my character."

"Of the five things I say, only two of those

are true. The three others are just foolishness," he said. "And so I'm just fond of doing it. I just want to laugh... at the expense also of myself sometimes."

### Very consistent?

Abella stressed that the President was "very consistent in his statements."

But a review of Mr. Duterte's speeches showed that he had flip-flopped on several major policy statements.

For one, Mr. Duterte once said the Abu Sanyaf bandits were not criminals but just "driven to desperation" because of the government's "failed promises."

Later he took his statement back, even warning he would eat the bandits alive if they continued kidnapping people and setting off bombs in Mindanao.

Mr. Duterte had also said he was willing to be killed if he failed to deliver on his campaign promise of stamping out illegal drugs within the first six months of his presidency, or until last December.

## JEEPNEYS TO STAY

MANILA -TINIYAK ng Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) na mananatili ang jeepney taliwas sa haka-haka na magkakaroon ng phase out sa tinaguriang King of the Road na "Jeepney."

Inamin ng ahensiya may maraming pagbabago ng disenyo pero ang jeepney ay hindi mawawala tulad ng bus, taxi, at iba pang public utility vehicle.

Ayon sa LTFRB, sinimulan na ulit ng Department of Transportation (DoTr) ang pag-aaral kung paano ang jeepney sector ay mabigyan ng tulong-pinansyal para makasabay sa modernization program ang mga operator ng kanilang mga jeepney.

Ayon sa LTFRB, anumang alternative vehicle na hindi gagamit ng diesel o gasoline at langis ay suportado ng agency bilang bahagi ng modernization program ng DoTr at LTFRB.

Ilan sa mga alternative fuel na itinutulak



at pinapayagan ng ahensiya ay tulad ng paggamit ng Solar Electric Jeepney, o kaya ang paggamit ng bio ethanol.

Ayon sa ahensiya, non-pollutant at convenient ito sa mga pasahero dahil ito'y air-conditioned, at sa mga design ng mga bagong

jeepney at 20-seater kung kaya makakatulong sa pagbawas ng problema sa traffic.

Suportado ng major transport groups ang programa ayon sa mga specification na ibinigay ng DoTr at LTFRB.





ABOVE LEFT, Philip and Maritess Beloso, and Mel Galeon pose with singer Martha Joy at her concert. ABOVE, Belinda Reyes (3rd from left) and company pose with Martha Joy. LEFT, Jun Villaruz (2nd from left) and Roy Start (2nd from right) pose with singers Martha Joy and Elaine Virola.

## Denise Barbacena, tinig sa likod ng theme song ng 'Destined To Be Yours'

Si Kapuso singer and actress Denise Barbacena ang napiling umawit sa theme song ng isa sa mga pinakaaabangang serye ng taon na Destined To Be Yours.

Ang titulo ng kanta ay Tadhana, at ito ang official soundtrack ng unang teleseryeng pagbibidahan nina Alden Richards at Maine Mendoza.

"Thank you GMAAC (GMA Artist Center) family, Destined To Be Yours team for gracing me the opportunity to

give life to this beautiful song. A humbling experience," sulat niya sa kanyang Instagram account.

Matatandaang si Denise ang gumap sa Bubble Gang bilang Yaya Bad, spoof sa Kalyeserye character ni Maine na si Yaya Dub.

Katambal niya dito si Juancho Trivino, na bahagi na rin ngayon ng Destined TO Be Yours, bilang Albert—spoof naman ng karakter ni Alden.

Tutok lang sa GMA Network at GMANetwork.com dahil malapit nang lumabas ang official music video ng awit na Tadhana.

Samantala, pakinggan muna ang kanta ni Denise sa eksklusibong OST video na makikita sa DestinedToBeYours.com.ph.



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GMA7 contract talent Shanaia RG poses with Star Struck star Klea Pineda.

## Klea Pineda: Light and Clear

For Starstruck Season VI Ultimate Female Survivor Klea Pineda, the future is light and clear.

Klea's dreams are clear to her, so she keeps pushing herself to achieve them.

"Hindi ako tumitigil hangga't hindi ko ito nakukuha," she says. That's what happened when she joined Starstruck VI. Inspired by TV and movie personalities, Klea told herself that she wants to be known by many people and see herself on television and billboards. She auditioned just like everyone else. She prayed hard to get in. And when she did, she gave her all.

"I think nanalo ako dahil nakita ng StarStruck kung gaano ako kaseryoso and determined sa craft ko. Kung ano yung mga levels na pinaghirapan ko at yung pagiging determinado ko sa ginagawa ko. Dapat may goal ka na aabutin, naka-mindset, just trust yourself," shares Klea, who also won at a pageant in District 5, Quezon City.

Though busy with tapings for Encantandia on GMA as well as guest appearances, Klea continues her studies, saying, "Even though I'm in show business, I still want to go to school." She wants to have her own business like restaurants someday and also join the Miss Universe.

"Okay din kahit na ano pang beauty pageants. Gusto ko makoronahan at ma-represent ang Philippines sa iba't ibang countries," adds Klea.

Klea has her love life in the backseat for now, as she focuses on her career. She maintains her bonding moments with friends. She also visits the Monasterio de Sta. Clara in Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City with her family to wish and pray.

Klea also goes to the gym thrice a week to maintain her fitness. She eats less rice, less sweets, and less carbs. To relax, Klea goes shopping.

Klea is just beginning her career in showbiz. So far, she has learned to be confident and strong despite the challenges in the industry. In life, she just goes with the flow.

"Sumabay ka lang sa alon ng buhay kasi sa dulo for sure may magandang nag-aabang para sa 'yo,'" ends Klea.

## Catching up with Christian

Balladeer Christian Bautista is not yet planning on marrying non-showbiz girlfriend Kat Ramnani, deeming the matter something farthest from his mind at the moment.

In fact, he and Kat don't even talk about it. (Tayo na lang mag-usap bro!)

"Sabi ko dati, 30 years old mag-aasawa na ako. Eh 35 na ako ngayon. (laughs) So I don't know. I really don't know. If the time comes I'll let you know," Christian said. (Di kita papayagan, chos!)

That's not to say he doesn't love Kat.

"Makikita niyo naman 'yan," he said. "Nasa Instagram naman namin yan. We are more than a year now." (Isama mo naman ako sa IG mo bro!)

The multi-awarded performer is busy with his international singing career. He currently enjoys a wide fan base in Indonesia. (Taray! Ako nga kahit si Aling Dionesia di ako knows!)

"I really enjoy going to Indonesia, singing for them. It's because of 'The Way You Look At Me' talaga. Mga 10 years ago doon in-invite nila ako to sing. Parang si Sir Jose Mari Chan, hanggang ngayon ini-ininvite pa rin du'n dahil sa 'Beautiful Girl.'" Christian shared. (Pa-ininvite mo rin ako!)

He admires Indonesian music. (Sana ako mahal mo na ko bro!)

"When you listen to their music, ang ganda ng melodies. Maraming rock and then marami sila, 200 million ang population. Meron silang niche in music. Meron silang Java Jazz festival, merong jazz, R&B. Meron pa rin 'yung old folk songs. Hanggang ngayon very expansive ang music nila."

His experiences in Indonesia inspire him to become a better OPM artist. (Ikaw ang nag-i-inspire sa'kin bro!)

"It's a challenge 'di ba? Na kami as artists dapat mag-produce kami ng world-class OPM songs talaga. Kahit pa sabihin ng iba na 'Hoy, support n'yo OPM,' kung hindi



naman maganda ang nilalabas, 'di rin masusuportahan. I believe na talaga dapat laging world class ang nilalabas natin," Christian explained. (Ako ata wa-class!)

Christian has been expanding his horizons in the acting department. He has appeared on several TV and movie projects. He is currently part of Jennylyn Mercado's GMA series "My Love From The Stars."

"Number one pa rin sa puso ko ang singing pero I also love acting kasi nag musical theater

na din ako. Iba nga lang itong TV acting. I always say I'm still a work in progress." (Sana may progress sa ating dalawa, bro!)

Christian was all out when he visited my radio show to take part in the "Ibulong Mo Fu" segment. He chose Anne Curtis, Megan Young and Solenn Heussaff to be part of his list. Here's an excerpt:

MF: Sino sa kanilang tatlo ang pinakamagaling sa... (bulong part)?

CB: Grabe naman 'yan... sige si Anne.

MF: Na-try mo na si Anne d'yan?

CB: Ay oo. Na-try ko na.

MF: Magaling ba naman si Anne?

CB: Magaling... Magaling!

MF: Kelan n'yo ginawa?

CB: Matagal na. Years ago.

MF: Saan n'yo ginawa?

CB: Sa Davao ata 'yun... (laughs)

MF: In-expect mo na magaling s'ya?

CB: Hin... ay, oo! Sanay na sanay na s'ya dun... (Laughs)

MF: Nu'ng ginawa n'yo 'yun. Tinuruan ka ba n'ya o ikaw ang nagturo?

CB: Honestly, tinuruan n'ya ako.

MF: Sa tingin mo, kaya s'ya papakasalan ni Erwan kasi magaling s'ya du'n?

CB: I think so... yes. Erwan ko!!! (laughs)

MF: If bibigyan ka ng chance, uulitin mo ba na gawin 'yun ulit with her?

CB: Oo naman. Anytime.

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# 'Baes' of 'Eat Bulaga' wants to be role models

No doubt about it: the "baes" of Eat Bulaga are fast becoming regular fixtures on local television. Apart from their regular appearances on the GMA-7 noontime variety show, their teen-oriented show Trops continues to dominate the ratings in its timeslot months after its premiere in October last year. Collectively, the "baes" now have over a million followers on Instagram.

The Baes (as they are officially known now) — composed of Kenneth Medrano, Miggy Tolentino, Joel Palencia, Tommy Peñaflor, Jon Timmons, and Kim Last — were once just known as back-up dancers in the noontime show. Now, they are making their mark in showbiz as a boy group and as individual artists. They are clearly living their showbiz dreams.

But for the Baes, showbiz is not just about popularity. Their main goal is to become the new role models of the youth.

"We owe it to those who supported us from the start to be the best that we can be," said Kim, who admits that acting on television has been his dream since he was a child. "Ever since I could speak, I've known I wanted to be an actor. Masaya na ako. I achieved the point wherein I'm happy. Masaya ako dito."

He added, "I am living my dream, so I feel—the whole group feels—that we have to give back."

Wanting to be role models isn't just lip service. Their showbiz success is proof in itself that they are worthy to be emulated by the today's youth.

Kenneth, the Cebuano grand winner of Eat Bulaga's "That's My Bae" in 2015, also wanted to be part of showbiz ever since he was young. But despite having classic Pinoy movie star good looks, entering the industry was not easy for him. Since he was based in Cebu, showbiz opportunities didn't come easy for Kenneth. Moving to Manila to fulfill his dream — and to eventually help out his family, particularly his mother — was a gamble that he did not know would pay off. "Lahat naman ito, ginagawa naming para sa pamilya namin," he said. "Minsan mahirap. Minsan wala na kaming tulog dahil sa trabaho. Pero pamilya naming ang motivation namin."

He added, "Akala ng marami, gimikero



From left: Kim Last, Joel Palencia, Kenneth Medrano, Miggy Tolentino, Tommy Peñaflor, and John Timmons

kami. Ang hindi nila alam, kapag may free time kami, we make sure na we spend it with our family."

Just like Kenneth, Miggy is a simple teen "na patambay-tambay lang sa labas ng bahay kasama ng mga kaibigan ko" before got into showbiz. Despite going to several auditions prior to becoming part of Eat Bulaga's "That My Bae" contest, he admitted feeling like that's all he could ever do — join auditions.

## The Baes know that there is more to showbiz than just a contest of popularity.

Even when he was already in Eat Bulaga prior to the premiere of Trops, Miggy admitted feeling defeated since, unlike fellow Baes Kenneth, Jon and Kim, he wasn't doing anymore than appear on the noontime show.

"Meron time na gusto ko na mag-quit," he shared. "Ang hinihiling lang naming dati, magkaroon ng show na mag-extra kaming anim na magkakasama. Naisip ko, balik na lang ako sa bahay namin. Mag-stay na lang ako sa dati kong buhay, mag-quit na lang kami."

But his fellow Bae Tommy, a call center agent before joining showbiz, encouraged him to keep pushing forward. Their dream, after all, is no longer just for themselves, Tommy explained — it is also for their family, loved ones, and supporters who have been behind

them since day one. "Yung mga tagumpay namin, yung mga achievements namin, para yun sa lahat ng naniwala sa amin."

Clearly, they've gone a long way since then. "Before, when people would see us in public, they would say, 'Uy, si Twerk It Like Miley,'" said Kim, referring to the dance song their group was initially

known. "Now they would say, 'Uy, si Trops.'"

This also means, as role models, that they share what they have learned from their experience in showbiz. One of the most important lessons they've learned recently, Joel said, is from Trops co-star Irma Adlawan. From the veteran actress, the Baes learned that there is no point in resting on their laurels. "Sabi ni tita Irma, 'Mga anak, huwag ninyong iisipin na lagi kayong magaling. Ganun ako,

Kasi kung magaling ka, wala ka nang patutunguhan. Pero kung iniisip ko na hindi ako magaling, marami akong natutunan, marami pa akong mapupuntahan," he said.

Of course, as one of today's most popular boy groups, competition can't be avoided. But the Baes know that there is more to showbiz than just a contest of popularity.

As role models, the Baes know that despite their current success, they have to keep working hard. "Di ba may mga group na until now kilala pa rin kahit wala na sila. People would say na magaling yung mga members ng Sex Bomb Dancers or Streetboys. We want to people to say someday na, 'That's My Bae yan, magaling yan,'" Kenneth said.

Kim added, "Sana we get to leave a mark, hindi yung isang bagsak lang, tapos wala na. We're here for the long haul. We're here to stay."



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## Why Regine set her Twitter account private

They're not bound by blood yet Regine Velasquez-Alcasid has a special relationship with stepdaughter Leila Alcasid.

Leila is the daughter of Regine's husband, Ogie Alcasid, with former wife Michelle Van Eimeren. Like Ogie, Michelle has remarried and both families are close even going on vacations together.

When Leila was bashed online recently, Regine defended her then set her Twitter account to private. Here's the background:

Leila moved to Manila last month and, according to Regine, has become close with her son, Nate.

"She plays with him. Minsan si Nate pupunta lang siya sa room ng ate niya and kukulitin niya. She doesn't seem to mind. She thinks he's the most adorable, beautiful kid ever," she said.

Leila, who is open to trying showbiz, received mixed reactions from some netizens after posting on Snapchat a photo of her with Regine, which she captioned "PA for the day."

One netizen accused Leila of taking advantage of Regine's kindness.

Regine clarified the word "PA" came from her and it was meant to be a "joke."

"Grabe ka naman magsalita. Hindi mo ba alam na nasasaktan ako?? Hindi niya ako tinawag na PA sa'kin galing 'yun," Regine told the netizen.

She added, "It's our little joke. Akala ko ba supporters ko kayo pero ang tagal niyo na ako pinaiiyak."

"I'm hurting. So sorry my sweetheart @

leilalalcasid I love you so much," Regine tweeted Leila.

In response, Leila told Regine, "No need, your kindness and generosity will never be underestimated by me. Love you so much."

Regine then asked the netizen and other bashers to refrain from judging her family.

"Ang asawa ko never ako pinaiiyak pero kayo... please stop hurting and saying bad things about my family you guys are hurting me," she tweeted.

"Parang ayoko na mag-Twitter sama lang ng loob nakukuha ko dito. But still God bless pa rin sa inyo," she added.

She has since set her Twitter account to private. Regine has at least two million followers.

Holding all the aces

With three shows on GMA under her belt, namely "Mulawin Vs. Ravena," "Sarap Diva" and "Full House Tonight," Regine is certainly one of the busiest stars of that network.

She's not complaining, no.

"Wala namang problema sa akin 'yun, basta mahalaga may time pa din ako sa pamilya ko," she said.

"Tsaka alternate naman sila. We tape 'Sarap Diva' and 'Full House Tonight' twice a month. So the rest of the days for 'Mulawin' naman," she explained. "Ang maganda sa 'Mulawin' hindi sa akin naka-focus ang story, so medyo magaan 'yung workload ko."

"Full House Tonight" puts a twist on the usual comedy show with musical performances, riotous

**REGINE**  
continued on page 26





## LJ pleases viewers by being 'bad'

LJ Reyes says she loves playing bida-kontrabida roles like her character, Angelie, in "Pinulot Ka Lang sa Lupa", who oppresses Julie Anne San Jose as Santina.

"Mas masarap paglaruan 'yung mga character na hindi mabait, pero hindi rin naman salbahe kundi parang normal na tao lang," she says. "The show is exciting to watch kasi marami kaming mga eksena ng sampalan ni Julie Anne sa story na talagang aabangan ng mga tao."

Such scenes are surefire winners in local soaps and the reason why "Sa Piling Ni Nanay" clicked with audiences is because of the countless catfights between Yasmien Kurdi and Katrina Halili. Now, it is the turn of LJ and Julie Anne to be always fighting in front of the camera to please viewers who like to watch the characters they see on screen always physically hurting each other in endless slapping and hair-pulling scenes.

"Hindi naman basta walang wawa ang confrontations and encounters namin dito," adds LJ. "May pinanggagalingan ang behavior ng bawat character. Pareho-pareho kaming may back stories. Kamukha namin ni Julie Anne, magkababata kami rito kaya malalim ang pinag-uugatan ng aming personal conflict. Ipinaliwanag sa aming

mabuti ni Direk Gina Alajar kung bakit nagkaganoon sila kaya mas makikilalang mabuti at maiintindihan ng audience ang bawat character. At mas masarap ring gampanan ang isang character kung alam mong mabuti ang background at pinanggagalingan nito."

"Pinulot Ka Lang sa Lupa" also stars Benjamin Alves, Martin del Rosario, Jean Garcia, Ara Mina, Victor Neri and Allan Paule. It will start airing this coming Monday afternoon right after "Hahamakin ang Lahat".

## Asawa ni Alfred Vargas, "naaliw" nang makumpara kay Marian Rivera

Napansin ng mga netizens ang pagkakahawig ng asawa ni Encantadia star Alfred Vargas na si Yasmien at ang Kapuso Primetime Queen na si Marian



Rivera.

Isang sweet photo ang pinost ng aktor sa social media at maraming nag-akala na ang kasama niyang tisyay na babae ay ang kapwa niya Kapuso star, ang Primetime Queen.

Bumisita ang Kapuso hunk sa Unang Hirit at sinabing "very flattered" umano ang kanyang misis sa natatanggap na mga komento.

Kuwento ni Alfred, "Di ba kung magkakaroon ka lang din naman ng kamukha, si Marian pa, edi she's very flattered. Maraming nag-greet sa kanya and na-appreciate naman niya, lalo na sa social media accounts. Aliw din siya."

Kung si Marian ay half Spanish, si Yasmien naman ay "half Italian and half Filipina" na nagtapos ng Fine Arts sa Milan, Italy.

Sa katunayan, noong 2009 pa nagkakilala ang sinasabing magkamukha. Ayon sa aktor, "Nagkita na sila before kasi kasama din ako sa Darna before tapos girlfriend ko pa lang si Yasmien."

Malapit rin ang Pamilya Vargas sa DongYan, "Actually, si Marian [ay] kumare namin, [sila] Marian and Dingdong [Dantes] sa panganay naming anak."

## Dingdong ready to become babysitter + other stories



DINGDONG Dantes' hit action-drama on GMA Telebabad, "Alyas Robin Hood", is on its last three weeks. But even before that ends, he's already starting a new show, "Case Solved", that starts airing on February 18 right after "Eat Bulaga" on Saturday afternoon.

"The two shows will overlap but after 'Alyas Robin Hood' ends, mas maluwag na ang schedule ko," he says. "Which is good dahil my wife naman (Marian Rivera) will start taping for her new soap, so ako naman ang maiiwan sa bahay to take care of our baby daughter Zia."

What's the challenge of hosting a show like "Case Solved" for him? "I've done hosting before, in 'Starstruck', but never like this kasi seryoso ito. I'm really excited as the cases we'll feature are based on real life stories that have already been resolved by the Supreme Court, handled by the NBI, PNP, Interpol, the Department of Justice and Bureau of Corrections. It explains how crimes are solved, so very educational and informative as it will also enlighten viewers on how to prevent and avoid crimes, predicting it before it happens."

Each docu-drama, with Nini Matilac as program manager and Ramon Bravante as executive producer, will feature actual interviews with the victims, their families, the law enforcers who got involved in the crime and even show re-enactments of what really happened.

"The first case we'll show is the Vallejo case where the only child of a couple was raped and killed. This is a landmark case as it's the first case allowed by the courts where the DNA evidence is accepted to convict a criminal. We'll show the origins of the case and how it was resolved. It will also tell you kung kanino ka puwedeng lumapit in your quest for justice. In the end, nanaig ang hustisya and, hopefully, it will help revive the trust of the public in our justice system. Kung 'yung character kong si Pepe, tumutulong para makamit ng mga naaapi ang katarungan in 'Alyas Robin Hood', dito naman sa 'Case Solved', we will help people be empowered sa totoong buhay kasi we'll also feature stories like networking scams and how people can avoid this."

## Jen nearly quit showbiz

Walang nakakaalam na muntik na palang mag-quit sa showbiz si Jennilyn Mercado noong kapapanaganak pa lang niya kay Alex Jazz at plinano niyang magtrabaho na lang sa USA.

Ito ang ini-reveal ng isa sa managers ni Jen na si Katrina Aguila sa kanyang latest released video on her YouTube Channel.

Ayon sa kwento ni Katrina sa kanyang video blog, matapos manganak si Jen, talagang nahirapan sila ng mom niyang si Becky Aguila na ikuha ng projects si Jen. "She (Jen) met a lady who promised her work to the States. Even if Jazz was a few months old, she left him to provide for her family. Eh, kaso, naloko siya."

"That's why my mom flew all the way to the States, to San Jose to rescue her," kwento ni Kat.

May mga tumulong din daw na mga kaibigan ng mama niya tulad ni Ray Santos na ipinakilala siya sa dalawang kaibigan na siyang nag-offer ng matutuluyan kay Jen.

"Jen stayed there for a month. She was at her loneliest since hindi niya kasama si Jazz. According to Eric and Michelle (mga kaibigang tinuluyan ni Jen), she was a different person back then kaya we all decided for her to return to the Philippines and then try her luck in showbiz again," kwento pa ni Kat sa video.

At nakabalik nga ng bonggang-bongga si Jen at ngayon ay natupad na ang mga pangarap.

"She is the Ultimate Star because aside from her success as an artist, pinatunayan niyang anything is possible and bilog ang mundo. Lahat tayo may ups and downs kaya kailangan nating lumaban to achieve our dreams," sey pa ni Kat.

Indeed, Jen's success story is an inspiration to others especially sa mga dumanas na ng mga pag-subok sa buhay.

Samantala, sa nasabing video ni Katrina na may titulong "Hanging out with Jennilyn Mercado and Dennis Trillo" ay makikita ring kasama niya ang rumored couple na nag-ikot at nag-shopping sa Los Angeles, California, USA. Kasama rin nila ang twin sister ni Kat na si Bianca who did the narration sa video.

Matatandaang nagpunta sina Jen and Dennis sa USA kamakailan para sa isang Kapuso show at isinabay na nga nila ang pamamasyal na mapapanood sa video ni Kat.



## Setting the stage for more adult portrayals

By: Nestor U. Torre - @inquirerdotnetPhilippine Daily Inquirer / 12:02 AM February 06, 2017

James Reid and Nadine Lustre  
James Reid and Nadine Lustre

Last Jan. 20, we caught the final telecast of the JaDine rom-com, "Till I Met You," to see how it would conclude its storytelling. In the course of its long run, the drama occasionally ruffled some feathers in its bid to push the envelope and go for "out-of-the-box" plot and character development.

Its third stellar character, played by JC Santos, was soon revealed to be gay, and a love scene involving Nadine Lustre and James Reid "disturbed" some viewers with its "more graphic than usual" depiction of young love and passion.

Would the finale similarly dare to be different and perhaps downbeat, or would the series' young married couple still end up in each other's loving and forgiving arms?

At first, as the final telecast unfolded, it looked like the regulation Happy Ending might not take place. After all, the show's male protagonist was (mistakenly) thought to have fallen for the seductive wiles of another woman, breaking Nadine's already wounded heart. So, when she opted to win it all, who could blame her?

Happily, however, before the couple's fate was permanently sealed, it was revealed that the seduction had been staged and faked, so the dismal denouement could be averted.

Unfortunately, James was already about to fly out of Nadine's life for keeps—so, there was



nothing to be done!

Or, was there? Nadine refused to accept her fate, and rushed to the airport to prevent James from leaving. But, she got there too late, his flight had already taken off, so Nadine couldn't do anything but indulge in a big emotional

breakdown.

But, hold your horses, all was definitely not lost: After she had gotten a grip on her tear ducts, Nadine discovered, to her and the show's viewers' relief and delight, that James had not flown away, and was in fact waiting for his bruised but still loving beloved to show up—and forgive him (for a sin he didn't in fact

commit)!

So, the JaDine drama series decided to end predictably, happily and on the side of the angels, after all.

The decision to finally play it safe dulled the show's resolve to be edgy and different—but, its two leads still benefited from the "more adult" thespic showcase that it provided.

Newcomer Santos similarly gained from the stellar exposure, despite the fact that, toward the end, the series' storytelling relatively left his character in the lurch, as it chose to focus on the JaDine love team and the female interloper.

All told, therefore, "Till I Met You" was a good move for the JaDine love team's career arc, making it easier for the two stars to soon "graduate" to young-adult roles, plots and themes.

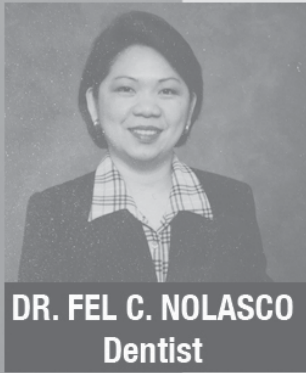
Since TV is limited in what it's allowed to show, the big, definitive move to more mature performances will most likely have to happen on the movie screen—perhaps, as early as 2018?



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## Miguel clarifies issue about Bianca and Jak

Miguel Tanfelix admits he felt jealous when his ka-love team, the very pretty Bianca Umali, was linked to the hunky Jak Roberto of "Meant to Be". "Siyempre, normal lang naman para sa isang lalaki ang magseelos, 'di ba?" he says. "Kahit hindi pa kami ni Bianca, alam naman ng lahat na magka-love team kami so kahit paano, nagselos din ako. Pero natawa rin ako kasi may sumulat pang nag-break na raw kami ni Bianca dahil kay Jak, which is not true. Paano kami magbi-break, hindi pa nga nagiging talagang kami? Pero nilinaw na naman ni Jak na naging magkalapit lang sila bilang barkada, kasama pa ang ibang GMA Artist Center talents na nakakasama nila sa GMA work-shops, na hindi ko naman nadadaluhan kasi, kapag walang taping, busy ako sa aking college studies."

He's glad to be reunited with Bianca in "Full House Tonight" that now airs every Saturday night after "Magpakailanman". "Enjoy kami kasi we are working with great comedians kaya masaya talaga kami lagi sa taping. Also, we get the chance to work with Ms. Regine Velasquez as the main host and we're learning a lot from her. Hindi lang siya magaling na singer kundi magaling ding magpatawa. We're all happy kasi mataas ang rating ng pilot telecast namin last Saturday at puro positive din ang feedback from satisfied viewers."

We heard he and Bianca will also be together in the cast of the coming primetime show, "Mulawin vs. Ravena". "Wala pa pong official confirmation from GMA management, tungkol diyan. Mga naririnig-rinig pa lang pa. Pero we're hoping sana nga, totoo. Ako, part ng unang 'Mulawin' as Pagaspas. So it will be really nice kung makakasama uli ako sa remake."



## Andrea Torres, feels separation anxiety from role in 'Alyas Robin Hood'

Sa lahat daw ng roles na ginampanan ni Andrea Torres sa kanyang showbiz career, ang fierce, sexy at feisty na si Venus ng Alyas Robin Hood ang kanyang paborito.

"Ito 'yung pinaka-favorite ko actually, sa lahat nang nagawa ko. Surprisingly, kasi akala ko parang hindi ko siya mapu-pull off. Dito ako pinakaalangan. Ang sarap pala niyang gawin, ang sarap pala ng gray character," paliwanag ni Andrea kay Aubrey Carampel ng 24 Oras.

Samantala, ibinahagi naman ni Direk Dominic Zapata na lalo nilang pagagandahin ang natitirang episodes ng Alyas Robin Hood.

"Will Robin Hood continue to be Robin Hood? Sino gusto niya, kanino siya mapupunta, kay Sarri o kay Venus?"

Dagdag pa niya, "The secret behind it was it was very timely, 'yung vigilantism and society right now. We drew a lot of our sub-plots from stuff that you see on the news."



## Benjamin Alves, nagseselos kay Martin del Rosario dahil kay Julie Anne San Jose?

Mas titindi ang pagtutunggali ng kababata at malapit na kaibigan ni Santina na sina Ephraim at Kiko.

Unti-unti nang nahuhulog ang loob ni Ephraim, ang karakter ni Kapuso star Benjamin Alves sa kanyang kababata na si Santina sa katauhan ni Asia's Pop Sweetheart Julie Anne San Jose. Hindi papayag dito ang Kapuso actor na si Martin del Rosario bilang Kiko dahil ipaglalaban din niya ang kanyang pagmamahal sa dalaga.

Mula sa kanilang pinagbibidhang GMA Afternoon Prime soap na Pinulot Ka Lang sa Lupa, umabot na sa social media ang pagseselos ng aktor sa kanyang co-star. Nahuli rin kasi ni Benjamin na kayakap rin ng kanyang leading lady ang kapwa nilang Kapuso star.



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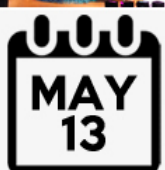
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## Yasmien stays as Kapuso

+ other stories



Yasmien Kurdi is happy that she renewed her contract with GMA 7.

Asked about her new contract, the original StarStruck First Princess couldn't divulge its exact duration.

"All I can say is its quite long. It's enough to give me all the opportunities to explore my artistic gifts, not just acting.

As one of the most loyal Kapuso talents, Yasmien has been with the network since 2004. She did lots of hit soaps until she slowed down when she became a homemaker to husband Rey Soldevilla, a pilot and daughter Ayesa.

"I don't have any regret when I took a furlough from the showbiz scene during that time. I have a wonderful family. Honestly, if you'll ask me now, I'm already content with what I have. I can't ask for more. It's a huge bonus that I'm able to continue my showbiz career while I tend to my family life. And I'm thankful to GMA for their continued trust in me."

It can be remembered that her comeback project Yagitwas a surprise chart-topper and so was her follow-up vehicle Sa Piling ni Nanay with Mark Herras, Katrina Halili, Jillian War, Gabby Eigenmann, and Nova Villa.

"I'm glad that the viewing public patronized said programs. My next soap is now being prepared. In the meantime, I will guest in one currently airing soap, which I can't mention. My character will be introduced soon so better watch out guys!"

At this point when it seems that everything has fallen into its proper place in her life, what are the things that she still wishes to attain?

"Personally, I want to enter the beauty business, study make-up and try culinary. When it comes to my showbiz career, how I wish I'll be able to do a variety of roles in the coming days to develop my versatility. You know, I plan to stay long in the business, be a respected and critically-acclaimed actress in the mold of Ms.

Gloria Romero," ends Yasmien.

### Angelica-John Lloyd reconciled?

JOHN Lloyd Cruz and Angelica Panganiban are rumored to have quietly reconciled but some wags insist that they're just keeping it a secret. "Ayaw pa lang umamin," someone insists.

We saw them standing next to each other during the Star Magic Anniversary affair and Lloydie hinted during the Q&A that questions should just focus on Star Magic as they won't entertain personal ones. Honestly, though, judging from their actions, we think that they're

now really just friends, lovers no more. There's no iota of sweetness you can detect that can be noticeable in those who are in a romantic relationship.

They were later spotted together making a public appearance at the art fair in Makati. Again, they were just more friendly to one another and it looks like they've really moved on after their breakup as there's no awkwardness between them at all.

Angelica was quoted then saying that despite their separation, they have maintained their friendship. "Proud kami na kahit mahirap at may struggle noong umpisa, we were able to maintain our friendship," she said. "Kung nagmahalan kayo dati, bakit naman kailangang mauwi sa away? Ang mahalaga masaya ako ngayon at masaya rin siya."

By next month, they would have been separated from each other for a year now, since they broke up in March last year. Maybe we should just be happy that they didn't end up being bitter with each other. Besides, their respective careers are not adversely affected by their breakup.

Angelica just had a mega hit movie, "The Unmarried Wife", while John Lloyd just celebrated the third anniversary of his hit sitcom, "Home Sweetie Home", and is now all set to start a new movie, "Dear Future Husband", with Sarah Geronimo.

### Kris, Wala pa ring Gustong Kumuha

Floating ang status ng Queen of All Media na si Kris Aquino pagdating sa muling pagkakaroon nito ng bagong TV show.

Wala umanong plano na kunin ang serbisyo ng ina nina Joshua at Bimby ng Kapamilya at Kapuso Network at mukhang tahimik din ang TV network ni G. Manny Pangilinan, ang TV5, maging ang government station na PTV4.

Kung gugustuhin ni Kris, bukas ang GMA News TV ng co-production o blocktime.

Worried na ang mga taga-hanga ng dating presidential daughter and sister dahil mag-iisang taon na itong hindi napapanood sa isang TV show matapos siyang magpaalam sa ABS-CBN para sa kanyang "Kris TV" due to health reasons.



Nang gusto nang bumalik ni Kris sa Kapamilya Network, wala nang bakanteng time slot dahil naibigay na ito sa "Magandang Buhay" morning talk show nina Karla Estrada, Jolina Magdangal at Melai Cantiveros na nagri-rate at hindi marahil kasing laki ng production cost ng dating "Kris TV" ni Kris.

Ang isang option ni Kris ay ang CNN Philippines (dating RPN-9).

Kung dati-rati'y pinag-aagawan si Kris, ngayon naman ay halos wala siyang takers.

How sad!

Gayunman, hindi problema ang pera kay Kris dahil kahit hindi siya magtrabaho ay kaya pa rin niyang mamuhay nang marangya with her millions of income mula sa kanyang mga product endorsements at mga negosyo. Labas pa rito ang mga minana niya sa kanyang namayapang mga magulang na sina dating Sen. Benigno Aquino at dating Pangulong Corazon Aquino.

### LEILA BENT ON JOINING SHOWBIZ

OTHER special guests in the Valentine concert, "#HugotPlaylist" are Erik Santos and Ogie's eldest daughter, Leila Alcasid, who intends to join showbiz and has quickly gained thousands of followers in social media. Some writers cracked that Ogie is now officially a stage father while his wife Regine Velasquez is the stage stepmother.



"Yes, I manage my daughter, as of now, but we will get a co-manager for her para tulungan ako," he says. "As of now, dahil nagsisimula pa lang siya sa showbiz, I try to help her make a good start. Tinuturuan ko rin siya how to perform on a concert stage. Kumukuha rin siya ngayon ng Tagalog lessons kasi hindi siya marunong ng wika natin. But ang advice ko sa kanya is to just enjoy things, enjoy herself at huwag masyadong i-pressure ang sarili niya. At habang hindi pa siya busy, she's being a good Ate to her brother Nate. Hinahatid at sinusundo niya ito sa school."

### Acting her age

Janine Gutierrez is all grown up and ready to flaunt it

While many people find it flattering to be mistaken as someone younger than they really are, it is the exact opposite for Janine Gutierrez.

The actress admitted she finds it somewhat unnerving that some think she is just out of her teens.

"Parati kasing ganu'n at nasa-shock sila to know my real age na para bang itinatago ko pa," shared the 27-year old in a recent interview.

It didn't help, of course, that for so long, her home network, GMA, has been casting her in roles that seemingly belie her age. Though she is thankful the series of shows she has done, Janine thinks it is high time she reinvents her public image.

"I think I have outgrown na 'yung mga pa-sweet, quiet type na heroine," she said.

### New show

Janine is set to star in "Legally Blind," a new series which she describes as removed from her usual outing. "It's very exciting 'cause it really different from my past projects," she said. Asked if she's worried she might lose some of her younger fan base along the way, she said, "Hindi naman. Though I really hope makasabay sila kasi I feel like I really need to grow naman as an artist."

"I cannot just keep on doing the same old roles," she added. "There comes a time when you have to go through changes in your career and that is where I am right now."

### Flaunting it

Part of the change is Janine agreeing to sign up as oil brand Petron's Calendar Girl this year. She admitted the move is deliberate and part of her management's plan to widen her market. "Not a lot of people know that I'm also sporty or that I'm really into cars. So, me and my management team thought it would be appropriate to do this project." Apparently, from an early age, Janine has always been into cars and car racing. She was "weaned" on it by her dad, actor and car racing enthusiast, Ramon Christopher. On her calendar spread, Janine admitted it might appear too racy for some but she assured, "Very artistically done naman itong mga ito. It's not as if naman I went all out na (I wore) sobrang skimpy bikini and all for it. Medyo sexy lang."

But does it mean she is ready to accept, err, bolder roles, in the near future? "I don't think so," was her curt answer.

## DFA sees Manila-Beijing sea-row unsettled under Duterte's term

MANILA - Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. said the Philippines' territorial dispute with China will not be settled during the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte or "even during my lifetime."

"My position, and this is the position of the government and the legal position, is that the disputed territory in the South China Sea has never been adjudged to be belonging to any particular country," Yasay said during a confirmation hearing by the Commission on Appointments at the Senate.

He said that even after the United Nations' Permanent Arbitral Tribunal ruled in favor of the Philippines, the Duterte administration's official stand is that the Philippines does not own the disputed area in the South China Sea, and neither does any other country.

He said the Arbitral Tribunal did not decide on the ownership of the disputed islands.

"This will have to be determined by another tribunal of competent jurisdiction," Yasay said.



**NOT IN A LIFETIME.** Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr., appearing Wednesday before the Commission on Appointments, explains why he thinks the maritime dispute over the West Philippine Sea may not be resolved in his lifetime.

"The decision of the Arbitral Tribunal simply rests on the issue of whether or not the South China Sea claim is part of our exclusive economic zone, not our territory.

"Even as they have ruled in our favor, this

territory continues to be international waters."

Yasay's statement came seven months after the country won the landmark arbitration case that challenged the validity of China's sprawling territorial claims in the South China Sea as embodied in China's 9-dash-line that was declared as invalid.

The Arbitral ruling also clarified the territorial entitlements of certain Chinese-occupied features under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

But Yasay said the issue of whether Philippines or China owned islands, features and areas in the West Philippine Sea had yet to be decided.

Occidental Mindoro Rep. Josephine Ramirez-Sato quizzed Yasay on his remarks on the Arbitral Tribunal's ruling favoring the Philippines.

Yasay said the Philippine government had never categorically claimed ownership over the disputed islands.

"Even if the tribunal rules in our favor, this area will continue to belong to international waters," Yasay said.

Sato told Yasay she was "very troubled" by his statements on the issue.

"I am very troubled by your answer, Mr. Secretary, because I want you now to declare and categorically state what is the position of the Philippine government with respect to these islands," she said.

While the Duterte administration was engaged in diplomacy with China, Yasay said, the country remained firm as far as occupation of islands was concerned.

"We are very firm on our occupation of these islands and we continue to do so," he said, adding the Philippines would continue to occupy the areas falling within its exclusive economic zone.



## Bill lowering minimum age of criminal liability too much

MANILA - Minority lawmakers in the House of Representatives on Wednesday said they would oppose the bill lowering the minimum age of criminal liability from 15 years old to nine.

In a press conference at the House of Representatives, Kabayan Rep. Harry Roque and Buhay Rep. Lito Atienza from the minority bloc called the bill "OA," a Filipino term for something that is exaggerated or too much.

Roque said scientific studies have proven that children as young as nine years old do not have full discernment on what is morally right or wrong.

Roque said the government should instead retain the minimum age at 15 years old and

build separate detention facilities for children in conflict with the law.

"Given his current state of development, ginawa mo talagang kriminal, imbes na bigyan mo ng pagkakataong magbago (Given the current state of development, you really made the child a criminal, instead of giving them a chance for reformation)," Roque said.

Minority leader Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez agreed that the government should first improve correctional facilities before putting children behind bars.

He said minor offenders mixed up with hardened criminals will have dim prospects in the future.

Ako Bicol Rep. Alfredo Garbin Jr. said the

government should target the drug syndicates, and not the children being used as victims in the commission of the crime.

"Mali yung focus (The focus is misplaced). You should punish the syndicates, not the minors who are the victims of circumstance of this case," Garbin said.

Garbin said the history of minor offenders being neglected by their families should serve as mitigating circumstances instead of aggravating circumstances.

In House Bill 2, authors Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez and Deputy Speaker Fredenil Castro sought to revert the minimum age of criminal liability from the current 15 years old to as young as nine years old.

## EVA, NANGAN-GAILANGAN NG TULONG

NAKILALA ang singer na si Eva Castillo na siyang tumalo noon sa Asia's Songbird at misis ni Ogie Alcasid na si Regine Velasquez-Alcasid sa mga amateur singing contest.

Although nagpatuloy noon si Eva sa kanyang singing career sa pamamagitan ng pagkanta sa mga lounge at clubs, huminto siya nang siya'y magkaroon ng sariling pamilya.

Noong 2009, muling nabuhay ang singing career ni Eva nang siya'y ipahanap ni Regine para maging guest sa ginawa niya (Regine) noong TV special, ang "Regine: Roots to Riches".

In 2014, humingi ng tulong pinansyal si Eva nang siya'y magkaroon ng sakit - tumor sa kanyang kidney at kinailangan niyang sumailalim ng operasyon. Isa si Regine sa agad tumulong kay Eva.

Noong isang buwan (Enero), sumali si Eva sa "Tawag ng Tanghalan" segment ng "It's Showtime" ng ABS-CBN at naging kampeon siya sa loob ng tatlong linggo. Sa kanyang ikaapat na linggo ng paglaban ay may iniinda nang sakit si Eva kaya hindi na nito naibigay ang kanyang best kaya siya natalo. Sa unang linggo ng Pebrero ay isinugod na siya sa pagamutan dahil sa pama-maga at pagdurugo ng kanyang kidney.

Muli na namang nananawagan ang pamilya ni Eva Castillo ng financial help dahil kailangan na naman niyang sumailalim ng operasyon sa kidney.

Si Eva ay kasalukuyang naka-confine sa Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center.



## Mikael Daez, Megan Young are on

Mikael Daez revealed that he was in a six-year relationship with Miss World 2013 Megan Young.

In a press conference for his upcoming drama series "Legally Blind," which also stars Janine Gutierrez, the hunk actor made the disclosure about his long-running relationship with the actress-beauty queen, according to PEP.ph.

"We've been together...wow, this is the first time!" he told news outlets on Saturday. "I've been with Megan Young for six years and first time kong inaamin 'yan (this is the first time I admit that)."

"Magugulat ang mga tao dahil hindi nila alam kung gaano katagal na kami (People will be shocked because they don't know how long our relationship is)... This is the first time I'm putting it on record," he added.

When asked why they chose to main-

tain a low-key relationship unlike other celebrity couples, Daez, 30, said, "Ako, I wanted to respect her space and at the same time, parang nasanay na tayo na hindi ko na sinasabi ([For] me, I wanted to respect her space and at the same time, I'm used to not divulging my relationships)."

Early in their romance, Young, 27, was preoccupied with her Miss World duties while he was in a love team with Andrea Torres. Young, a former ABS-CBN talent, moved to GMA in 2015 and is currently co-starring with Dingdong Dantes in "Alyas Robin Hood."

Just like any other couple, Young does get jealous of Daez's on-screen flings, specifically with Torres. He said: "Oo, siyempre. First love team 'yun, e," he said. "Actually yun, nag-usap kami noon [at] nagkaroon ng masinsinan kaming usapan tungkol kay Andrea at never na negative



outcome ang pagseselos. Palagi naming napag-uusapan, and ako naman, if you get to know me, very open naman akong tao, e."

(Yes, of course, that was my first love team.

Actually, we talked

about it and we had an intimate talk about Andrea and never did her jealousy have a negative outcome. We often talked about it, and on my side, if you get to know me, I'm a very open person.)

For them, wedding bells may ring in the future.

"Possible, posibleng mangyari yung ganoon (It can possibly happen)," Daez resonated. "Napaka-spontaneous kami. Baka kapag dinala ko siya to somewhere romantic, maramdaman ko na lang (We are both spontaneous. Maybe if I bring her to some romantic place, I might just feel [the urge to marry her])."

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## Sofia vouches for Diego: He's clean

SOFIA Andres is said to be the girlfriend of the controversial son of Cesar Montano, Diego Loyzaga, and she obviously doesn't have to bank on their love team as she now plays a starring role in Regal Entertainment's horror flick, "Pwera Usog". Of course, the first question asked to her during the presscon is about Diego's recent rant against his own dad. She admits Diego has told her about it.

"Nakukuwento niya sa'kin ang mga sama niya ng loob but it's not for me to give him advice about it kasi it's his own problem," she says. "He's old enough to know what to do, to know what is right. Nagulat rin ako nang ilabas niya 'yung mga hinanakit niya sa social media. But hindi ako 'yung tao who will tell him huwag mong gawin ito, itong gawin mo. I told him I'm just here to listen to him at intindihin kung anuman yung galit niya sa dad niya. I am really praying na sana, maayos na ang lahat. Alam ko namang inaayos naman niya yun ngayon at inaayos din niya for the future."

What about Cesar's fear that Diego is into drugs? "That's not true kasi sabay pa nga kami nang magpa-drug test sa Star Magic and we're both negative."

So how is Diego now? "He's okay. Sinusuportahan naman siya ng kanyang mga

malal sa buhay at hindi siya pinababayaan."

Sofia is 18 years old and started as a TV commercial model before ABS-CBN got her to do supporting roles when she was 14 in soaps like "The Princess and I" and "Forevermore" and in movies like "She's the One" and "She's Dating the Gangster". She got to do a lead role in the indie film "Relaks It's Just Pag-ibig" with Inigo Pascual but it didn't do well at the box office.

She's now happy to do a movie with Regal in "Pwera Usog". "Mabait po sila. Asikasong-asikaso kami sa set. Puro taga-ABS at Star Magic din ang kasama ko rito, like Devon Seron, Joseph Marco, Albie Casino. Si Kiko Rodriguez lang ang naiba. Kuwento po ito ng isang barkada who pulled a prank sa isang taong grazza na hindi nila akalaing pagsisisihan nila nang husto at magiging dahilan para matorrize sila. Kasama po rin namin dito sina Ms. Aiko Melendez and Eula Valdes. Abangan nyo sa March 8."

## MGA VIVA ARTIST NA PAPAACYAT NA

UNTI-UNTI na ring umaalagwa ang pangalan ngayon ng 21-year-old Filipino-British actress na si Yassi Pressman.

Sinusubukan ng kanyang talent management company, ang Viva, na ipareha siya kay Andre Paras pero hindi ito nag-click. Nang makapasok siya sa top-rating "FPJ's Ang Probinsyano," napansin siya ng televiewers.

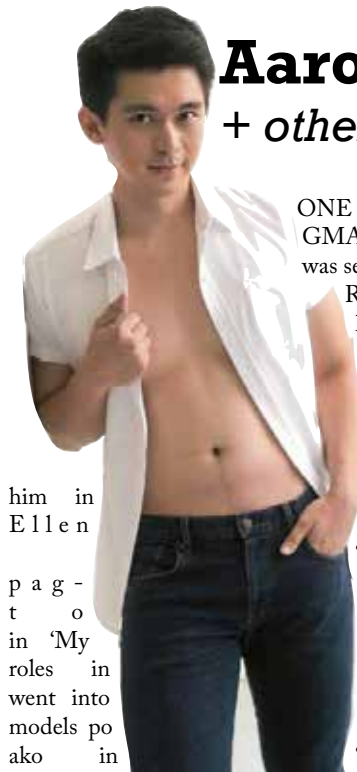
Just recently, pumirma ang Viva at si Yassi ng two-year contract with ABS-CBN ganundin ang isa pang Viva contract artist na si Bela Padilla na napansin din nang maging bahagi ng serye na pinagbibidahan ni Coco Martin.

Si Bela ay kapareha ngayon ni Zanjoe Marudo sa primetime TV series na "My Dear Heart".





## Aaron Yanga slowly getting good roles + other stories



ONE of the new actors being built up by GMA Artist Center is Aaron Yanga, who was seen in a supporting role in "Alyas Robin Hood" and is now the new love interest of Eugene Domingo in "Dear Uge". Aaron has a good physique and was part of Cosmo Hunks last year. He's from Angeles City and was discovered by Director Gil Portes who introduced the movie "Bayang Magiliv" with Adarna four years ago.

"After that, tinapos ko muna po ang aaral ko," he says. "Then I returned showbiz sa GMA and I was cast Faithful Husband'. I also did guest 'Wagas' and 'Karelasyon'. I also modeling but lately puro Brazilian ang kinukuha. Buti na-cast naman 'Dear Uge' as a policeman na new est ni Miss Eugene Domingo."

him in E l l e n

p a g - t o in 'My roles in went into models po ako in love inter-

He's happy to be in Direk Gil's new movie, "Moonlight Over Baler". "This was filmed in Baler and I play the role of Jaime, an avid suitor of Sophie Albert as Fidela. Kaso, hindi niya ako magustuhan kasi hinihintay niya ang pagbabalik ng boyfriend niyang sundalo, si Vin Abrenica, na lumaban sa giyera. Later on, pagtanda ng characters namin dito, Jaime will be played by Menggie Cobarrubias. Hindi rin niya makukuha si Fidela at magpapakasal siya sa pinsan nito, si Daria Ramirez."

### Nadine Lustre talks about her first anniversary with James Reid in Japan

Blooming at fresh ang aura ni Nadine Lustre nang nakipag-kuwentuhan ito sa media sa naganap na campaign ng Ponds beauty product na Change Is Beautiful.



Ito ang unang public appearance ni Nadine simula ng bumalik nito ng bansa mula sa bakasyon nila ng boyfriend na James Reid sa Japan kung saan sila nagdiwang ng kanilang first anniversary.

Naibahagi ni Nadine ang kanilang naging celebration ni James sa Japan.

"Japan is amazing—super saya, super lamig nga lang po talaga," panimula ni Nadine.

Nag-enjoy din si James at Nadine sa mga Japanese food na naging pang-bonding din

nila.

"Bonding, I guess mas more on food. Masaya, sobrang saya. Actually umalis kami ng February 11 ng gabi so ang anniversary namin ay sa airport."

Pagbabahagi pa ni Nadine, hindi na din daw naging importante ang anniversary gift dahil ang experience nila sa Japan ay malaking regalo na daw nila para sa isa't isa.

"Wala ng gift. I guess the Japan trip is the gift na mismo. It's a differ-

ent experience—it's us, it's different e," saad pa ni Nadine.

Ikinatuwa pa ni Nadine ang mga greetings na nakuha nila mula sa kanilang malalapit na kaibigan. Aniya, mas ikinasiya ni Nadine ngayon ay ang sabay nilang pag-grow ni James bilang lovers.

"Ang bilis nga e, sabi ko nga sa mga friends ko 'February 11 na?' Tapos binabati din ako ng mga friends ko sabi nila 'uy tomorrow na.' Sabi ko, 'Anong tomorrow na?' Super bilis and I'm very happy kasi we've suddenly grown, parehas kami individually and together we grown so much," pagtatapos ni Nadine.

### Albie prefers not to work with Andie

Malakas na ang loob ni Albie Casino na harapin ang entertainment press na nag-interbyu sa kanya sa presscon ng pelikulang Pwera Usog kung saan isa siya sa mga bida kumpara noong mga panahon na kainitan pa ng isyu sa kanila ni Andi Eigenmann.



"Ngayong wala nang controversy na pinag-uusapan, di na ako takot humarap sa press, wala nang stress. Super saya ko do'n," nakangiti niyang simula sa Push.com.ph.

Sa tingin ba niya ay nakatulong ang isyu noon para mas makilala siya sa showbiz?

"I'd rather not, di ba? Kung pinapili mo sa akin, mas okay sa akin na hindi nangyari yon. Oo, sana hindi na lang siya nangyari," sagot ng aktor.

Eh, kaya lang, baka hindi naman siyang naging Albie Casino kung di nagkaroon ng isyu?

"Okay lang. At least hindi nadamay yung pangalan ng pamilya ko. Hindi na-bash yung magulang ko, di ba? Yon yung hindi naiintindihan ng mga tao, eh. Hindi lang naman ako yung nasiraan don, eh," paliwanag niya.

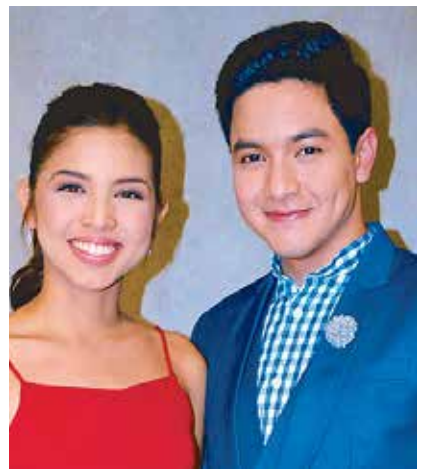
Inamin din ni Albie na muntik na talaga siyang mag-quit sa showbiz noon dahil sa pinagdaanang intriga.

Okey na ba sa kanyang makatrabaho si Andi?

"Work is work, di ba? I need to put food on the table and stuff but if they ask, I'd rather not. I mean, parang ayokong maging weird sa set, eh. I'm not saying that it's weird but I'm not going to pretend that there's no history or whatever," pagtatapos ni Albie

### Gerald Anderson on competing in the L.A marathon: 'Ayaw ko magpatalo sa lahat gagawin ko'

As an actor-athlete, Gerald Anderson said he tries to do his best whether he is on or off camera. "Nung pumasok ako sa show business at pagdating ko sa acting at sa sports, ang practice ko is to always be better, always do something everyday to improve myself so nadala ko yan sa career ko. I think that's why andun pa rin ako because of that mentality. You always want to be number one and yan yung goal ko talaga. And being number one doesn't mean beating everyone else or being better than someone else. It's being the best you can be so ang dami kong natutunan pagdating sa ganun. If you're trying to be the best person you can be, kung mas maganda ka than the person you were yesterday than that's the goal," he explained.



After starring in the smash-hit movie *Imagine You and Me*, Alden Richards and Maine Mendoza are all set for *Destined To Be Yours*, their first soap starrer set to premiere on Feb. 27 replacing Dingdong Dantes' action-adventure series *Robin Hood*. The soap is calculated to make AIDub fans love Alden and Maine all the more.

### Are they meant for each other?

Because they have been keeping a punishing schedule involving daily shoots for *Destined To Be Yours* (DTBY), their first soap starrer set to premiere two Mondays from now (Feb. 27), taking over the timeslot to be vacated by Dingdong Dantes' action-adventure *Robin Hood*, Maine Mendoza and Alden Richards have been feeling under the weather these days. Between shoots in sometimes as far away as Quezon, they also have to show up on *Eat, Bulaga!* every now and then, limited to twice or thrice a week.

Directed by Irene Villamor, DTBY tells a love story quite different from the one in *Imagine You & Me*, the loveteam's first solo starrer (after appearing with Vic Sotto and Ai-Ai de las Alas in *My Bebe Love*) that raked in millions at the tills. The all-star cast includes Boots Anson-Roa, Cardo Versoza, Tommy Abuel, Ronnie Henaes, Ina Feleo, Sheena Halili, Dominic Roco, Juancho Trivino, RJ Padilla, Koreen Medina and Lotlot de Leon.

When Maine and Alden showed up for this interview before the presscon the other day, they had tarried a bit. Obviously, a few days rest would do them good. But still, they were game during the Q&A that kicked off on love and loving, the day being Valentine's Day. It seemed that neither of them had any date that night.

### SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES BAN from page 1

We believe the new Executive Order may be published within the next two weeks," the law firm said.

It's not clear how those coming from the southern Philippines will be distinguished when they, along with the rest of Filipinos, hold just one Philippine passport.

In a statement on February 3, however, the US Department of Homeland Security said that no other countries have "been identified as warranting future inclusion at this time, contrary to false reports."

In a February 2 tweet, the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) National also said it has "no confirmation of additional countries being added to travel ban. We will continue to update."

On its website, AILA likewise referred to information it reportedly got from the US Department of State (DOS).

"In response to rumors of plans to expand the travel ban to other countries, DOS informed AILA that there is no addendum, annex, or amendment now being worked on to expand

visa revocations or the travel ban to countries other than those currently implicated in the Executive Order entitled, 'Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States.' This includes Colombia and Venezuela which have been widely rumored to be under consideration," AILA said.

"DOS confirmed that there is no information that supports such a rumor and asked that AILA members help end the spread of this false information," the group added.

### Extreme caution

The source of the initial information, Hammond Law Group, is an immigration law firm in Cincinnati, Ohio, according to its website. Its corporate clients "range from Fortune 100 companies to progressive startups." Founded in 1991, firm regularly issues immigration alerts on its website, www.hammondlawgroup.com.

In its immigration alert updated on February 1, Hammond Law Group cautioned, "Nothing has been confirmed but, the information has come from a very credible source, the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)" – a claim that AILA has denied.

Hammond Law Group also said: "Until more information is known, we advise anyone from one of these countries NOT to travel outside of the US. If you are outside of the US and have a visa appointment, we advise you to keep that appointment and upon visa issuance, travel into the US as quickly as possible. We will continue to keep you updated as developments occur."

Given the manner in which the travel ban was implemented and the way it was announced without advanced notice, "not to mention the lack of guidance with regard to how it was to be enforced," it said the firm has no choice but to suggest that "nationals from any country on this new list (without regard to their immigration status) refrain from traveling outside the US until such time as we know more about this proposed Executive Order."

"It is entirely possible that this information is either inaccurate or incomplete; however, the severe consequences of being denied re-entry into the US would suggest extreme caution is justified at this time," the law firm warned.

### Not a 'country of concern'?

A Filipino professor who holds an immigrant

status in the US shared with Rappler that he had been advised by lawyers to apply for American citizenship and not leave the US until he attains that status. The professor was given the warning that if he left now, he might not be allowed to return to his family in the US because he traces his roots to Mindanao.

The conflicting reports have prompted a wave of worry and concern, even as US State Department acting spokesperson Mark Toner already pointed out on Wednesday that Trump's original EO did not label the Philippines a country "of concern".

Trump's EO suspended the arrival of refugees for at least 120 days, and for the next 3 months, barred visas for travelers from 7 Muslim-majority countries: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

During his campaign, however, Trump had tagged the Philippines a "terrorist nation" along with at least 8 other countries.

While parts of Mindanao have suffered terrorist activities, most of it remains safe. The southern Philippines is the turf of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, the first president from Mindanao.





## Fil-Am named White House assistant press secretary

A Filipino-American caught a plum role in the Trump administration.

Ninio Joseph Fetalvo was named assistant press secretary at the White House.

As the newly-appointed assistant press secretary, Fetalvo's duties include several issue portfolios—tackling healthcare, education, transportation and veterans affairs.

Prior to this post in the Trump administration, Fetalvo served as spokesman and Florida communications director for the Republican National Committee (RNC).

He also served as the RNC's Asian Pacific American press secretary, where he worked to engage Asian American communities across the country, with the RNC's message of opportunity for all.

The 23-year-old also served as deputy director of media affairs for the 2016 Republican National Convention.

Fetalvo earned a bachelor of arts in political communications from the George Washington University's School of Media and Public Affairs in just three years.

The son of Filipino immigrants, he was born and raised in Southwest Florida.

# Spotlight



Manila International Airport, 1960's

## No right age to come out of closet

Comedian Vice Ganda reacts to comments that he is influencing and condoning 12-year-old actor McNeal Briguela (also known as Awra or Mak Mak) to be openly gay at a



McNeal "Awra" Briguela (left) and Vice Ganda

young age. "Filipinos should be educated on sexuality and gender equality. Many of us don't understand these concepts. There is no 'right age' for those who want to be gay. There are many factors to be considered: tradition, religion, limited education. Also, dressing up like a woman is not something that defines one's gender identity. It's part of one's gender expression."



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## Kris on Aljur: He will be an excellent father + other stories

Masaya si Kris Bernal para sa dating ka-loveteam na si Aljur Abrenica ngayong magkaka-baby na ito sa girlfriend na si Kylie Padilla.

“Sa totoo lang, I’m sincerely happy for both of them,” simula ni Kris. “And I’m even happier that a new baby will be born and I know that they will be good father and mother to their baby,” patuloy ni Kris.

Noon pa raw ay alam niya kung gaano kamahal ni Aljur Kylie dahil naikukuwento nito ito sa kanya.

“Loveteam pa lang kami before, I know how much he loves Kylie. Kinukuwento niya sa akin, na talagang kahit nu’ng nag-break sila, in-love na in-love siya talaga kay Kylie.

“So, I think ‘yun ‘yung pinaka-panghahawakan nu’ng relationship nila. And alam naman natin that very God-fearing din si AJ (nickname ni Aljur) and marunong manindigan.

“So, I’m sure, he will be an excellent father.”

Kahit pa ibig sabihin nito ay mabubuwal na nang tuluyan ang Al-Kris loveteam, okay lang kay Kris as long as happy ang kaibigang aktor. At ganito rin ang gusto niyang gawin ng mga fans ng tambalan nila.

“Yung tatanggapin n’yo (their fans) kung sinuman ‘yung gusto namin, kung sino ‘yung mahal namin, who we really are as a person out of the camera. So tingin ko, parang ngayon, suportahan na lang, ‘yung ganu’n. Dito siya masaya, dito ako masaya. Du’n naman tayo after, ‘di ba -- happiness of our loved ones? So, ‘yun na lang ang isipin natin.”

Kung kukunin ba siyang ninang ng baby nina Aljur at Kylie, okay sa kanya?

“Oo naman, why not?” mabilis na tugon ni Kris. “Ako talaga, I have nothing against Kylie. Dati nagkatrabaho kami, okay kami. And kahit nu’ng magka-loveteam kami ni Aljur, talagang sinabi pa niya na pinapanood niya kami dati ni Aljur, ganu’n. So, never akong nagkaproblema kay Kylie even nu’ng loveteam kami ni Aljur.”

### Work as usual for Bela and ex

Though no longer together, actress Bela Padilla still enjoys good working relations with ex-boyfriend, businessman Neil Arce.

It was January this year when Bela admitted she and Neil have parted ways after almost five years of being sweethearts. In a recent interview, Bela shared, “Sobrang okay naman kami, walang ilangan.”

The former couple is now working on “Luck At First Sight,” a film produced by Neil with Bela as lead actress, co-writer and creative consultant.

While other ex-couples seem to dodge each other, it’s not so for Bela and Neil. In fact, she constantly communicates with him.

“Siyempre may commitment kami sa project na ito, actually hindi nga lang sa film pati sa mga tao na-involved dito,” she maintained. “So kailangan talaga namin gawin ng maayos, kailangan namin magkausap palagi.”

The 25-year-old actress lauded Neil’s professionalism and maturity.

She even described him a “level-headed person.”

“Sobrang thankful ako sa kanya na hindi niya ako pinapahirapan,” Bela said. “Kung meron akong mapapasalamat kay Neil, ito ‘yung sobrang professional niya sa trabaho. Hindi ako nag-worry na kaya ba namin gawin ‘to, na baka masira lang ‘yung trabaho. Kasi alam kong at the end



of the day, aayusin pa rin niya ‘yung trabaho niya.” If anything, Bela hopes their partnership augurs well for the film.

“Gusto kasi namin na ito ‘yung isa sa pinakamagandang gawin namin together.”

Some might think their constant togetherness could easily lead to reconciliation and Bela seems open to the idea.

“Wala naman kasing nakakaalam kung anong mangyayari talaga eh. Right now okay naman kami kung anong meron kami,” she maintained.

What if Neil produces a film with another girl? Bela shot back, “It’s okay.”

“Baka manuod ako sa premiere night kung i-invite niya ako,” she said, laughing.

### Kim Domingo, dream project ang makagawa ng heavy drama

Talaga namang sinasamantala ni Kapuso star Kim Domingo ang kanyang kasikatan dahil sa mga kaliwa’t kanan niyang mga proyekto sa showbiz mula nang pasukin niya ito noong 2015.

Hindi lang panalo ang sexy actress

sa kanyang modelling gigs dahil ginagalingan niya rin ang kanyang mga acting stunts sa Primetime.

Alam niyo bang wish niya ang gumawa ng madramang soap? “Hindi naman habambuhay na nasa ganito akong image eh. Sana mabigyan ako ng pagkakataon ng GMA

na mabigyan ng isang drama or soap na heavy drama talaga. Pangarap ko ‘yun.”

Sa kanyang looks at aura, bagay sa kanya ang maging kontrabida kagaya nang gumana siya bilang Agatha sa Juan Happy Love Story ngunit mas type niya pala ang maging kaawa-awa.

“Gusto ko ‘yung inaapi ako, mga mala-Princess Sarah ‘yung dating,” kuwento niya sa Unang Hirit.

Katas ng kanyang pinagpaguran ang mga napundar niyang mga tahanan, ‘Yung una for my family and then ito [sa akin] pero hindi ko siya nabili ng cash. I mean, hinuhulugan ko [pa] siya monthly [and] by June ko pa siya malilipatan.”

Siguradong malayo-layo pa ang ang mararating ni Kim sa kanyang karera.



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### Enrique Gil shares what he likes about Liza Soberano: ‘Hindi siya yung tipo na materialistic’

With the Star Cinema film My Ex and Why hitting the P100M mark at the box office, Enrique Gil said that 2017 is starting off as another good year for him. “2016 was so fun and exciting that it makes me excited for this year. Siyempre every year dapat pa-level up ng pa-level up yung ginagawa mo so I’m excited for what else I’m going to be doing this year,” he said.

With all the good feedback he has been receiving for his role as Gio, Quen admitted it was an acting challenge. “The movie is different kasi totoo siya, it’s the rawness, most real story. Lahat ng eksena namin it’s all from real situations and real stories from couples. And it’s hard kasi I’ve never experienced being a cheater before (laughs). But it’s a nice story and feeling ko mag-e-enjoy kayo panuorin. I’ve never cheated on anybody before that’s why it’s so hard. Sabi ni direkt Cathy Garcia-Molina it’s so hard kasi very distinct yung emotion for something that we’ve never felt before. So by talking to other couples and hearing yung mga stories nila, it helps a lot,” he explained.

With fans rooting for him and leading lady Liza Soberano to become a real couple, Quen said she actually has a lot of qualities he looks for in a girlfriend. “Actually si Liza hindi siya yung tipo na materialistic. Hindi siya ganun. That’s why I gave that gift to her (for her birthday) because her priorities are far from that. She gives priority to her family and everything,” he said

## Dela Rosa orders PNP: Stop war on drugs

President Duterte will ‘determine’ when the police can go back to its anti-illegal drugs operations, says the PNP chief

MANILA, Philippines (UPDATED) – National police chief Ronald dela Rosa on Monday, January 30, ordered all police units to stop anti-illegal drug operations nationwide while the organization focuses on “internal cleansing.”

“We have to focus our efforts towards internal cleansing. And by the time na ma-cleanse natin ang PNP, the President will determine that and he will instruct us to go back on the war on drugs. But right now, no more drug operations,” said Dela Rosa in a speech before newly-promoted police officials at Camp Crame.

Dela Rosa’s announcement came hours after a late-night press conference of President Rodrigo Duterte where he ordered the dismantling of all anti-illegal drug units in the PNP in the wake of a scandal related to the murder of a South Korean businessman inside Camp Crame in October 2016.

Senior Superintendent Bert Ferro of the PNP Anti-Illegal Drugs Group (AIDG), which was ordered abolished by Duterte Sunday night,



confirmed that Dela Rosa’s announcement means a stop to all anti-illegal drugs operations at the local level.

Ferro told reporters this is part of the President’s orders.

With the order, the only government agency tasked to run after illegal drugs and dealers is the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA).

Duterte intends to create a “narco police”

command to weed out police involved in the drug trade. The new command will be under PDEA.

“I said I will establish a new command... The overall head of that is the PDEA,” said the President.

### ‘Crime is happening’

Dela Rosa himself offered to resign but the President rejected.

Asked if the order meant a breakdown in discipline in the institution he leads, Dela Rosa said, “We must admit because crime is happening within our ranks.”

On the move to weed the PNP of scalawags in the war on drugs, Dela Rosa admitted that it’s only now that the leadership began to seriously consider it. “Ngayon lang pinag-isipan ‘yan. We were doing well. We presumed regularity.”

As of January 28, over 7,000 Filipinos have been killed in the administration’s 6-month war on drugs, a campaign that’s been criticized by

various sectors and international organizations.

### Using anti-drugs as cover

A policeman and his superior, both under the AIDG, were involved in the kidnap-slay case of Jee Ick Joo, a South Korean businessman who was abducted from his home in Angeles City in October 18, 2016 and murdered right inside Camp Crame on the same day, probers said.

It was only in January, barely 3 months later, when the PNP leadership finally uncovered the murder – an embarrassment, Duterte admitted.

The cops involved in the murder used the government’s anti-drug operation as cover when they abducted him, probers said.

At a Senate hearing last week, the National Bureau of Investigation implicated former AIDG official Superintendent Rafael Dumlaog in the kidnap-slay case, based on the testimony of another AIDG policeman, SP03 Ricky Sta Isabel. The PNP had removed both Dumlaog and Sta Isabel from the AIDG.



## MARK HERRAS: Winwyn is not pregnant



NAKABALIK na sa bansa ang magkasintahang Mark Herras at Winwyn Marquez matapos ang kanilang Valentine celebration at vacation sa Japan na naging simula ng espekulasyon na engaged na ang dalawa. Pero agad itong pinabulaanan ni Mark.

Hindi pa umano sila parehong handa na lumagay sa tahimik dahil may iba pa silang mga goal sa buhay.

Bukod sa engagement issue, kumalat din ang balita na buntis ang dalaga ng estranged couple na sina Joey Marquez at Alma Moreno. Agad din itong dinenay ni Mark.

Sinabi ni Mark na kung saka-sakaling magpu-propose siya kay Winwyn, he will make sure na ipapaalam niya ito parents ng dalaga.

Ang 30-year-old actor ay may anak sa pagkabinata, si Ada Sofia Nicolette Herras.

# Hunk Shot



17 year old IPEN model Joshua stays in shape by skateboarding. His ambition is to be an auto mechanic. We wish him all the luck in his endeavour.

Joshua Bautista



Sarah-Daniel, balak pagsamahin:

## Payag kaya ang Kathryn fans?

MAINIT na pinag-usapan ang duet nina Sarah Geronimo at Daniel Padilla sa ASAP kamakailan. Bagay daw ang dalawa. At marami ang kinilig ayon sa mga nabasa naming comment ng mga netizen. Maging si Sarah aminadong kinilig din siya.

Dahil dito marami ang nagsasabi na bagay silang magsama sa isang pelikula. Malaking hamon ito para sa Star Cinema. Kapwa wholesome ang image nila. Kaya dapat hindi lilihis ang story material nito sa kanilang image. Malaking konsiderasyon din ang age gap nila. Pero sa totoo lang, maraming pwedeng gawing istorya para sa dalawa. 'Yun nga lang, papayag ba ang fans nila? Lalo na sa fans ni Daniel kung hindi kasama si Kathryn Bernardo. But again, it is more exciting if Kathryn is also in the cast. Sigurado kami na pinag-iisipan na ito ng Star Cinema dahil sa magandang feedback sa dalawa.

OK naman kay Kathryn. Pero, matuloy naman kaya ito?

## Different faces of love in 'Wagas'



Kris Bernal and Rocco Nacino in an unconventional love story in "Wagas"

GMA News TV's drama anthology, *Wagas*, is now moving into its fourth year in the air. Beginning tonight, it will feature three stories that will show the different faces of love.

First to air is an independent filmmaker's take on a love story between a hearing impaired man and the woman who loves him.

Kapuso stars Rocco Nacino and Kris Bernal play the lead characters with the former playing a deaf-mute who can't express his feelings vocally to the woman he loves. He is constrained to use an improvised sign language since he has not gone

to a deaf-mute institution to teach him dactylology.

Zig Dulay says this episode will show that true love enables someone to hear even the unspoken words.

Meanwhile, Jean Garcia makes her first appearance in *Wagas* in the following Saturday (Feb. 18). She portrays the life of a mother who has children with Microcephaly. This birth defect makes the baby's head smaller compared to babies of the same sex and age. Those who have Microcephaly have hairy body and long arms. They also walk using both hands and feet that they are oftentimes likened to monkeys. Jean's character has to overcome the challenge of being a parent to not just one, but three kids with this condition. Michael Cardoz directed the episode.

Real-life Kapuso couple Tom Rodriguez and Carla Abellana cap off the month-long special episodes of *Wagas* on Feb. 25. Coinciding with the EDSA Revolution anniversary



Jean Garcia appears in the weekly drama anthology playing the role of a mother who has children with Microcephaly

on the last Saturday of the month is the unique love story that blossomed during Martial Law—that of known activist and journalist Satur Ocampo and freedom fighter Bobbie Malay. At the helm of this episode is Adolf Alix, Jr.

Two other directors – Jeffrey Hidalgo and Rember Gelera – make the weekly drama anthology a refreshing break from the over-the-top daily melodramas

seen on the other Kapuso channel. The two, though, did not direct episodes for the anniversary celebration this month, but they as well consider directing, as well as the others, episodes for *Wagas*, like a laboratory for their independent film projects.

"It is only in this show that directors are allowed creative freedom," chorused the five directors.

I am just wondering if GMA Network has no plans of moving it to Channel 7 as it may be able to reaffirm its belief in presenting groundbreaking shows. If not, just put it as a pre-program for *Unang Hirit* on any day from Monday to Friday. It might spell a difference in early morning programming.



Real-life couple Tom Rodriguez and Carla Abellana cap off the month-long special episodes of "Wagas"

## Juancho Trivino, okay lang na bumalik sa supporting roles

Bahagi ng cast ng highly-anticipated teleserye na *Destined To Be Yours* si Kapuso actor Juancho Trivino.

Makakasama niya dito ang phenomenal love team na *AIDub* o Alden Richards at Maine Mendoza.

Si Juancho kasi ang gaganap bilang Badong, kababata ng karakter ni Maine na si Sinag.

Ayos lang ba kanya na muling tumanggap ng supporting roles matapos maging leading man sa GMA Afternoon Prime series na *Magkaibang Mundo*?

"For me kasi, katulad ng sinasabi palagi ng ibang tao, there are no small roles, only small actors. Every work, every role is a blessing for me. And siyempre kasama ko dito, *AIDub* 'di ba? It will get the attention it always has," pahayag ni Juancho sa isang eksklusibong panayam ng *GMANetwork.com*.

Sa tingin din daw niya, positibo ang magiging epekto nito sa kanyang career.

"I think this will be good for my career also. Marami pa rin naman talagang nag-congrats sa akin kahit na nag-lead na ako and I got this role. We'll see what will happen," anyia.

Bittersweet din daw para kay Juancho ang pagkakasungkit niya sa role. Masaya siyang makapagtrabaho para sa isang primetime series ngunit dahil din dito, magiging limitado ang paglabas niya sa longest running comedy show sa bansa na *Bubble Gang*.

"Conflict [ang taping schedules] pero depende kasi kapag wala akong taping dito pwede kaming mag-Bubble Gang tuing Monday. Conflict din sa *Unang Hirit* ko so hindi rin ako makakapag *Unang Hirit*. I'm stuck with one work lang. Hindi ako makakapag-tuhog," ayon sa aktor.

Gayunpaman, magko-concentrate na lang daw siya sa *Destined To Be Yours* para pagbutihin ito.

"Dito ako magko-concentrate ngayon. Medyo mahirap din kasi para sa akin 'yung marami kang work na sunud sunod kasi nahahati 'yung atensiyon mo sa karakter or nawawalan ka ng tulog at nawawalan ka ng pahinga. Nangyari sa akin 'yun sa *Magkaibang Mundo* before. Kaunti lang 'yung pahinga ko so medyo nahirapan talaga ako," kuwento niya.

Naibahagi din ni Juancho na sobra siyang na-impress sa location kung saan sila nagte-tape ng serye.

Bukod naman sa location, kaabang-abang din daw ang magiging tono o timpla ng serye.

"It's light lang eh. Hindi siya masyadong heavy panoorin. Siyempre 'yung *AIDub*, medyo comedians din sila. Kami ni R [Padilla] nasa *Bubble Gang* kami so masaya siyang panoorin. Hindi siya heavy, light lang," pangako nito.

*Destined To Be Yours*, ay nagsimula February 27, pagkatapos ng *Encantadia* sa GMA Telebabad.

Sabay ding mapapanood ang premiere nito sa mga bansa sa labas ng Pilipinas via GMA Pinoy TV.





## JAMES REID, TYPE TIKMAN NI KARA MITZKI!

Sa unang tingin, parang si Maja Salvador. Pero biglang-bigla, nagiging si Carlene Aguilar. Umi-Ellen Adarna rin siya minsan.

'Yun na nga, depende sa kung saang anggulo mo siya titingnan, dahil nagbabagubago raw ang mukha ng baguhang singer, at 2017 calendar girl ng Tanduay White, si Kara Mitzki, ang bagong alaga ng Viva Artists Agency.

Pero, kung alindog ang pag-uusapan, havey niyan si Kara. May kakaiba siyang karisma, at ang mga babaeng tulad niya, na 'petite' ang madaling humatak ng atensiyon ng mga barako. Anyway, singer talaga si Kara, at bokalista nga siya ng Kara Band. At isa sa mga event ng Tanduay, na kung saan ay kumanta nga siya, doon siya inalok na mag-go see para maging calendar girl.

Nu'ng 2010 ay nasubukan niyang gumawa ng commercials, print ads, at TV guestings. Pero, kinailangan daw niyang tapusin ang pag-aaral niya, kaya huminto rin siya.

Pero, nasa showbiz raw talaga ang puso niya, kaya nu'ng 2015 ay muli siyang sumubok. At suwerte talaga, na unti-unti ay nabibigyan siya ng malalaking pagkakataon.

"Gusto ko talaga ang showbiz. Gusto kong mag-perform. Gusto ko 'yung nasa stage na kaharap ang maraming tao," sambit niya.

Siyanga pala, si James Reid ang type niyang matikman sa harap ng kamera. Gusto raw niyang maging leading man ang binata, at hindi naman magiging mahirap 'yon, dahil kasama nga niya sa Viva si James.

At wala raw dapat ipag-alala ang mga fans nina James at Nadine Lustre, dahil trabaho lang ang gusto niya. Nagkita at nagkakilala na raw sila ni James sa Viva office.

### Kara, Nnagpaseksi para mapansin

The who? ang tanong ng entertainment writers nang ipakilala si Kara Mitzki bilang



calendar girl for 2017 ng Tanduay White. Nasagot ang pagtataka ng mga reporter nang makaharap nila si Kara na lumaki sa Australia, college graduate at stepping stone lamang ang pagpapaseksi dahil maging professional singer ang tunay na ambisyon niya.

Si Kara ang pinakabago sa mga dumaraming contract stars ng Viva Artists Agency at taos-puso ang pasasalamat niya dahil naging calendar girl siya ng Tanduay, kahit hindi

pamilyar sa kanya ang publiko.

Look-alike nina Carlene Aguilar, Krista Ranillo at may anggulo na kamukha ni Maja Salvador ang sabi ng entertainment press nang makausap nila si Kara na sumagot ng "hindi po" nang itanong namin kung "Doble Kara" ba siya?

Prangka si Kara dahil sinabi agad nito na nagpapaseksi lamang siya ngayon para mapansin ng mga tao ang singing talent niya, pero wala sa kanyang bokabularyo ang magpakita ng hubad na katawan sa wide screen.

Sa tulong ng Viva Artists Agency, naniniwala si Kara na matutupad ang pangarap nito na makilala bilang singer, pati na ang kanyang grupo, ang Kara Band.

Hindi gumamit ng screen name si Kara dahil Rachel Kara Mitzki ang tunay na pangalan niya. Mitzki ang family name ni Kara dahil half-Greek ang kanyang ama.

### Fans like Stubborn Ken

KEN Chan is said to be the one most favored by the fans of GMA7's hit primetime show, "Meant to Be", as the leading man Barbie Forteza will ultimately fall in love with in the story. This is because there is now solid support for the Ken-Barbie loveteam called KenBie, which meant Can Be as opposed to Cannot Be. When they stage mall shows and the fans are asked who they like for Barbie, the answer is almost always: "Ken Chan!" What can Ken say about this?

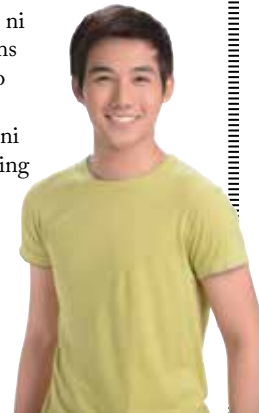
"I don't know what to say," says Ken when we visited the set of "Meant to Be". "Maski ako, nagugulat sa mainit na pagtanggap ng viewers sa pagtatambal namin ni Barbie at sa mismong very warm reaction nila sa character ko, si Yuan Lee. And to think na masungit at maangas ako sa show at lagi kaming nag-aaway na parang aso't pusa ni Barbie. Akala ko nga, hindi nila matatanggap si Yuan Lee na ni hindi ngumingiti, but it seems nagustuhan nila yung role ko at may mga nagsasabi pang hihintayin nila ang pagngiti ni Yuan Lee. Ang sarap ng feeling na nalimutan na nila yung pagiging transgender ko sa 'Destiny Rose' and they embrace me now as Yuan Lee.

Pero in fairness to the three other guys, meron din namang mga sumusuporta sa pairing ni Barbie with Jak Roberto, Ivan Dorschner and Addy Raj. So even pa rin naman ang playing field for all of us."

Is there any envy or animosity between the four of them? "Personally, para sa aming apat, walang rivalry or competition. Yung fans lang ang nag-aaway, but for us, trabaho lang ito and we're all very professional about it. Si Jak, matagal ko nang kakilala kasi pareho kaming nag-start sa 'Walang Tulugan' ng the late Kuya Germs.

Si Addy, nakilala ko na sa isang event noong nasa kabilang istasyon pa siya. Si Ivan ang ngayon ko lang nakilala, but all of us, naging comfortable agad sa isa't isa. Nagsusuportahan kaming lahat and we're all just happy na naging big hit ang show namin sa primetime viewers."

Good things are really coming Ken's way as he has also just been chosen to be the new host of "Day Off" on GMA News TV with Janine Gutierrez, who in turn also has a new soap, "Legally Blind", with Mikael Daez. Meantime, this week in "Meant to Be".



REGINE  
continued from page 17

stand-up comedy, improvisation parodies, and sketches inside and outside the studio. It aired its pilot episode last week.

"So bukod sa usual na kakanta ako, makikita din ng viewers akong nagpapatawa," Regine said. "And I'm with a group of crazy people that will make you laugh. I assure you, it's very entertaining."

Regine performs at least three musical numbers per episode.

"Ako 'yung mag-o-open, then mayroon akong formal songs as in formal na hindi namin ijo-joke talaga," she said, adding that aside from belting out her hits, she will also cover new songs.

The show was conceptualized some three years ago.

"Actually nu'ng nakikipag-negotiate ako with my contract, parang nasabi ko na I wanted to have a musical show, pero parang nauuso 'yung comedy show so parang kinombine nila 'yun. But siyempre, they asked me first kung okay lang sa'kin," she said.

So what's the hardest part in doing the show?

"Honestly, it's the singing. Nauubos kasi 'yung boses ko dahil kakanta ako ng kakanta. And sa comedy din, I also use my voice, so 'yung part na 'yun tingin ko du'n ako nahihirapan."

Not that she can't handle it.

As Regine noted: "Lahat naman kaya ng powers ko."

Grateful

Regine is thankful GMA allows her to give inputs to the shows she does.

"They let me speak, they always listen to my crazy suggestions, they hear my ideas and they make me part of the production, the creative part of show," she said.

"Kahit nga sa mga teleserye ko eh, hinahayaan nila ako eh, kahit na siguro nabubwisit na sila sa akin," she said, laughing. "But seriously they really do listen to me. And I appreciate it very much kasi as an artist 'di ba parang nakakatuwa 'yung feeling na tatanungin ka kung pwede bang gawin 'to sa show mo or kung may idea ka ba," the singer-actress explained.

She added: "Even sa mga magiging ka-trabaho, tinatanong nila kung okay lang na makasama ko si ganyan o si ganito. Eh ako naman I can work with anyone, marunong naman akong makisama."

### SCAPEGOAT continued from page 1

However, when asked if his position on scrapping peace talks will no longer change for the rest of his 6-year term, Duterte said: "Yes, unless there is a compelling one. I do not know what would be that reason, but always, it could be in the interest of the nation."

He also told communist leaders and negotiators he released to return home and go back to prison.

"They can retire all of them. For those who

are released by the government, they should, on their own volition, return here and go back to prison or else I'll be forced to... I'm alerting the intelligence community to keep track of where they are now," Duterte said.

"'Yung na-release temporarily to talk with us in Oslo, they should come back and submit themselves to the jurisdiction of this government (where) they are still prisoners. Walang pardon, walang amnesty, wala lahat."

Duterte, who announced on Friday the end of the government's unilateral ceasefire, said communist leaders would be imprisoned without

bail.

"They are all in the wanted list so I will alert the international police to arrest them where they are because they are wanted here. I'll cancel their passports," he said.

"I don't know if they will be granted asylum there but with the rebellion, if you are just a member, it's not a grave offense maybe. Pero yung mga leaders, they should be in prison without bail"

"Kung gusto nila doon sa labas, OK lang. The most terrible thing that can happen to a Filipino

is if you die outside your country."

Duterte vented his frustration over the recent deaths of several soldiers at the hands of the New People's Army (NPA).

"They said they'll begin (lifting of ceasefire) on February 10. Ako, baket February 10, namatay na mga sundalo ko, pati pulis. Ang masakit diyari, lumalabas itong mga Army because they're not carrying arms. Pumunta sila ATM para makuha nila incentives sa combat pay. Why would you kill them?"

"I told the soldiers to prepare for a long war."

## Candid SPOOF

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



IPEN Impresario reads one of the winners at the IPEN pageant with Jurice Encarnacion (Mutya ng Pilipinas Canada 2015)

### GLAIZA continued from page 9

siya. Kumbaga parang naging balanced lahat," she said.

She values being a Kapuso for many reasons, one of which because she gets to influence viewers with her freedom to portray roles her way.

"Hindi lang [sarili] mo yung napapasaya mo. Napapasaya mo rin yung ibang tao... 'Yung mga tao na nai-influence mo, 'yung mga tao na kumbaga parang nababago mo yung buhay. [Exaggerated] man pakinggan pero totoo 'yun eh. Kapag nagpapadala sila ng message sa 'yo, or kapag na-mi-meet mo sila, nakikita mo yung sincerity, saka nakikita mo kung paano sila nagkaroon ng encouragement dahil sa mga pinanood nila," she shared.

Now that she's matured as an individual and artist, she has made it a personal mission to help younger audiences and co-stars as much as she can.

"Nasa point ako ng life ko na gusto ko mag-guide ng mga bata. Parang sila yung next generation eh. Tapos nakakatrabaho ko mga bata. So parang in a way, may sense of responsibility ka na ngayon to guide, hindi lang 'yung mga tao na nanonood sa 'yo kundi [pati] yung mga tao rin nakakatrabaho mo," she added.

GMA SVP for Entertainment Lilybeth Rasonable and Artist Center AVP for Imaging and Branding Simoun Ferrer were present during Glaiza's contract signing.



# Scenes in the City+



ABOVE, Rey Mapeso and Digna Cawayan pose with the winners of MS. HEART 2017 - HEART #1 NENITA LORA - Nenita Raqueño Lora, 1ST RUNNER UP HEART 2017 Jacq Ghaleng, 2ND RUNNER UP HEART 2017 Mimi Cala.



RIGHT, Harold Guarin of Roadsport Honda poses with Miss Heart 2017 nenita Lora.



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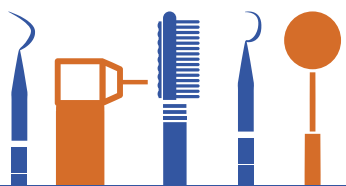


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