



what influence did her tita Claudine have on **JULIA barretto** in her entry into showbiz

## START 2019 LAUGHING

para masaya kayo sa buong taon



Watch comedians AJ & Le Chazz on **JANUARY 12 • 6PM** TORONTO PAVILION

190 Railside Dr. corner Lawrence Ave. E. near DVP.

## Why Chinese investment stagnated

Most of the reasons were local laws, under the table requests, competition from administration opponents and ironically, allies.

MANILA - Pundits and international relations scholars have often argued that territorial disputes in the South China Sea have prevented increased Chinese investment in the Philippines. But while inter-state relations do matter, the political relations between Beijing and Manila do not solely shape the rise or fall of Chinese foreign direct investment (FDI).

Since the early 1990s, China's outward FDI has increased from a few million to US\$2.5 trillion in 2015 — largely due to overcapacity and falling rates of profitability in China. Since new Chinese companies continue to form and Chinese citizens need somewhere to invest given low yields at home, territorial issues at low-to-moderate levels do little to temper foreign capital inflows.

An alternative conceptual explanation is more convincing in the case of the Philippines — the eruption of competition within a country's 'elites' as well as mobilisation of citizens in the host state can lead to the relative stagnation of FDI.

From 2001–10, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo became the first Philippine president to

**CHINESE TAKING JOBS**  
continued on page 20



## When is it wrong to address someone as "Tita"?

Paolo Duterte's list of ouster plotters is fake news

**PORNHUB: FILIPINOS SPEND TIME LONGEST**

Filipinos wanted on Canada-wide warrants for fraud

**BORACAY FACES SAME PROBLEMS AGAIN**

Bea Santiago has 'kidney failure,' needs 'life saving transplant

**LUIS MANZANO** dares **BASHER TO FACE HIM**

The Dazzlers Entertainment, together with JJavier Digital Media and JVF Productions, will be presenting a stand-up comedy show to welcome 2019 at the Toronto Pavilion (located at 190 Railside Road, Toronto) on January 12th, 2019, Saturday.

The show will feature the exciting comedian/singer tandem of AJ Tamiza and Chazz, regular performers in Philippine television and at Allan K's Klownz Comedy Bar and Zirkoh in Manila. This would be the 7-year partners' first major performance in Canada. In 2012, they performed in Edmonton and Calgary. Aside from their regular comedy bar gigs, AJ & Le Chazz currently appear in Wowowin, Eat Bulaga and other TV shows. They have also entertained Filipinos in numerous Philippine cities, Europe, Dubai and Bahrain, amongst other places.

Front acts for the duo will be provided by homegrown local talents: Audrey Lyn (PHOTO ABOVE), teen singing group Charms (PHOTO BELOW), Chollo Lagdameo and his group of dancers, Jasmin Flores,



LAUGH WITH AJ & LE CHAZZ continued on page 14



## A touch of Brazilian graces

In December 2010, Dr. Solon Guzman and guest do the limbo as a Brazilian dancer holds the rope.

Asuncion said that a Filipino party is not complete without a singer. "Parang kulang sa glamour kung walang singer," she said during a Caregivers party at Quiapo Quiapo, a store and ban-



Dr. Victoria Santiago gives a gift to Dr. Katrina Gorospe at her Christmas brunch at the Westin Prince Hotel.

## Filipino parties

So, she hired 12-year old Maria Panaligan to sing. Nowadays, I think the Filipino community has discovered the Brazilian. No, not the waxing,

BRAZILIAN page 26



*Brought to you by  
The Dazzlers Entertainment, JVF Productions  
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our talents:  
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Charms,  
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## Lorenzana: Paolo Duterte's list of ouster plotters is fake news

MANILA, Philippines — The list of groups and individuals allegedly plotting to unseat President Rodrigo Duterte that was released by his son Paolo is categorized by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana as "fake news."

"The first time I saw that posting: I said it's fake news. I still maintain that is fake news," he told reporters.

Last December 7, the president's son posted screenshots of a spreadsheet that allegedly listed down the names of members of an "Anti-Administration Group" in conspiracy to oust Duterte.

The members of the group included a mix of administration critics, politicians, and companies like Jollibee and PLDT. It also included a dead bishop.

But the post has already been deleted.

Vice President Leni Robredo, who was included on the list, slammed the list as "irresponsible."

Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo defended Paolo's decision to post the list, saying it was part of his "freedom of expression."

## Xian Lim reveals he was bullied, threatened at 12 years old

Xian Lim recalls being a victim of bullying when he was 12 years old: "This made me hate school. I spoke up one time and snitched which resulted in me getting beat up some more, kicked in the face and have a knife pointed in my neck."

Mainit na pinag-usapan ngayon ang isyu ng bullying dahil sa isang isang high-school student mula sa Ateneo de Manila Junior High School.

Pero kung tutuusin, kahit sino ay posibleng maging biktima ng anumang uri ng pananakot o pananakit ng isang bully.

Isa sa celebrities na naka-relate dito ay si Xian Lim, na minsan nang umaming biktima ito ng bullying noong bata pa siya.

Sa kanyang Instagram at Facebook accounts ngayong Biyernes, December 21, muling ibinahagi ni Xian kung paano siya dumanan ng diskriminasyon at pambu-bully noong panahong siya ay nanirahan sa U.S.

Kalakip nito ang ilang litrato ni Xian noong bata pa siya.



"I just really have to speak up about this current issue we have right now. I do not usually rant on my social media pages so please forgive me on this one," ang pasintabi ni Xian.

"First let me explain. This is my picture back in middle school. I was about 12. I had no friends. I was called a loser for being an introvert and not knowing how to talk to other kids.

"I was called FOB for having a really strong accent. Kids would beat me up and spit on me and made my life hell."

Takot na takot daw si Xian noon dahil umabot sa puntong binantaan siya ng mga ka-schoolmate niyang nambu-bully sa kanya.

Patuloy ni Xian: "I didn't want to go to school. I made up excuses and told my mom I felt sick. I did not feel safe."

"Bullies told me that I would get stabbed if I were to snitch on them."

"One time I cried in front of the whole class because people would laugh and quietly say bad things about me. It made me a miserable kid."

"This made me hate school. I spoke up one time and snitched which resulted in me getting beat up some more, kicked in the face and have a knife pointed in my neck."

Matapos siyang bugbugin ng ka-schoolmate, wala raw nagawa si Xian kundi manahimik at umiwas sa mas malalang kabalalan ng bullies sa kanyang pinapasukang eskwelahan.

"So I stayed quiet. I ate my lunch in the bathroom. I kept my lunch money in my underwear just in case I get 'pocket checked.'"

"You do not want this to happen to your kids, trust me. You do not want this to happen to your brothers and sisters. You do not want this to happen to anyone."

"It has to stop."

Dahil sa kanyang karanasan noon, natutunan daw ni Xian na hindi dapat siya nagpadala sa takot noon.

Mas mahalaga raw ang isumbong agad sa mga magulang at sa awtoridad ang ganoong mga klase ng insidente.

Paalala ni Xian sa mga dumadanas ng bullying: "Huge mistake I made was I kept quiet because I was scared. I did not tell my parents. I did not tell the authorities. I just let things happen."

"If you're being bullied right now, please speak up. We are here for you. There are others like you who feel scared and defeated."

"Life is precious. Life is short."

Handa rin daw si Xian na makiusap sa mga organisasyon na mangangailangan ng kanyang tulong.

"Our time in this world given to us is not enough. Do whatever means necessary to have a happy, balanced life."

"If there are any organization who need me, please reach out."

# Honey Shot

## Natasha Daquil

Natasha 14, plays basketball. She is currently in 2nd year of high school. Her favourite dish is pizza. She is visiting from Ireland and invites everyone to visit Dublin. She is the daughter of Ethel and Nestor. She is the niece of Star Circle Entertainment's Ellen Galorport.



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# Scene Toronto



LEFT, Ontario Liberal Party Interim Leader and MP John Fraser ( centre) and MP Mitzie Hunter (3rd right) pose with leaders of the newly-formed Filipino Liberal Association of Ontario - FLAO, after the consultation meeting at the Filipino Centre Toronto-FCT on October 28, 2018. Shown from left: Ted Dayno, Jocelyn A.San Juan, Tony A. San Juan, Ramon Estaris, Morghen Serrano, Michele Serrano, Monina Serrano, a guest, and Willie Reodica . Not shown are Antonio Villarín, Susan Llanera, Joseph & Lorelei Redoblado. ( Photo by : Joseph Redoblado). RIGHT, Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation's Rosemer Enverga (6th fro left) poses with Ambassador Petronilla and other dignitaries at the Celebration of Life of Senator Tobias Enverga, her late husband.

## What The F<sup>ACT?</sup> BY JOSE BAKING

### INSERTIONS EVERYWHERE

Pork barrel is again the talk in the Philippines. Apparently, some congress member got more money for their projects than what was planned. And the extra budget was "inserted" as if it was a surprise. They make it sound like it is an auction on ebay na may fixed time na magtatapos and you make your highest bid at the last second. Ganoon ba iyon? Anyway, my point is these talks of insertions reminds me of the good old days. But in our days, we had something else in mind when we mention "insertions." It reminds me of the "betamax" sex tape of a governor and an actress. Those were the good old days when a scandal involved "insertions" of intimate nature. Has the Philippines become Canadian in what passes for a scandal? In 2012, former Canadian cabinet minister Bev Oda resigned for "lavish" spending, like billing \$16 glass of orange juice while traveling on government business. If not for sex, the VCR would not have sold like hotcakes. You really think people would watch anyone drink orange juice during in the second half of the 70's, when the betamax was released? Now, yes. People watch other people online doing nothing.

#### I'm now Part of the 1%

Well, not the 1% of the richest people in the world that control the economy. But according to Wikipedia, only 1% of visitors to the site donate. The average donation is \$16.00. It said if every visitor donate just \$3, wikipedia will be able to survive. So, I donated \$3. Then, it said that if I donate \$1 more for the Paypal fee, all the \$3 will go towards wikipedia. I was feeling generous so I did.

#### We're #1 Pornhub Visitor

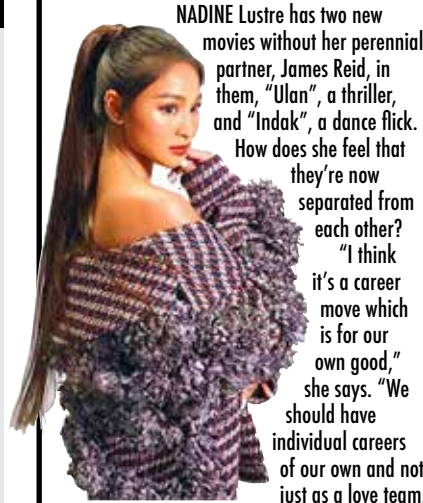
We may not be able or are unwilling to defend our territory but we are willing to defend this title. Filipinos once again ranked number one among those who spent the longest time watching porn this year, as well having a fairly close number of male and female viewers, according to Pornhub. So, Filipinos,

help defend this title. It doesn't take much. Just watch porn.

#### Faster Internet helps. Or not.

The new and 3rd telco in the Philippines, Mislattel, guaranteed a minimum speed of 55 mbps (megabits per second) within five years (same as Singapore's), with 27 mbps after three years. If they fail, they will forfeit their P14-billion performance bond. They are not going to go unscathed. Now, this can go either way. Filipinos might lose the title people who surf the longest at pornhub. The reason they might be surfing the longest is because of the slow internet. If the internet becomes fast, they might not spend as much time as before. It all becomes quickie. We cannot lose that title. If you finish watching one porn, watch another one. Let's defend our title which we fought hard-on. Ehe, sus Guinoo ni Roxanne, I mean, fought hard to achieve.

## Nadine minus James in two movies: 'Good for our career'



NADINE Lustre has two new movies without her perennial partner, James Reid, in them, "Ulan", a thriller, and "Indak", a dance flick. How does she feel that they're now separated from each other? "I think it's a career move which is for our own good," she says. "We should have individual careers of our own and not just as a love team.

so far. Ako naman, I can work with anyone, so no problem. Carlo is a good actor and it's nice to work with him. Malapit na nga kaming matapos and we're all proud of the movie. Madugong gawin at madugo rin daw ang post production work involved dito. Early next year pa raw naman ang target playdate nito."

In "Indak", she will be paired with Sam Concepcion. It will be the directorial debut for a full length film of concert director Paul Basnillo. We hope this movie will be a big success for the sake of Sam, who's been given breaks before but somehow, stardom is elusive and his career won't soar even if he's a very good singer and dancer, as seen in the musical "I Do Bidoo". Viva Films has also given him a fairly good project in "Para Sa Broken Hearted" where he played a good role, but it also didn't do well at the box office.

Nadine says she's looking forward to shoot the movie with Sam. "He's a good singer and dancer and we'll be doing a lot of production numbers, so pareho kaming excited," she adds. "We'll be singing but I guess we'll also be required to take a lot of dance workshops to prepare us for our numerous dance sequences."

Nadine will play a girl living in an island who does a dance video that she posts on the internet and goes viral. Sam will see her video, looks for her and convinces her to join a dance group called Indak Pilipinas. This movie is intended by Viva to be released as a summer offering for 2019.

Nauna na siyang gumawa ng movie without me in 'Miss Granny', na sinuportahan naman ng mga tao. But we will be reunited in the movie he's now doing, a reboot of "Pedro Penduko". I will be playing the role of Maria Makiling, so okay lang."

Earlier, it was announced that her leading men in "Ulan" are Xian Lim, Marco Gumabao and AJ Muhlach. But now, we heard Xian has been replaced by Carlo Aquino. What happened?

"I really don't know. Whatever happened, maybe it's best to ask Viva Films or our director, Irene Villamor. Hindi naman nakapag-shoot si Xian for the movie. Sina Marco and AJ pa lang ang nakasama ko sa shooting

## President Rodrigo Duterte willing to shake hands with ABS-CBN on one condition: Help promote federalism

President Rodrigo Duterte reveals that he has one condition before settling his issue with ABS-CBN: promote federalism.

President Rodrigo Duterte reveals his one condition before he agrees to settle his issue with ABS-CBN.

In an article published by the Philippine Daily Inquirer last December 14, Duterte said he will only agree to a compromise if ABS-CBN promises to help promote federalism.

He said in his speech during the PDP-Laban Christmas benefit dinner on December 12, "Kung magtulong kayo diyan sa federal system campaign at gawain ninyong slogan also for the unity and to preserve this republic, makipag-areglo ako."

Duterte has been vocal about his threat to block the renewal of ABS-CBN's TV franchise when it expires in 2020.

This was after he accused Channel 2 of not airing his campaign ad, which was already paid for during the 2016 presidential elections.

In his December 12 speech, Duterte slammed again the owners of the network, the Lopezes.

According to the President, he has not forgotten ABS-CBN's debt but he was willing to talk with the owners of the network.

"But kayo, may mali man rin kayo, may utang rin kayo sa gobyerno, do your part and maybe we can talk about it.

"I will go to you and say... Wala akong hingiin. Just dedicate a portion of your time, your expensive and precious time on TV, help us promote federalism, only the good ones. But if you think that it is not into your system, fine.

"Pero kung suportahan lang ninyo ang... Kayong mga network, wala kayo. Wala akong hingiin, 'yan lang.

"And I said, I'm willing to shake hands with you."

He pointed out that he won't stop the Kapamilya Network from airing reports against corruption.

"You can continue with your criticisms about corruption. Pareho tayo ayaw ng corruption and wrongdoing."

On April 27, 2017, President Duterte first threatened to block the renewal of ABS-CBN's franchise, which will expire on March 30, 2020.

ABS-CBN's application for renewal remains pending in Congress.

Channel 2 has yet to issue a statement regarding President Duterte's latest threat.

Aside from airing shows on television, the Kapamilya Network has made efforts to venture into the digital world, via its streaming service iWant, which offers digital shows and movies.

On April 21, 2018, Duterte approved the franchise renewal of rival network GMA-7.

The law extended the Kapuso Network's franchise for 25 years.

## Why Gina gets lost at times with Eddie

EDDIE Garcia and Gina Pareno's movie about the after life, "Hintayan ng Langit", won the Audience Choice Award in the QCinema Filmfest last month, and also the best actor award for Eddie. "We've never been paired romantically before," says Gina. "Mas una naman kasi siya sa'kin sa industry. 1949 daw siya nagsimulang mag-artista at ako naman, early 60s na nang kunin ako ng Sampaguita Pictures. Nagkasama kami sa pelikula before, but he played my father. Pero dito sa 'Hintayan sa Langit', kami na ang magkapareha."

"Hintayan ng Langit" is a place where the souls of dead people are waiting to be taken to the next level, which is heaven. Gina as Lisang has been waiting for two years and doesn't know when she'll get her go signal to go to heaven as she's troublesome. Eddie as Manolo then arrives. It turns out they have a past love affair here



on earth that was aborted when they married other partners. This romance is now rekindled while they're waiting in "Hintayan ng Langit". Will they get to prove that love is lovelier the second time around even if you're in purgatory?

So how is it working with Eddie as her love interest? "Masaya siyang katrabaho ever since," says Gina. "Who would have thought na sa edad namin ngayon (he's 89 and she's 69), we'll still get the chance to do a movie like this? At his age, Eddie has not lost his sense of humor. Lagi pa rin siyang naga-adlib sa harap ng kamera kaya kung minsan, nawawala ako kasi tawa ako nang tawa. It's fun and we had a great time shooting this movie that delves into the topic na what happens kaya after we die? Ako, naniniwala akong may ganitong lugar sa purgatoryo where you can wait. Pero bahala na ang viewers kung ano ang paniniwalaan nila after watching our movie 'Hintayan sa Langit'."



Fv Foods renovates Lawrence branch. Where there was a dining area beside the window, it is now replaced by a selling area. The dining area on the south side has been expanded by knocking down a wall and removing some rooms. Or I think a washroom. Benches have been added. They are thick wood and supported underneath.



Filipino business owners accused of defrauding people out of \$300K wanted on Canada-wide warrants



York Regional Police say Jesus and Teresita Mallari are wanted on Canada-wide warrants.

VAUGHAN, Ont. – York Regional Police are looking for two business owners accused of defrauding people out of more than \$300,000.

Police say they began investigating in January when a woman reported to them that she had used a Vaughan, Ont.-based company called Mabini Express to transfer money to family in the Philippines.

Investigators say that several days later, the woman learned her family had not received the money.

They say when she went to the company, she found a sign saying that the business was permanently closed.

Police say they've since learned about 36 people who lost a combined total of more than \$300,000.

Canada-wide warrants have been issued for Jesus Mallari, 66, of Toronto and Teresita Mallari, 69, of Toronto, who are wanted on charges of fraud over \$5,000 and four counts each of uttering forged documents and forgery.

## Eddie Garcia still not retiring at age 89, accepts gay role



Eddie Garcia (left) and Tony Mabesa in "Rainbow's Sunset"

"Retirement? Not in my vocabulary," said veteran actor-director Eddie Garcia.

"Acting is my profession. And as long as there are people who want to see me and producers asking me to be part of their projects, then I will continue doing my job ... my craft," he told the Inquirer at a recent press conference for the drama film "Rainbow's Sunset," which is an entry in this year's Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF).

Despite having been in the industry for the past seven decades, the 89-year-old icon—known for his versatility on screen—insisted that not once did he get tired of it. In fact, being on set invigorates him.

"I get to visit different places and meet new people—unlike an office job, where in you're in the same environment every day. It's not boring at all," he said.

And regardless of the prominence or importance of the roles given to him, Eddie attacks each one with equal fervor. "I do my job well; it doesn't matter if I have

to play a minor character. I don't give my directors and producers a headache," he said.

At his age, Eddie tries to maintain a 12 a.m. shooting cutoff. But he has no qualms going beyond that if needed.

"I oblige ... It's all up to your physical condition. When I don't have work, I do exercise a little bit, read books, or go target shooting," said the actor, who's also part of the long-running action series "Ang Probinsyano."

Eddie is no stranger to portraying gay characters. And he approaches them with the same no-nonsense mindset as he does any other role. "It's just a job," he stressed. "I have done a number of gay roles in the past. The difference this time is that Ramon has a family, so the possible repercussions of his decision will be more complex."

"The message we want to convey is that a person's gender is something that we shouldn't question," he added.

There was no awkwardness between him and Tony, whom Eddie has previously worked with a number of times. "He's a great actor. He's very professional; he's prompt and is always prepared. His work ethic is definitely something that should be emulated by the younger generation of artists," he said of his costar.

Releasing an LGBTQ-themed movie for the MMFF—especially one that doesn't present its characters as comic relief—is deemed risky, box-office wise.

## Claire Castro: The newest showbiz royalty



STAR TO WATCH. Showbiz scion and teen star Claire Castro is one of the newest additions to GMA Artist Center's roster of talents.

Present in the contract signing were GMA Assistant Vice President for Talent Imaging and Marketing Simoun S. Ferrer, Senior Talent Manager Tracy Garcia, and co-manager Diego Castro.

The new Kapuso star claims that she has always loved acting, and she looks forward to doing roles that tug at the heart of viewers. When asked what career path she would like to pursue, she proudly shares that she'd like to follow in the footsteps of Marian Rivera.

"I've always looked up to Ms. Marian ever since I was a kid. I remember doing her iconic Marimar role in front of the mirror, and now that I'm officially a Kapuso, I can't wait to meet her," the young sweetheart says.

Her father and co-manager, '90s matinee idol Diego Castro, says that he trusts Claire in showcasing her raw talent, "On her own she already knows what to do, since bata pa lang, she's been exposed to showbiz. I guess the best tip I can give her is humility, kasi no matter how pretty or talented you are, kung wala kang humility babagsak ka nang mabilis."

Claire admits to feeling intimidated by her new venture, but she is excited to try new things that showbiz has to offer, "I'm still nervous, but more than that, I feel excited that I'm finally going to do what I love. I am willing to learn everything and I trust my management to guide me through it."

Meanwhile, Ferrer sees the raw talent in Claire and he is excited to witness the new chapter of Claire's life in GMA.

"Definitely we will focus on honing her talent in acting. From the auditions pa lang, we have already seen how passionate she is, so we look forward to all the opportunities we can give her in the near future," he concluded.



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## SC Justice Carpio: 'Why is PNP ignoring big-time drug lords?'

Solicitor General Jose Calida defends the PNP, saying that they were ordered to target all drug suspects, big or small



CRITICAL Antonio Carpio questions the thrust of the PNP's war on drugs.

MANILA, Philippines – Why is the Philippine National Police (PNP) practically ignoring the big-time drug lords in its war on drugs?

This was the question Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio raised on Tuesday, December 5, during the third session of the SC's oral arguments on the PNP's currently suspended drug war.

Carpio was grilling the PNP's counsel

Solicitor General Jose Calida, leading him to admit that much of the illegal drugs that reach the Philippine streets come from big-time drug lords mostly from China.

With this, he asked: "Can you explain to me why PNP, in this circular, is concentrating on street level operations and is practically

ignoring the big-time drug lords?"

"How come the flagship project of the President is concentrated on going after the small-time peddlers, why not the big time drug lords," Carpio added.

In the PNP's defense, Calida said that "big-time drug lords are not in our jurisdiction," referring to Chinese narco-bosses.

"Actually, your honor, the instruction of the President is to go after all of them, however, the big-time Chinese drug lords are outside our jurisdiction – they are in China," Calida said.

Carpio pursued his point, arguing that the PNP also knows that there are drug lords in the archipelago. Calida conceded, saying that "some", who are in the country, had been monitored by the PNP before they were pulled out from the drug war.



## LUIS MANZANO DARES BASHER TO FACE HIM

Bashing and negative comments are something that our favorite celebrity idols get on the daily. One would think that they are already immune to this but just like any other human being, celebrities get affected by the words thrown at them too. Case in point, Luis Manzano dared a basher to face him and say everything that the latter has been saying online to his face.

Luis Manzano has always known to be reactive to the comments that he receives online, even the negative ones. Usually Luis' reactions are more of retaliations through words but this time when a netizen went below the belt with his comments, the actor called out to all of his followers to give him information on the basher named Alexis Sarmiento.

Once Luis was able to get a hold of usable information on the basher, he then proceeded to dare him to say everything that he has been saying online to his face.

The basher was quick to play the victim and reposted Luis Manzano's call-out tweet.

There is no update yet on whether Luis was able to meet up with his basher as of writing but now all of Alexis Sarmiento's social media accounts are now private.

This just proves that you don't wanna mess with Luis Manzano!

## Toni Gonzaga, Mariel Rodriguez reveal lessons from falling-out in 2010



Toni Gonzaga on conflict with Mariel Rodriguez eight years ago: "It was blown out of proportion. It was also something that we could have dealt with between the two of us instead of involving a lot of people."

Inihayag nina Toni Gonzaga at Mariel Rodriguez na malayo na ang pinagdaanan ng kanilang pagkakaibigan mula nang magkaalitan sila noong 2010.

Nagsilbi raw iyon na matinding pagsubok na mas nagpatatag sa pundasyon ng kanilang pagkakaibigan.

Naging magkaibigan ang dalawa mula nang magkatrabaho sila sa pinakaunang edition ng ABS-CBN reality show na Pinoy Big Brother noong 2005.

Paglalarawan ni Mariel sa pagsubok na pinagdaanan nila ni Toni: "Para sa akin it was major. Kasi sobra kaming naging, kumbaga in showbiz, for me, she was my best friend."

Kaya nung "nag-away" raw sila ni Toni ay naging big deal talaga.

Sang-ayon din si Toni na pareho silang nasaktan ni Mariel sa pangyayaring iyon.

Sabi ni Toni, "It was major because at that time, we were young. It was hard to get over with. It took time to heal."

Hindi raw nila pinuwersang magkaayos sila agad, kahit pa may ibang taong tumutulong na magkaayos sila noon.

Dugtong ni Mariel, "Kasi noong nagkaroon



## Senator Enverga's Life Honoured at a Tribute Gala

A Celebration of Life Gala event was held last Nov. 30 at the Metropolitan Banquet Hall in Toronto to honour the life and legacy of the late Senator Tobias C. Enverga Jr. The hall was filled with over 450 guests in attendance including friends, family and members of the community who were touched and inspired by the late Senator; some of whom travelled all the way from Montreal, Hamilton, Brantford, Winnipeg, New Jersey, Baltimore and Ottawa to attend the special event.

Special guests from all levels of government were present to share their moving tributes including Philippine Ambassador to Canada Petronila Garcia, Director General of TECO Catherine Hsu, Senator Victor Oh and Senator Asha Seth; MP Peter Kent and MP Colin Carrie; MPPs Robin Martin, Roman Baber, Vijay Thanigasalam and Aris Babikian, from the Toronto Catholic School Board, Director of Education Rory McGurkin, Chair of the Board Barbara Poplawski, Trustee Angela Kennedy, Trustee Garry

Tanuan and former Trustee Patricia Bottoni.

The evening was filled with beautiful tribute videos of the late Senator, delicious food and entertainment. The Enverga family was truly humbled by the outpouring of support!

Senator Enverga or "Sen. Jun" leaves behind a lasting legacy. As a TCDSB Trustee, he initiated Rosary Day in October; as a Community Leader, he advocated for helping the needy and promoting the Philippine culture; as a Senator, he was the voice of the Filipino-Canadians, held the first Philippine flag raising ceremonies at Parliament Hill and for the first time, hundreds of Filipinos "took over" the Senate Chamber for a day. In addition, the late Senator Enverga introduced and sponsored several bills including the Act Respecting Latin American Heritage Month in October.

Through his advocacies and the causes that he was so passionate about, we hope to preserve his legacy and continue his good works!

ng time na ibang tao ang nag-try na mag-ayos, parang, okey... Pero hindi pa siya yung talagang naging okey na okey na talaga."

Nakapanayam sina Toni at Mariel sa ABS-CBN morning talk show na Magandang Buhay. Dito ay diretsahang tinanong ng TV host na si Jolina Magdangal kung anong pinag-ugatan ng away nina Toni at Mariel.

Sagot ni Toni, "Maraming mga na-involve, maraming factors. It was blown out of proportion. It was also something that we could have dealt with between the two of us instead of involving a lot of people."

Hindi na idinateloye nina Toni at Mariel kung anong puno't dulo ng kanilang alitan noon.

Pero sa panayaman na nailathala sa PEP.ph (Philippine Entertainment Portal) noong September 2010, pahapyaw na inamin ni Toni na may kinalaman sa nasirang tiwala at iba pang impormasyong nakarating sa kanya ang pinagmulan ng kanyang hinanakit kay Mariel. Ilang buwan ding nag-iwasan ang dalawa, hanggang sa nagkaroon sila ng pagkakataong makapag-usap sa loob ng apat na oras bandang January 2011.

Sa pagpapatuloy ng panayam sa Magandang Buhay, aminado naman si Mariel na hindi nila "na-handle" nang maayos ang kanilang alitan ni Toni dala ng kabataan.

"But I think kaya mas malalim ang friendship namin ngayon kasi may pinagdaanan na gano'n," dagdag ni Mariel.

Sabi naman ni Toni, "After everything, you will value what you have."

Katunayan ay sabay nilang ipinagdiwang ang ilan sa milestones ng kanilang buhay.

Saksi si Mariel nang ikasal si Toni sa mister nitong si Paul Soriano noong June 2015.

Halos sabay ring nagdalantao sina Mariel at Toni, na nagkaroon pa ng joint baby shower sa PBB noong August 2016.

"Madami nang pinagdaanang stages... Napagtatawanan, natse-cherish, because andaming lessons learned," pagtatapos ni Toni.

## Kapuso actor Kiko Estrada, hindi na tuloy ang paglipat sa ABS-CBN

Nasagap sa ilang taga-GMA Network na hindi raw natuloy ang paglipat ni Kiko Estrada sa ABS-CBN. Hindi malinaw kung pinigilan ng GMA o hindi pa puwedeng umalis si Kiko dahil sa kontrata nito.

Nag-text ako sa manager ni Kiko na si Arnold Vegafria ng ALV Talent Circuit kung totoong di na tutuloy sa Kapamilya network ang aktor. Pero hanggang sa ginagawa ko ang item na ito, wala pa akong natatanggap na sagot.

Ayaw ring magbigay ng pahayag ng taga-GMA kung ano ang napag-usapan nila sa meeting.

Nung nakausap namin si Kiko, sinabi niyang sa meeting niya sa GMA kinabukasan malalaman kung ano ang next step sa kanyang showbiz career.

Mukhang feel na niya ang pagiging Kapamilya at the time. Kasama niya noong gabing iyon ang rumored girlfriend niyang si Devon Seron na nasa GMA.

Nabanggit pa ni Devon na malabo na raw silang magkasama sa trabaho ni Kiko.

"Hopefully next year, magkatrabaho kami sa movie," umaasang sabi ni Devon.

## Maymay Entrata shares how she prefers to be courted

Ever since the conception of the MayWard love team back in the PBB house, the public has been following their every move seeing if Maymay Entrata and Edward Barber have finally officially taken things to the next level already. While the two have no qualms with sharing their sweet moments together, they have cleared it out that they aren't officially dating yet and now Maymay has clarified that it does take a while to court her.

In an episode of Magandang Buhay, Maymay Entrata opened up about how she prefers to be courted and stated that courting her does take a while.

"Dati kasi pinagbabawalan kami kahit crush lang, kasi focus sa pag-school. Pero siyempre kasi pag crush mo mag-text (kinikilig). Pero kapag mangliligaw na, hinding hindi ako sasagot pag hindi pupunta sa bahay," shared Maymay.

Maymay's love team partner Edward Barber backs this up by stating that her family's opinion of her suitor is a big factor for her, "Sinabi ni May sa akin dati na dapat approved yung lalaki sa pamilya niya. Kung hindi approved, wala talaga."

Looks like Edward's already a step ahead in terms of meeting the family!

## Loisa Andallo tears up while elaborating past conflict with Ronnie Alonte

Young actress Loisa Andallo couldn't help but get emotional when she recalled her past problem with boyfriend Ronnie Alonte. It can be remembered that the celebrity couple went through a rough patch on July of this year, but was thankfully able to iron things out eventually.

It was Loisa's first time to talk about the conflict during their guesting in Magandang Buhay. She tearfully said: "Masakit talaga 'yan. Kasi nagdaan din po talaga ako diyan."

According to Loisa, even though everything is fine now, she still gets emotional whenever she remembers what happened. "Kasi kahit hanggang ngayon pag naaalala ko, parang ang sakit, ang sakit lang ng mga nangyari. Tama yung sinasabi na parang parang end of the world na. Parang ayaw mo ng may bukas."

She clarified that her relationship with the Hashtag member is better and stronger than ever. "Okay na okay na kami ngayon, okay na okay na tayo, 'di ba? Kumbaga naalala ko lang 'yung mga napagdaanan namin."

Loisa also mentioned that despite the conflict, there was a good thing that came out of it. She became closer with her parents after she opened up to them her problem. "Dahil dito rin akong naging close sa parents ko kasi first time kong mag-open sa kanila. First time ko magsabi sa kanila ng ganong problema."

We're happy that Ronnie and Loisa are doing better than ever!



**confidentialia!**

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## Mika dela Cruz not a third party in breakup with Nash Aguas

"I'm okay with them. I wouldn't say were friends. I wouldn't call them friends. I want nothing to do with them. But I respect them," Alexa Ilacad says about Nash Aguas and Mika dela Cruz. Both Alexa and Nash admitted in separate interviews they had a "mutual understanding" that did not progress into a serious relationship.



Alexa Ilacad clarified there was no truth to allegations pointing to Mika dela Cruz as the third party in her doomed romance with Nash Aguas.

"No, no, no, no. There was no third party," said Alexa about her unexpected breakup with Nash.

Alexa went on to say that things just did not work out between her and Nash because of personal differences. "It started to go on the rocky road when I started my music career. We both got busy. 'I knew I wanted different things. We had different priorities. We thought it would be better to just stay as friends."

"We're both professional artists. When we see each other, kahit na may konting tampusan, we smile at each other and we finish our work then we go home."

### NLEX LOVE TEAM FOR FIVE YEARS

Alexa and Nash were a teen love team known for the unname NLEX at ABS-CBN.

Their pairing lasted for past five years. The last time they worked together was in the Kapamilya prime-time series *The Good Son*, which ended in April 2018.

In July 2018, Alexa revealed that her love team with Nash was not working out anymore so they decided to end it.

### CIVIL WITH NASH AND MIKA

Alexa also shared that she knew about Nash's childhood crush with Mika as they were all batchmates in ABS-CBN's kiddie gag show *Goin' Bulilit*. "Yeah, everyone knew. Andaming nangyari noong *Goin' Bulilit*. Mga away-away ng mga bata, ganyan... It was all because crush ni ganito si ganyan. 'I wasn't part of those fights. I was always quiet.' How does she feel about Nash and Mika eventually becoming a couple after all these years?"

Alexa replied, "Well, if they're both happy, then that's fine. We should all aspire for happiness, kung saan man nanggalinging ito."

### SINGLE FOR NOW

As for her own love life, Alexa said that she's not yet ready to be in a boyfriend-girlfriend relationship.

"I'm only 18. If some people choose to have a relationship at my age or earlier, good for them.

"But I know myself, I'm not ready."

For now, Alexa wants to juggle her showbiz career with her studies. "There are so many things I wanna accomplish on my own right now. Making myself whole, self love, and whatever.

"So I don't think I'm ready for a relationship," Alexa concluded.

## When is it wrong to address someone as "Tita"?

Cherie Gil's version of Actors' Etiquette has gone viral since she posted it December 3.

One of the things she pointed out may seem inconsequential, but it actually is a relatable problem among women.

She wrote, "And plleeeeeeassee don't call me TITA unless we are blood related (or super super close fam friends)."

If we go by the definition of "Tita," Cherie was correct as most Filipino dictionaries referred to the term as the parents' close friends.

The literal translation for "aunt" is "tiya," but "tita" eventually became acceptable.

In the recent times, it has been used to pertain to "middle-aged women" or anyone older than one's age—which, apparently, is wrong.

But just as it is improper for a man to ask a lady her age, addressing "middle-aged women" in general as "Tita" is somewhat presumptuous.

Cherie is not the first who took offense at being called "Tita."

Remember in February 2014 when

Cherie Gil is not the first celebrity to take offense at being addressed as "Tita."

Joyce Ching approached G Tongi on the set of the defunct series *Paraiso Ko'y Ikaw?*

Joyce, who was 19 at that time, said, "Hi, Tita G." G, then 36 years old, replied, "What Tita? Nobody calls me, Tita. You can call me 'G' or 'Ms. G.'"

To G, it was a non-issue. But in a separate interview, she clarified, "I feel like someone in their 20s... I know we're in the Philippines, naintindihan ko yung pagrespeto. 'But bilang isang babae, I just feel na pag working environment, okay lang yung address me by my first name.'"

She quipped, "Mukha ba akong Tita?"

"When I meet someone new that I've never met before, and they address me in a certain manner, hindi naman ako nahihiya na sabihin sa kanila kung ano yung mas kumportable ako.

"Di ba, it's better that you are upfront from the beginning."

Kim Chiu, 30, had a similar experience early this year.

A fan called her "Tita Kim."

The Kapamilya actress laughingly narrated, "Shocked ako, hindi ako lumingon. 'Sino yun?' 'Ate lang, no... puwede pag thirty na saka mo ako tawaging tita?'"

### WHO DO YOU CALL TITA?

Of late, the term has become a catchphrase.

Books, articles, and social media posts make a pun on it, using it to brand some ladies in their 20s and 30s who have particular

But being "tita" is still a preference, and only universal-way to show

So if your amiga is close it will not be much to ask permission by her first name whichever she introduced to mom for the first address her as "Ma'am."

And if you simply want to be polite, you can always use "po."



traits. called a matter of it is not the ly-known respect.

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## Kim Chiu opens up about unrequited love she experienced in the past

Kim Chiu reveals that she experienced one-sided love in the past. "Siguro na-experience ko yun for a time, pero bumitaw na rin ako."

Nagsimula ito nang tanungin si Kim at ang kanyang co-stars sa *One Great Love* na sina Dennis Trillo at JC de Vera kung naniniwala sila sa mismong titulo ng kanilang pelikula.

"Ako, naniniwala ako sa one great love," sagot ni Kim sa press conference ng *One Great Love* na ginanap kahapon, December 4.

"Nung una, nahihirapan akong intindihin ang kaibahan ng true love, great love, first love, one-sided love.

"Ang daming iba-ibang klase ng love kaya ang daming nababaliw talaga sa love, pero naniniwala po ako sa great love."

Inusisa si Kim kung naranasan na ba niya ang one-sided love, na tinatawag ding unrequited love.

Sagot ng 28-year-old Kapamilya actress, "Lahat naman po tayo napupunta sa one-sided love.



"Siguro na-experience ko yun for a time, pero bumitaw na rin ako."

"Pag one-sided, dapat hindi na kinakapitan. 'Dapat bumitaw ka na rin. Kapit ka sa ibang love.'"

Kailan niya na-realize na nasa one-sided love siya?

Ayon kay Kim, "Kapag may sina-side na siyang ibang love, napunta na sa one side, 'Ako na lang ata ito. Sige, alis na rin ako,' yung ganun. 'Marami naman pong lalaki sa mundo. 'Huwag kang manatili sa love na hindi naman binabalik sa 'yo. Dapat ibalik sa 'yo. 'Dun pumapasok ang true love kasi nagko-compromise kayo sa isa't isa.'"

Hindi tinukoy ni Kim kung kanino niya naranasan ang one-sided love, pero naging boyfriend niya noon ang ka-love team niyang si Gerald Anderson.

Kasalukuyang karelasyon ng aktres si Xian Lim, na naging onscreen partner din niya.

## Coco Martin idolizes Vic Sotto for his 'simplicity, kindness'

Coco Martin may be a big star in his own right, but having the chance to work with his idol "Bossing" Vic Sotto still saw him starstruck and humbled.

Martin took to Instagram recently to express his admiration for Sotto, who he was able to work with for the first time in "Jack Em Popoy: The PulisCredibles," their movie entry to the

44th Metro Manila Film Festival.

"Idol ko ito sa kasimplehan at kabaitan!" Martin wrote on Instagram on Dec. 24. "Dati pangarap ko lang sya makatrabaho ngayon nag katotoo na!!!"

Martin further stated that he has deep and utmost respect for Sotto, attesting to his goodness of heart.

"Maraming maraming salamat Bossing sobra pagrespeto ko sayo," Martin said. "Napakabit mo pong tao!!!"

Martin showed no hint of "tampo" despite murmurings in the past that his name was not allowed to be mentioned on GMA-7 when it came to promoting "Jack Em Popoy". It was observed then that GMA-7 did not mention his name in its official Twitter account early this December, which was pointed out by many of his fans.

He, however, has since clarified to columnist and talent manager Lolit Solis that he sees no issue with his name not being mentioned in the rival network. Fro him, it was more than enough that he got to work with Sotto in his lifetime.

"Okey lang po yon at naiintindihan ko po, sobrang taas ng respeto ko sa GMA," Martin said then. "Sila unang nagbukas sakín ng pintuan... Masaya na ako na natupad ko ang pangarap ko na makatrabaho po si Bossing..."

(That's OK with me and I understand. I highly respect GMA. They were the first to open doors for me. I am happy to just finally realize my dream of working with Bossing.)

## STAR CIRCLE ENTERTAINMENT CHRISTMAS PARTY 2018



LEFT, Star Circle kids junior pose with Star Circle's Ellengalorport before the party. ABOVE, Anabella Mohan, Fe Tadoran, Jemil Adajar, Bonna Esporas, Fe Castillo enjoy the Star Circle Entertainment Christmas party. RIGHT, Fe Tadoran poses with Star's Phoebe Yap Chan.



## Con artists using his name prompt Panelo to quit Facebook, Messenger

Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo has cautioned the public against con artists using his name to get money from people, particularly on Facebook.

“For the umpteenth time, I’m cautioning the public to be wary of scams using my name. As a result of this, I have decided to cut all my Facebook accounts, Messenger and [all other social media accounts] so they can no longer use it,” he told reporters.

Panelo narrated that a friend had sent him an exchange of messages, supposedly between him and another person who was his former classmate at the University of the Philippines.

“It appears in that note that ... I was asking



for money. I was so upset that I had to call the person. Because he was telling me in his text, ‘How about the P200,000 you borrowed earlier?’” he said.

Panelo added he was baffled by how his

friends could fall for such a scam, especially since they knew his cell phone number and could have easily called him up to verify.

“I told him, I wanted to curse like the President. I cannot even imagine why people like you would be entertaining this kind of scam. You know my number, why didn’t you call me?” he said.

According to Panelo, he has already reported the matter to the National Bureau of Investigation, adding that it was the fifth scam involving his name that he was aware of.

He theorized that some people may have been conned because of the credibility attached to his name and position.



## Julie Anne San Jose, Benjamin Alves unfollow each other on Instagram; fuel breakup rumor

The Julie Anne San Jose and Benjamin Alves breakup rumor continues after they unfollow each other on Instagram.

Break na nga ba sina Julie Anne San Jose, 24, at Benjamin Alves, 29?

May ilang linggo na ring umuugong ang ganitong hina, lalo na nang magpagupit ng buhok si Julie Anne kamakailan.

November 11, nag-post si Julie Anne sa Instagram kung saan ipinakita niya ang kanyang bagong hairdo.

Tanging caption niya rito, “Thank you, next” na mula sa title ng kanta ni Ariana Grande tungkol sa kanyang ex-boyfriends.

Sa comments section, maraming netizens ang nagtanong kung ang caption ba ni Julie Anne ay nangangahulugang break na sila ni Benjamin.

Subalit sa isang interview noong November, nilinaw ng Kapuso singer-actress na walang malalim na kahulugan ang kanyang pagpapagupit.

Pero hindi niya tuwirang sinagot ang isyung hiwalay na sila ng 29-anyos na aktor.

Hanggang ngayon ay hindi pa rin matigil-tigil ang balitang hiwalay na ang dalawa, lalo pa’t kapan-sin-pansing hindi na nila pina-follow ang isa’t isa sa Instagram.

“No user found” kapag hinanap ang account name ni Benjamin sa account ni Julie Anne.

Ganito rin ang resulta kapag hinanap ang account name ni Julie Anne sa account ni Benjamin.

December 4, naging malaman din ang tweet ni Julie Anne. Mensahe niya: “Mouth full of flowers, Heart full of cement.” Walang partikular na tinukoy si Julie Anne kung para kanino ang tweet.

Iba-iba naman ang reaksiyon ng netizens dito.

May mga nagpahayag ng suporta kay Julie Anne, may mga nag-tweet ng images ng pamamaalam.

Ang iba naman, hinimok si Julie Anne na huwag idaan sa social media ang paglalabas ng impormasyon tungkol sa kanyang personal life.

Nito lamang September nang aminin ni Benjamin na magkarelayon na sila ni Julie Anne.

Kinumpirma rin niyang two years na ang relasyon nila ng singer-actress.

Bago ang pag-aming ito, naging mailap ang dalawa tungkol sa estado ng kanilang relasyon, subalit very expressive ang kanilang posts para sa isa’t isa sa social media.

## Direk Yam all praises for Anne: ‘No headache’



DIRECTOR Yam Laranas scored big in the 2004 Metro Filmfest with “Sigaw”, which he did for Regal Films, and this was later remade in Hollywood as “The Echo”. It’s now Yam’s first time to work with Anne Curtis in Viva’s Metro Filmfest entry, “Aurora”, and he praises her for her total dedication to the project.

“We stayed for a total of two weeks and three days in Batanes during the shoot and she never complained about the not-so-comfortable conditions we had there,” he says. “We have plenty of underwater scenes and she refused to use a double even in the diving scenes where she’s required to stay underwater for several minutes. I don’t want to put her in danger as the current is really strong, but she’s a real trouper and very professional.”

So would he like to work with her again? “Of course, give me Anne anytime. She is a director’s delight dahil napakagaang katrabaho. We need more stars like her in the industry who doesn’t give headaches to the people she works with.”

### INTERNET

## Pornhub: Filipinos rank no. 1 in spending time on site

Filipinos once again ranked number one among those who spent the longest time watching porn this year, as well having a fairly close number of male and female viewers, according to Pornhub.

In its annual “Pornhub Insights” report, released by the site’s research and analysis team on Tuesday, Dec.11, it was stated that Filipino visitors spent an average of 13 minutes and 50 seconds on the adult site for the year 2018. This figure is 22 seconds higher from last year.

Completing the top five are South Africa, United States, Ukraine and Canada.

The country also topped the category of having the most proportionate viewers: 62 percent were male, while 38 percent were female. The study noted that Filipina viewers only increased by two percent, compared to last year’s surge of 32 percent.

Pornhub also boasted of having 33.5 billion visits this year, or 92 million daily visits – which equals the

combined population of Canada, Poland and Australia. The site also recorded 30.3 billion searches, or 962 searches per second.

The Philippines went three ranks up, making it to the top 10 on the category of most number of visitors. The United States was still ranked number one, followed by the United Kingdom and India.

Controversial porn star and U.S. President Donald Trump’s former mistress Stormy Daniels became the overall most searched topic on the site. Placing second is the popular online game Fortnite.

While in the Philippines, “pinay” still held the top spot of the most searched term. Likewise, former Filipino-Japanese porn star Maria Ozawa was still popular among Filipino site visitors, placing number one in the most searched porn stars.

Filipinos also mostly searched their porn using their mobile phones, having recorded 86 percent of traffic. Some spent time watching on their tablets with 8 percent, while the rest from the stats watched from their desktop computers.

Pornhub also indicated that for every minute, there are 63,992 new visitors, 207,405 videos are watched, and 57,750 searches are performed. The site also had 141,312,502 video votes – a number that even surpassed votes from the last U.S. presidential elections.

## Heart: ‘Malaki ang utang na loob ko sa GMA’

GMA Artist Center proudly welcomed Queen of Creative Collaborations Heart Evangelista into its roster of talents as she signed an exclusive management contract last Dec. 13. Heart reveals that she is very happy with the way GMA is handling her career all these years: “It’s very natural that I’m really here. I’ve been with GMA for a very long time so I owe them a lot for being there for me. They are very supportive when it comes to my international commitments.”



Heart has evolved from being a professional actor and television host to a sought-after international and local brand endorser, sold-out visual artist, bestselling author, fashion influencer, beauty icon and entrepreneur. She is one of the country’s most recognized celebrities, and advocates for children’s health and education, individuals with special needs and animal welfare.

Last seen on the first-ever Filipino-Korean romantic comedy series “My Korean Jagiya” together with Kapuso oppa Alexander Lee, Kapuso viewers should look forward to seeing Heart’s comeback on television as one of the judges of the reality-based artista search “Starstruck” this 2019.

“I will be one of the judges which I have always wanted to do. I just don’t know how to say ‘I’m sorry but it’s a no’ but I’m very excited for this project,” shared Heart.

Considered a household name in the Philippines, Heart has now successfully become one of the most influential celebrities in the digital scene through her multimedia platforms. She was also featured in Harper’s Bazaar US last September. In the feature, author Kevin Kwan described Heart as the “modern-day incarnation of Audrey Hepburn.”

## Why Marco said ‘Sorry’ to Elmo

Because the video showing him on a (group) date with Janella Salvador went viral, Marco Gumabao took the initiative of explaining things (not that he had to) and saying “Sorry!” to Elmo Magalona when they bumped into each other during the recent shoot for the Kapamilya Christmas Special at the Big Dome.

“At first, there was some kind of uneasiness (naiilang) between us so I approached him,” Marco recalled to a handful of movie writers the other day at the presscon for Aurora, Viva Films and Aliud Entertainment’s entry in the 2018 Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF), admitting that the netizens were “misled” into suspecting that there was something more than friendship between him and Janella because they are both single. (Janella and Elmo are “distancing” from each other after Janella told Funfare in an exclusive interview that Elmo hurt her not once but twice.)

“There’s nothing between Janella and me. We are just friends. To avoid any tsismis about us, we decided to just stop going out together,” adding, “and I’m happy that Elmo appreciated my gesture. He said, ‘Not all guys would do it.’ I told him that I didn’t mean to ruin kung ano mang relationship mayroon sila ni Janella.”

Asked if Janella and Elmo still had a “relationship,” Marco said, “I don’t know,” begging the media’s pardon for not wanting to talk more about it.

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## Is Sarah Geronimo working on a new movie with Jun Lana?

It looks like Sarah Geronimo is set to return to the big screen.

Director Jun Lana posted on his Instagram account a short clip of what seemed to be a look test for an upcoming project of Sarah.

The short video clip showed Sarah talking and hugging a dog.

The video clip prompted Sarah's fans to ask if the clip is for a new movie starring the Popstar Princess.

Direk Jun and Sarah have yet to reveal details about the project.

Sarah's last project was the Filipino adaptation of the Korean movie Miss Granny, shown in August 2018.

## KC Concepcion saves up and skips buying Hermes bags to "afford beach"

KC Concepcion shared the benefits of "delayed gratification" on her Instagram post dated December 2.



The 33-year-old actress-entrepreneur revealed how her family imparted to her an important life lesson, something that she continues to practice to this day.

Aside from her mom, Sharon Cuneta, KC said her stepdad,

Senator Francis Pangilinan, and her late grandmother, Elaine Cuneta, served as her financial advisers growing up.

KC, however, lost her grandmother to complications due to abdominal surgery on November 5, 2014.

She wrote, "Dear Mom and Grandparents, thank you for teaching me to 'Save & Invest' at such a young age.

"Like every working millennial or woman in their 30s, I am continuing to learn how to take care of, grow, and move around personal finances.

"My grandma, stepdad, and mom were so strict about saving up to buy property FIRST, before getting that @hermes bag...

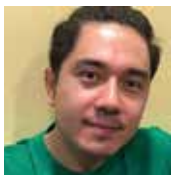
Along with the caption, KC posted a photo of a property with a magnificent view of the beach.

She made no mention about purchasing the beachfront property, but her hashtags and caption led some of her followers to conclude that it will not be long until KC enjoys the view on a regular basis.

## Paulo Avelino reveals what it's like working with Angel Locsin for the first time

Sa presscon ng huling pelikula ni Paulo Avelino, ang Goyo: Ang Batang Heneral, sinabi ng aktor na pagkatapos ng naturang proyekto ay gusto niya munang magpahinga at pansamantalang talikuran ang showbiz.

Inakala ng iba na baka tulad ng aktor na si John Lloyd Cruz ay iwanan na rin ng aktor ang industriya at pilin na lang mamuhay bilang isang ordinaryong tao.



Siniguro ng aktor na nakapag-recharge na siya mula sa ilang buwang bakasyon at ngayon ay handa na siyang sumabak uli sa trabaho.

Ani Paulo, "Okay naman, medyo maraming inaayos sa labas na trabaho, medyo marami ring na-realize.

"Heto ready na uli, medyo nakapagrecharge na. Tingnan natin, kailangan lang nating ayusin yung work-life balance natin."

Kinumusta din namin kay Paulo ang relasyon nila ng Filipina-Australian model girlfriend na si Jodie Elizabeth Tarasek.

"Aayos naman, happy naman," maikling sagot nito.

Excited ang aktor para sa kanyang upcoming teleserye, ang The General's Daughter, kasama sina Angel Locsin, Maricel Soriano, at ilan pang stars ng ABS-CBN.

Kuwento ng aktor, "Very excited, medyo kakaiba siya sa mga nagawa na ng mga cast dati. Intense talaga, medyo aksyon.

"Si Angel ay magbabalik-aksyon na uli, so very exciting sa whole cast. Ang lalaki rin ng cast, with a lot of veterans actors, so nakaka-excite talaga."

Puring-puri naman ng Kapamilya actor si Angel na hindi pala niya nakatrabaho noong pareho pa silang nasa bakuran ng GMA-7.

Aniya, "Actually never ko siyang nakasama sa kabila. First time pa lang naming magkakatrabaho ngayon.

"Okay naman siya, very professional. Kapag may kailangan siya 'tapos wala yun sa set, siya na ang gumagastos para sa set. Ganun siya ka-involved sa show."

Hanga ba si Paulo sa kakayanan ni Angel sa pag-arte?

"As an actress? Kahit naman ako, we all get better with experience. Mahusay, mahusay na artista si Angel."

Tinanong din namin si Paulo kung naka-eksena na ba niya si Maricel Soriano na kilala sa showbiz na mataray at prangka.

"Di ko pa siya nakaka-eksena pero lagi ko siyang nakakasama sa ganitong mga events.

"Napakabait ni Inay. Inay kasi ang tawag namin sa kanya, Inay Maria. Napakabait, maayos na katabaho, very professional. One hour before nasa set

na, fully made-up.

"Wala akong masabi sa professionalism niya bilang isang artista."

Para kay Paulo, sa kabuuan ay naging maganda ang tinakbo ng 2018 sa kanya at positibo siya sa taong 2019.

"Actually masuwerte ako ngayong 2018. Not for anything pero tuloy-tuloy yung mga pelikula na ginawa ko. Lumabas yung pelikula naming Kasal 'tapos yung Goyo, then heto nga sinasalubong ko ang 2019 na may bago akong palabas para sa mga Kapamilya natin."

## BCCA holds 2018 Christmas party

By Manuel Papa

TORONTO - Bicolanos held their Christmas Party on December 9, 2018, Sunday, at the JC's Banquet Hall, 1686 Ellesmere Road, Toronto Ontario.

The Bicolanos here came from the provinces of

Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Catanduanes, Albay, Sorsogon, and Masbate.

BCCA is headed by a Earl Francis Orino Dacara, who is a paralegal practitioner and an immigration consultant. He is a native of Libmanan, Camarines Sur.

Former BCCA President Joseph Redoblado and Michele Serrano were the program hosts with the total support of the BCCA officers and members of the board of directors.

It was highlighted by raffles with nice prizes like television and others.

In the meantime, Dacara is calling all Bicolanos in the province of Toronto to join the association. He can be contacted at (647) 302 - 3508 and email-dacaralegal@hotmail.com.

Aside from the BCCA officers and members of the board of directors, he is being supported by volunteer bicolanos in inviting fellow kababayans to join the BCCA.



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## Focus on lowering prices, not Charter change

MANILA, Philippines — Instead of changing the Constitution, Vice President Leni Robredo urged the House of Representatives to find ways to bring down prices and give more jobs to Filipinos.

"Imbes na maghain ng mga solusyon sa mga problemang dulot ng batas na ito, malinaw na usap-politika ang mas mahalaga para sa liderato ng Kamara, na siya nitong ipinakita sa pagpasa ng House Resolution na nagtutulak sa Cha-Cha," Robredo said.

The House approved on second reading the proposed draft federal charter.

"Ang dapat tutukan ng ating Kongreso ay ang mga panukala na magpapababa sa presyo ng mga bilihan, at magbibigay ng trabaho sa ating mga kababayan," the Vice President said.

"Unahin na natin ang ating mga kababayan, at mga alalahaning pinakamalapit sa kanilang bituka at pamumuhay, kaysa sa pamumulitika," she added.

While going around the country, Robredo



said she found out that the main sentiment of the people is the unabated price increases of basic goods and services.

"Umaasa sila na ibubuhos ng pamahalaan ang kakayahan nito para pagaanin ang kanilang dalahin sa araw-araw," she said.

But the Vice President lamented that lowering of prices seemed not a priority of the government.

"Delayed na nga ang ayuda para sa mahihirap, binawi pa ang suspensyon ng fuel excise

tax sa January 2019," Robredo said.

Also, President Rodrigo Duterte approved the imposition of the second round of fuel tax increases starting January next year.

However, the government has taken an effort to solve joblessness in the country with the Ease of Doing Business Act that was recently signed by President Rodrigo Duterte.

The Ease of Doing Business Act or Republic Act No. 11032 aims to "streamline business processes and reduce processing time in all government agencies to make the country more conducive to investments thereby creating more and better jobs for our people."

The Senate also recently approved the rice tariffication bill which seeks to lift restrictions on rice importation to help the country's rising inflation.

This bill is expected to alleviate the impact of the nine-year high inflation and address the country's rice shortage.

## Richard on his 'tongue' scene with Vice: 'A real trouper'

RICHARD Gutierrez is the first to admit that he is not a comedian. He's better known for the many action series he did on GMA like "Captain Barbell" and for the romantic dramas he did on the big screen like "Let the Love Begin", so doing a fantasy comedy like "Fantastica" is something really new for him.



"Bago talaga ito lalo na nga't first time ko ring makasamang mag-comedy si Vice Ganda," he says. "Naiiba rin talaga ang combination ng cast dito kasi gayon ko rin lang nakatrabaho sa isang movie si Dindong Dantes, Bela Padilla at lahat ng ka-love teams na nasa cast nito. Lahat, mahuhusay and we all had fun on the set." He says he has plenty of hilarious scenes in the movie but the funniest one is his scene with Vice where he keeps calling her Bellat and she keeps calling him Mahal. They keep on repeating it until Bellat says: "Hindi tayo matatapos dito hangga't hindi mo ako tinatawag ng mahal." And he should do it with matching seductively ribtickling movement of his eyes and his tongue.

"Real trouper si Chard!" says Vice. "Lumalaban talaga siya sa pagko-comedy at walang kiyeme-kiyeme pati sa labas-dilang eksena 'yun. Marami siyang gugulatin dito sa pagiging natural comedian niya."

"Well, it's good nandiyan lagi si Vice para umalalay sa co-stars niya," adds Richard. "Honestly, kaming co-stars niya, tawa nang tawa sa shooting kasi kung minsan, may mga hirit siyang ina-adlib niya nang di namin alam na gagawin pala niya, kaya caught off-guard kami at kami ang unang natatawa sa eksena. Lahat kami, we really let just all our hair down."

After "Fantastica", Richard is happy to return to drama in a new teleserye with Bea Alonzo. "I'm excited as this will be the first time for us to work together," he says. "I've seen her work and she's really one of our best drama actresses today. We've started our training for our respective roles in the yet untitled show scheduled for telecast next year."

They were paired in their musical number for the ABS-CBN Christmas show at Araneta Coliseum that will be aired this weekend and everyone agrees that they have fantastic chemistry together. Off cam, we all know Bea is currently happy with Gerald Anderson while Chard is fulfilled with his inamorata, Sarah Lahbati, and their two sons, Zion and Kai.

## JC wants to marry partner when their daughter is 'old enough'

JC De Vera is happy to have an entry in this year's Metro filmfest as one of Kim Chiu's leading men (the other being Dennis Trillo) in Regal Entertainment's romantic drama, "One Great Love". "My last entry was 'Kabisera' pa two years ago as one of the sons of Nora Aunor," he says. So how is it working with Kim and Dennis in "One Great Love"? "Masaya. We all enjoyed working with each other. This is Kim's first mature role and we have two love scenes together, one sa bathtub and one sa bedroom. She was very nervous but she's also very professional about it. She trusted me and we pulled it off well."

He also enjoyed working with Director Eric Quizon. "He's very cool on the set, never raises his voice. We did it in a very relaxed, calm way and all us stars just gave our best to make sure the project will be a real good one."

He's asked if he believes in the concept of having "One Great Love"? "I have a very happy life with my family right now, so you already know the answer. I truly believe sa one great love dahil sa nae-experience ko ito ngayon mismo and I'm truly grateful sa position kong ito ngayon sa buhay ko. And when you watch our movie, viewers will also surely have an idea of what one great love is."

At 32, JC has started his own family. His partner, Rikkah Cruz, has given birth to a baby girl they call Lana. "I've had many relationships for the past years and I always give it my 100 percent, but ngayon ko pa lang masasabing nahanap ko na talaga 'yung one great love ko."

They haven't really officially tied the knot yet, though. "Our plan is to wait until lumaki-laki na ang baby namin. Kasi now, she's still a small baby. When she can walk na, we want her to walk with her mom on the aisle to the altar on our wedding day. We are saving and preparing for that now."

## Filipino docs to PAO, stop 'fake news' on Dengvaxia

FEBRUARY 21, 2018 PAO chief Dr. Persida Rueda Acosta testifies during the Senate probe into Dengvaxia controversy.



A group of Filipino doctors on Thursday asked again the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) to stop spreading unproven claims about the Dengvaxia vaccine amid the public's diminishing trust in the safety of other vaccines and the outbreak of life-threatening diseases.

"We call for a halt to the continuous spread of unproven claims of deaths caused by the dengue vaccine by the same unqualified but noisy people who are largely responsible for the fall in vaccine confidence in the country," the Doctors for Truth and Public Welfare said.

The group was referring to PAO chief Atty. Persida Rueda-Acosta and PAO Forensics chief Erwin Erfe.

The group noted that the trust and confidence of Filipinos on the safety of vaccines plummeted to 32 percent from 93 percent. It also pointed out the rise of measles incidents by 350 percent and Rubella by more than 1,000 percent.

"Children are needlessly suffering and dying because of the fear mongering and misinformation that has been allowed to propagate in little over a year. We are headed for epidemics of epic proportion of otherwise preventable diseases," the group said.

The group slammed Erfe for spreading falsehood on social media about the measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine, claiming that it causes autism.

"Indeed, Dr. Erwin Erfe and Atty. Persida Acosta should be held accountable for the thousands of dis-

abilities and deaths that could have been, and could yet be avoided, were it not for their irresponsible behavior," the group said.

The Doctors for Truth and Public Welfare called on the government, especially the Department of Health (DOH), to ask true vaccine experts to speak out the truth in order to counter all the disinformation reaching the public.

The doctors also urged the DOH to get a reputable third party to perform an unbiased and scientific assessment of the results of the initial group of children who received the Dengvaxia vaccine and to publish its results to dispel "unfounded" fears.

They also called on various branches of government to join forces in promoting vaccinations and conduct a massive information drive, featuring experts, so that the truth will prevail.

## Why Ethel Booba thinks gov't officials succumb to corruption

MANILA, Philippines—Comedienne Ethel Booba continues to be outspoken about relevant issues, this time by lamenting the rampant corruption in the government.

Ethel aired on Twitter why she thinks some government officials succumb to corruption.

"Paano titigil ang ibang government official sa pangungurakot eh kapag nakasuhan sila, hindi nakukulong or makulong man eh napapalaya din depende kung kakampi ang nasa posisyon. Charot!" she said.

Many netizens were quick to respond to Ethel's tweet, with netizen @carmelaann saying: "Tumpak! May tama ka dyan! Pera pera lang ang katapat, wow Philippines!!"

Meanwhile, another netizen @iam\_mag-nolia described this occurrence as "government enterprises."

Ethel Booba is known for being comical, yet candid about her opinion in the political landscape and social issues, resulting to catching attention online.

## Binay: Linking Jollibee, McDonald's to Duterte ouster move 'cause for alarm'

MANILA, Philippines—Linking Jollibee, McDonald's and other mutants to an alleged destabilization plot against President Rodrigo Duterte is not only a "cause for alarm" but also reflects "the sorry state" of government's intelligence.

Senator Nancy Binay said this on Tuesday as she pushed for additional budget of government's spy agencies to reduce their "handicap" on intelligence gathering.

This came after presidential son, former Davao City vice mayor Paolo Duterte, reportedly posted on Facebook a list of people and companies allegedly involved in the destabilization plot against the President.

"Maaawa ako doon sa agency na nagbigay ng intel report kay vice mayor. Sa tingin ko, kailangan silang tulungan para mai-improve naman ang kanilang level of intel capabilities," Binay said in a statement.

"Kapag kasama na si Jollibee, McDonald's at mutants sa destabilization plot, it's a cause for alarm. It means our country is already in grave danger," she said.

Intelligence and security failures, she said, are "unacceptable" when government agencies and executive offices are given multi-billion peso budget for intelligence.

"Clearly, meron misinformation and disinformation. Sa ibang bansa, accountability is a serious matter.

Kung kaya, gusto namin malaman kung anong agency ang nag-release ng intel para matingnan namin kung kailangan dagdagan ang kanilang budget to improve their infrastructure and logistics," the senator said.

"Pero kung malaki na ang budget nila and their ineptness is obvious, perhaps we need to cut down their budget at ilagay na lang ang pondo sa mas may pakinabang ang taumbayan," she noted.

Binay said the supposed destabilization list which was personally released by the presidential son reflects the sorry state of state intelligence.

"The information was not accurate nor validated. It's painfully evident that basic intel is lacking at present,"

she said.

"The supposed list in connection with the alleged destabilization plot against the President reflects the sorry state of state intelligence, and the handicap of our intelligence and counterintelligence structures."

"The awkward question: Ano ba talaga, kuya? Diliman ba o dilawan? Kasama ba nga ba si Jollibee, Ronald, Hetti at Padawan?" Binay further asked.





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## Julia Barretto on entering showbiz: "Tita Claudine gave me the opportunity to try it out."

Julia Barretto is the daughter of Marjorie Barretto and Dennis Padilla who according to her wanted to make a name in showbiz by herself and not just because she carries a famous showbiz name. Now having number of fans nationwide, Julia might have already achieved what she wanted. But who inspired her to go into showbiz?



A few days ago, the actress of "Ngayon at Kailanman" posted her

latest Instagram TV video sharing topics with her mom. She posted the video with the caption, "Adulthood with Mom | Just Julia. I'm excited to really share this very personal yet fun episode I did with mom as we talked about our mother-daughter relationship. I hope mothers and daughters out there can relate to us as well. Enjoy!"

Among the questions asked by Julia Barretto, one revealed how she got into showbiz.

Julia asked her mom Marjorie, "Did you always foresee me to get into showbiz?" As her mom answered "yes", she shared the story of the first time she went into the entertainment industry and said, "I started at the age of 9 because my Tita Claudine gave me the opportunity to try it out." The mom added, "Be little Claudine." She also shared that she stopped because her mom wanted her to have a normal life in school.

At the time she went back into showbiz, she shared with her fans the tough journey she had gone through. An article from rappler.com quoted her saying, "In my whole journey as an actress, more often I was doubted, I was judged, I had to deal with scrutiny from people who did not know me, who made me suffer the consequences of the mistakes I did not commit and people did not give me a chance. People did not give me the chance to make some mistakes, learn, and to better myself."

But because she loves what she does, she wanted to prove them wrong. "Other than the fact that I love my craft, I love what I do and I feel strongly passionate about acting - I've always wanted to prove myself. I've always wanted to prove my doubters wrong," the actress added.

Now her Tita is so proud of her with her latest movie "Unexpectedly Yours" as Claudine Barretto posted on Instagram, "Watched your movie all the way in Cavite. So proud of you anak," where Julia replied, "I love you mama! See you tomorrow."

## Lea Salonga rebukes 'idiotic' theatergoers for taking photos during play

Lea Salonga believes that when you go to the theater, you should abide by the rules.

The Tony Award-winning actress-singer got irked at some theatergoers for breaking one of those rules: taking photos. This she expressed on her Twitter account on Monday, Dec. 3.

Salonga called out some audience members who took photos while watching the production of "Waitress"—top-billed by Joanna Ampil—held at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, in Makati City.



"Haaaaaaay, you idiotic photo takers breaking the rules at #WaitressMNL," she expressed. "Nakakahiya kayo (You are shameful)."

She added that the head usher took screenshots of the erring theatergoers' social media accounts, in which they shared the photos. "... (one in particular had the gall to use the official hashtag). Talino (Very bright)," Salonga stressed.

Some netizens shared Salonga's sentiment, such as Joanabee (@Joanabells23).

"May pambili ng tickets, pero walang etiquette... libre naman yun ah? (They have money to buy tickets, but have no etiquette... which is free)," she said.

Meanwhile, Malou Wang (@tjrerck) shared that those who violate rules should be escorted out of the theater. She cited Japan as an example, where people are not allowed to bring out their phones or cameras, even to those performances outside malls.

And Alex DL Cruz (@fresh\_boyx69) thinks that organizers "should ban and safekeep smartphones in all theater and play venues."

In the past, Salonga was vocal about being strict in following the rules. Previously she, along with Jim Paredes and celebrity photographer Raymund Isaac, rebuked some "rich, affluent" moviegoers illegally recording "Crazy Rich Asians."

## Vice Ganda recalls embarrassing toilet encounter with Jose Mari Chan

Not everyone can say they have an unforgettable memory with well-loved singer-songwriter Jose Mari Chan, but for Vice Ganda, a chance encounter he had with the "Christmas in Our Hearts" singer four years ago may just be one of the most memorable yet, if not the most embarrassing.

Vice Ganda divulged to Anne Curtis and the audience during the "Tawag ng Tanghalan" segment of "It's Showtime" on Tuesday, Dec. 4, just what happened during his embarrassing encounter with the famed singer. So embarrassing it was that, in the comedian's words, he wanted to be swallowed up by the ground and just die.

According to Vice Ganda, the encounter happened during singer-host Karylle Padilla and Yael Yuzon's wedding reception in Tagaytay back in 2014. Chan, it turned out, was one of the couple's ninongs.



"Edi inaantay yung mga pagkain, eh na-c-ER ako, sabi ko sa kasama kong bakla, 'Bakla samahan mo ko, CR tayo,'" he recalled.

The two went ahead to use the restroom. As per Vice Ganda, he did not take long inside the cubicle and immediately went out to preen in front of the mirror. His companion, however, seemed to be taking too long.

"Bakla ang tagal mo tapos na ko ikaw pa inaantay ko ngayon! Tapos walang sumasagot, yung isang cubicle hinampas ko, 'Bakla anong petsa na!'" he said. "Tapos di kumikibo. 'Ah talagang binibwisit mo ko, pinagaantay mo ko.'"

Vice Ganda, thinking his friend was inside the cubicle, went on to get the dipper and splashed water on the feet of whoever was inside.

"Binasa ko yung paa niya tapos ayos ako ng buhok. Paglabas ng cubicle, si Jose Mari Chan," he said as he realized his grave mistake. "Sabi ko talaga, sabi ko, 'Sorry po...' Nakita ko talaga basa yung sapatos niya, at tsaka yung pantalon niya basa."

Chan apparently was sitting on the toilet when Vice Ganda splashed water on his feet, thus soaking not just his shoes, but also the upper part of his pants.

"So nung tinaas niya, basa yung pantalon niya. Sabi ni Jose Mari Chan, 'Is that you?'" he said. "'Hindi po ako yun...! Ayoko nang kumain, gusto ko nang umuwi. Eh, diba syempre respetado yun... tapos kinalampag ko, 'Bakla! Bakla!'"

As co-hosts Mariel Padilla and Anne Curtis laughed over Vice Ganda's embarrassing moment, South Korean comedian Ryan Bang quipped, "Kaya pala umuwi siya agad."

After the incident, Vice Ganda shared he has made it sure that he is the first one to play Chan's Christmas songs whenever the holiday approaches out of utter respect for the man.

"Nakakahiya... Kaya talaga tuwing Pasko, ako ang unang unang nagpapatugtog ng kanta niya bilang pagbibigay



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galang," he added. "At tsaka yun ang pinakamagandang narinig kong kanta talaga..."

## Bimby was told Kris Aquino might lose endorsements due to health condition

MANILA, Philippines — Kris Aquino has revealed that her son Bimby was told they might lose their endorsements if the extent of her health condition was disclosed.

"It's an unfair world when an 11 year old feels he needs to be the protector & guardian of secrets for his mama. Someone no longer in our lives had told Bimb that if our endorsements knew the extent of his mama's health worries, she'd lose her contracts," Aquino wrote in an Instagram post.

Aquino claimed the post was written "for no other reason than the belief that TRUTH SETS US FREE."

The Queen of All Media shared this happened when they still did not have a definitive prognosis of her autoimmune disease.

She explained, "I did this because i don't want those working in KCAP, our personal staff, and my siblings & my sons to be burdened by what is primarily my battle."

Regardless of her health condition, Aquino remained positive and said: "I shall emphasize God blessed us that i had an early diagnosis."

"Others aren't as fortunate and only know what's wrong when organs have irreversible

damage. All my organs are still okay," she added.

She said her doctors had reassured her that as long as she takes her medication, not exceed her allowed work hours and carefully choose her shoot locations for endorsements, she could still "look forward to a fulfilling life."

Aquino ended her post by saying, "I choose to see 2018 as the year i defined who I am & what I'm made of. Because through it all, my heart still found a way to say- i trust You, i love You, i am grateful to You, my Lord & Savior."

Aquino revealed in October 2018 that she was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease.

In a previous Instagram post, she explained this condition by saying "the immune system mistakes part of your body — like your joints or skin — as foreign."

## Missed opportunity for notorious lass

It was already too late for Notorious Lass, who is known for being bitchy, to realize that she had just lost what could have been a high-paying project.

At a posh mall in the metro, NL was approached by a selfie-seeking woman. NL grudgingly said "yes," but not before she first stared at the woman and looked at her from head to toe.

The woman noticed what NL did, but did not react. She got her sweet revenge by calling off the show she had planned to produce for NL and her onscreen partner, Relaxed Jack.

Too bad for NL, the show could have earned big bucks for her and her partner's talent management company.

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## Iza to remain in showbiz after her marriage

**IZA Calzado formally tied the knot with groom Ben Wintle at a very private and simple wedding ceremony at the Paradise Club island resort in Coron, Palawan. Only very close friends and family members were invited. Among the celebrity principal sponsors are Judy Ann Santos and husband Ryan Agoncillo, Lucy Torrez Gomez and Iza's manager, Noel Ferrer.**

Iza was given away by her brother Dash Calzado. Friends and relatives who are not in Palawan will be invited by the newlyweds in a special dinner they'll be hosting soon. Iza and Ben's wedding is the

fourth one in showbiz in a matter of weeks, led by Christian Bautista and Kat Ramnani, then followed by Aljur Abrenica and Kylie Padilla, and Lotlot de Leon and her Lebanese long time boyfriend Fadi El Soury who is a

deadringer for Cebuano singer Luke Mejares.

Iza will remain active in her acting career even if she's now officially Mrs. Wintle. She's doing a soap with ABS-CBN and is shooting a new movie to be shown in February with Sang're co-stars Sunshine Dizon, Diana Zubiri and Karylle who attended her Palawan nuptials, under the direction of Mark Reyes.



## Jericho Rosales explains why he is not yet ready to be a dad again

Jericho Rosales on having a baby with wife Kim Jones: "Mahilig ako sa bata, batang isip nga ako. Na-realize lang namin na were not yet ready."

Apat na taon ng kasal sina Jericho Rosales at asawa nitong si Kim Jones ngunit hanggang ngayon ay wala pa sa plano nila ang magkaanak.



"I'm not ready to be a dad. Not yet.

"Wala pa, e, wala pang time, wala pang masyadong time for family and friends."

Ayaw ba niya ng bata?

Natawawag tugon ng bida sa Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) 2018 entry na The Girl in the Orange Dress, "Mahilig ako sa bata, batang isip nga ako.

"Na-realize lang namin na we're not yet ready."

Paliwanag pa niya, "When we have time, we just spend it together.

"Parang feeling talaga namin as a married couple, andami pa naming kailangang pag-aralan sa isa't isa and enjoy-in yung time namin sa isa't isa.

"Para mag-grow pa kami as a couple, we're not really rushing, andami naming pamangkin.

"It's difficult, very difficult. Nakikita namin yung mga kaibigan namin na may mga anak sila and full time."

Hindi ba sila naiinggit sa mga kaibigan nilang may mga anak na rin?

Saad ni Jericho, "Hindi nga, kasi alam naming hindi namin kakayanin, e.

"Hindi naman kami ang mahihirapan kapag ano, yung baby naman.

"Di ba pag walang time, yung baby yung kawa-wa.

"Ayaw na ayaw namin yung putting pressure on the marriage... hindi naman kami nagmamadali."

## Toni refutes old rumors about her and Sam: 'No such incident'

**SAM Milby gained fame when he joined the very first Pinoy Big Brother in 2005. He didn't win but he became the housemate who is the most successful in cultivating a showbiz career. He was quickly introduced in the movie "Close to You" with Bea Alonzo then given a lead role opposite Toni Gonzaga in "You Are the One" in 2006. It was a hit so they did three more movies: "You Got Me" and "My Big Love" in 2007, then "Ang Tangang Pamilya" in 2009.**

Now, they're together again in the Metro Filmfest entry, "Mary, Marry Me", along with Toni's younger sister, Alex Gonzaga. So why did it take so long before they did another movie together? "There were no projects for us kasi," says Sam. "I was paired with other leading ladies and ganun din si Toni."



After nine years, they finally admitted that they had an MU then or mutual understanding. "MU, but it was never definite, lag-ing gray area at never naging clear ang relationship namin," adds Sam. The rumor then, which was never confirmed, was that Toni got terribly jealous because Sam was linked to Anne Curtis and she even went to Anne's dressing room to confront them about it. "Excuse me," Toni butts in. "Walang ganun. 'Yung sinugod ko raw sila. Never nangyari 'yang urban myth na 'yan. Never, kasi it's not in the nature of my personality 'yung manunugod. My character in real life is not the type na nanunugod ever. Mabait kami ni Sam, wholesome kami."

Sam agrees with Toni that it's not true. "I'm not even aware that there's a rumor that such incident happened," he says. "In fairness to Toni and me, we've maintained our friendship all these years and I'm very happy for her now that she is married and they have a son."

So how is it working with both Gonzaga sisters? "I'm happy I'm the actor chosen for this role and to be given the chance to work with them together. They're actually alike in so many ways, but they're also very different. Toni is very subtle, more tahimik, and Alex is the times 10 version of Toni when it comes to being so energetic and naturally funny, always making wisecracks. But both of them are very intelligent actresses and exude so much confidence."

It's Alex's turn to butt in: "But who's the better kisser between us?"

Sam was stunned and cannot answer so it's Toni who makes a reply for him to Alex. "Bakit, press ka ba? Bakit nagdaragdag ka ng question? Sam is a gentleman, so hindi niya sasagutin 'yan."

The press people who attended the presscon of "Mary, Marry Me" can't help but keep on laughing because of Alex's hilarious antics.

## Toni Gonzaga: "20 years na ako sa industriya, sanay na sanay na 'kong ma-bash."

Sina Toni at Alex ang bida sa MMFF 2018 entry na *Mary, Marry Me*. Bukod dito, unang sabak rin ni Toni bilang isang producer sa sarili niyang TinCan Productions.

May sariling production outfit ang kanyang mister na si Direk Paul daw Soriano, pero ito rin mismo ang humikayat sa kanya na mag-produce. "Si Paul nag-push sa akin," lahad ni Toni.

"Sabi niya, kapag natatakot ka, mas gawin mo. If it's something that scares you, you should do it more because you will never learn if you never try."

Si Toni raw talaga ang naglabas ng pera para sa pelikula.

Pero hindi na raw niya iri-reveal kung magkano ang naging budget ng MMFF entry nila.

"Hindi na namin siyempre sasabihin ang budget. Pero kapag kumita na ang pelikula, saka na namin sasabihin na bumalik na ang investment," natatawag sabi niya.

Marami daw siyang na-realize kung gaano ka-hirap gumawa ng isang pelikula ngayong producer na siya. "Mahirap, mahirap," saad niya.

"Parang ngayon ko napi-feel ang napi-feel ng ibang directors na pagta-trabahuhan mo ng ilang buwan pagkatapos kapag panood ng ibang tao, iba-bash lang nila ng ganun-ganun lang.

"Hindi nila alam ang hirap, pagod, dugo, pawis na pinagdaanan. Tapos kapag nag-bash sila about the certain film, parang alam niyo ba ang mga pinagpuyatan namin diyay? "Parang ngayon napi-feel ko na ganun pala yun, kaya pala sensitive ang ibang directors kapag medyo critical sa film nila, kasi nandoon sila from the very beginning."

Handa na ba siya kung sakaling may mang-bash o hindi maka-appreciate ng pelikula nila nina Alex at Sam Milby?

"Oo, 20 years na ako sa industriya, sanay na sanay na 'kong ma-bash."

Dugtong pa ni Toni, "Siguro masakit din ng konti. Pero I will always take everything in a constructive way to help me grow. I will try filter what will benefit me and I will try to absorb kung ano ang makakatulong sa akin."

## Regine Velasquez sitcom to end Toni Gonzaga's "Home Sweetie Home?"

Last October 2018, Regine Velasquez, the Asia's Songbird, surprised the whole world when she announced that she was moving back to ABS-CBN after spending a lot of years with GMA 7.

"You know at my age and at this stage of my career, we all know, alam niyo, lahat naman ng mga reporters dito mga kaibigan ko na. Hindi naman ako ilusyonadang tao. Alam ko naman ang lugar ko sa industry. Kaya sobra akong touched na touched sa welcome na ibinigay sa akin ng ABS-CBN, kasi hindi ko akalain na ganun ako ka-importante. Hindi po ako ilusyonadang tao," Velasquez said.

"The reason I'm here is because hindi ko alam kung hanggang kailan ko pa kayang kumanta and I want to work with their talented singers. 'Yun talaga 'yon. Na bago man lang matapos ang career ko ay masasabi kong nakatrabaho ko rin ang No. 1 station," she explained.

But as her career begins with ABS-CBN, questions were also asked about the airtime of her newest shows, especially whether her musical sitcom will take over one of the longest running shows being aired on ABS-CBN right now: "Home Sweetie Home."

It has been four years since the first episode of this show aired last January 2014. Toni Gonzaga has been the lead since it began but her original partner John Lloyd Cruz has been replaced by Piolo Pascual.

To clear the air, Gonzaga explained that there are no official announcements about this yet and at the moment. "So far sa ngayon, wala pa namang advice sa amin. Pero, if ever...kasi noong pumirma ako sa contract ko under ABS-CBN, part pa yung Home Sweetie Home. So hindi ko pa alam," she explained adding that there are two more years in her contract.

She also shared her thoughts on the issue that it might be replaced by Velasquez' new show.

"Hindi pa namin alam, hindi ko lang sure," she said.

She also added that "Home Sweetie Home" has been performing well but it is still a show which would eventually come to an end.

"Okay naman siya, name-maintain pa naman namin ang ratings, so thankful naman kami na may mga solid viewers pa rin ang Home Sweetie Home. I think, whatever happens with Home Sweetie Home, ganun naman talaga. Shows come and go," she said.

## Celebration of Life for Senator Enverga



FROM LEFT, Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation President Rosemer Enverga of PCCF poses with recipients of Awards of Excellence; Bonna Esporas and her daughter attend the event; Rosemer Enverga poses with dignitaries; Elle Delizo poses with PCCF Miss Philippines 2018 Ranielle Macapagal.



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## CATRIONA GRAY REVEALED THAT HER MOM DREAMT ABOUT HER MISS UNIVERSE WIN

Catriona Gray's win at this year's Miss Universe pageant might have been really destined for her from the very start. The 24-year-old Miss Universe revealed her big win was dreamt by her mother way back when she was in her early teens.

Catriona shared with the members of the press and the media who were present in Bangkok, Thailand that her big win was actually foreseen by her mother in a dream

back when she was 13.

During a meeting with the members of the press and the media right after the pageant, Catriona explained the inspiration behind her gown during coronation night which was inspired by our Mayon Volcano in Albay. While explaining this, Catriona also noted that her mom dreamt about her winning the pageant in a red dress.

"When I was 13, my mum told me 'I had a dream that you were in Miss Universe and you won in a red dress,'" Catriona shared.

There is no doubt that the Miss Universe crown was indeed meant for Catriona this year!



Fe Tadiran poses with Sir George Poblano at the Knights of Rizal Christmas party.



Zenalyn and Randy Bucao pose with MPP Vijay Thanigasalam.

LAUGH WITH AJ & LE CHAZZ continued on page 14

Aysu & Arel and Christal and Aidan Rodricks (RIGHT PHOTO).

Special guest during the show is Long & McQuade 2018 singing champion Samantha Gavin (LEFT PHOTO). Tickets for the show are now available

at Ticketmaster and other outlets, like FV Foods (Lawrence Ave East & Bathurst locations), Tagpuan Victoria Park, Rose's Chester Chicken Sherbourne, RJ's Filipino Food Mart Sherbourne, Chelsea's Filipino Cuisine Sherbourne, CanAsian Food Brampton and Tita Au's Filipino Store Mississauga. (Fe Tadiran)



ABOVE, Philip Beloso and wife Marites join Melissa Ventocilla celebrate her 16th birthday at FV Foods. BELOW LEFT, Melanie Lazaro and Melissa enjoy FV Foods boodle fight. BELOW RIGHT, Singer Tess Panaligan poses with Melissa's dad, Ricky Ventocilla.



## Ylona Garcia opens up about being "Broken Inside"

It seems like actress singer Ylona Garcia isn't in a great place right now as she expressed her emotions of being "broken" and "not being good enough" on her Twitter account. According to her, she currently feels like whatever she does, she lets everyone down and she will never be good enough.

She tweeted: "it's like everything i do isn't enough or too much....sorry for letting you down," Before this, she also sent a tweet that said: "Do y'all ever just run as fast as you can to the bathroom to lock yourself in and just cry your eyes out because of how much crap life throws at you to bring you down which should make you stronger no matter how broken on the inside you are ????"

It can be remembered that back in June, Ylona was hospitalized because of her mental health. She shared on social media: "Woke up this morning scrolling through social media to see such distasteful and unnecessary words being shared. I have to be honest, it really stressed me out and I spent hours trying to find ways to make sure everyone would be happy and okay, to the fact where I forgot to take care of myself. To the point where I ended up in the hospital."

## PBB Evictee Aljon Mendoza says he wants to court Karina Bautista

PBB evictee Aljon Mendoza was asked about his obvious closeness with housemate Karina Bautista. Despite being close, Aljon clarified that they still know the limitations of their friendship.



He stated: "Kami po ni Karina sobrang talaga kami sa isa't isa. Minsan po sa sobrang close po namin sa isa't isa natutukso din po kami ng ibang housemates. Kaya hindi maiwasan yung kiligin po." The evictee continued: "May limits naman po kasi, alam naming kung hanggang saan lang yung pagiging sweet namin sa isa't isa."

However, Aljon admitted that if the situation were different and Karina were single, he would love to court the young lady.

## James Reid on how Nadine Lustre helped him with upcoming single

After the immense success of his 2017 album Palm

Dreams and recently released mixtape with Careless, James Reid is even more excited for his upcoming single Filipina Girl. The upcoming track is a collaboration between him and Billy Crawford.

James, he's excited for his fans to finally hear the single. However, he said that he can't take all the credit because Nadine also helped him in writing the Tagalog lyrics.

On his Twitter account, James wrote: "Can't wait for #filipinagirl! Can't take all the credit for the lyrics tho. Nadine helped me with the Tagalog"

## Daniel Padilla set to star in a movie with Charo Santos?

Fans and supporters of young actor Daniel Padilla couldn't help but get excited over the ongoing rumors that Daniel is set to star in an upcoming movie alongside Charo Santos.

Star Cinema's Malou Santos posted a photo of Daniel with Charo Santos and Bb. Joyce Bernal, which led fans to speculate a movie. Malou Santos didn't detail on her caption why the three were together but we're pretty convinced that we'll be seeing them together in the big screen soon!

## Miguel Taneflix unaffected about

## Bianca-Ruru romance rumors

Kapuso actor Miguel Tanfelix answered the rumors about his love team partner Bianca Umali and fellow Kapuso actor Ruru Madrid. In an interview with an entertainment site, Miguel admitted that he hears about this rumor a lot but remains unbothered by it.

"I hear that a lot. Friends naman kasi kami lahat sa Sunday PinaSaya. You know show business, lahat puwede kang ma-link diyan. Pwede kang gawan ng issue with someone else. Might as well makipagkaibigan ka sa iba, kesa naman nasa isang corner ka lang."

The young actor also denied that he was in a relationship with Bianca. He admitted though that he tried to ask permission to court the young lady. "Hindi rin po ako nag-start. Nagpaalam ako sa lola niya, and then sabi huwag daw muna."



Star Circle mothers pose after their Kiss me, kiss me dance number.





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 e whole year through.  
**Happy New Year**  
 oria Santiago and staff



LEFT, Star Circle's Ellen Galoport gives International fashion designer John Ablaza a plaque of Appreciation at the Christmas party. ABOVE, Star Circle mothers pose with the buffet table. RIGHT, Star Circle mentors and students pose at the Christmas party. BELOW, Natalia Mendoza gets lift from dad during the paper dance.



FROM LEFT, Samantha Gavin, KC Adajar, birthday Quinceañera (15 years) girl Krystal Castillo and Angela Castillo celebrate at Mandarin; Krystal's family wait for tables; BELOW, Ansha Hipolito, Krystal, Samantha and Chantal Hipolito enjoy the lunch.







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Hosts Jobert Austria (left) and Nonong Ballinan

## ABS-CBN TVplus brings Sorpresaya

**KAPAMILYA DAY** - Kapamilya komikers Jobert Austria and Nonong Ballinan are the funny duo viewers see in Home Sweetie Home and other Kapamilya shows. But this year, they add another feather to their cap as hosts of Sorpresaya, the first game show on ABS-CBN TVplus' exclusive channel, CineMo.

In Sorpresaya, Jobert and Nonong spread fun together as they travel around different provinces in Luzon to bring the new game show closer to Filipinos. Adding hilarity to Jobert and Nonong's proven funny chemistry is It's Showtime's Miss Q&A finalist and The Kids' Choice grand champ, Elsa Droga.

Mounting a game show in different provinces every week is no easy feat, but for the trio, the effort of traveling to provinces in Luzon is worth it as long as they can make people happy since Sorpresaya aims to reward audiences with loads of cash prizes through its entertaining segments.

"We have a lot of segments that are funny and enjoyable," said Jobert.

image: <http://media.philstar.com/images/the-philippine-star/entertainment/20181211/ent2-Mark-Awiten-Danie-Sedilla-Cruz.jpg>

From left: CineMo channel head Mark Awiten, YeY and Knowledge channel head Danie Sedilla Cruz and ABSCBN Southern Tagalog

area head Woodrow Francia lead the ceremonial switch on of ABS-CBN TVplus in Batangas

In fact, Jobert and Nonong's show on CineMo called Sagot Ka Ni Kuya Jobert is one of the seven segments of Sorpresaya. Three audience members who can sum up the courage to ask Kuya Jobert sensible or out-of-this-world inquiries automatically take home P500.

## CALVIN ABUEVA GETS BASHED BY VICE GANDA FANS

Basketball player Calvin Abueva received major bashing after he posted a photo of his wife Sam Javalera on Instagram, December 17. Both Vice Ganda and Calvin have clarified multiple times that they're just close friends, but it seems like a lot of the comedian's fans were disappointed with the fact that Calvin is married.



Fans kept calling Calvin manloloko and pafall, implying that he's letting the comedian fall for him by being sweet and affectionate despite being married the whole time.

The basketball star responded and defended himself. He wrote on the comments: "Alam niyo si Vice totoong kaibigan ang asawa asawa talaga wala ako pakialam kung bash niyo ako o support kayo. Kami ni Vice true friend ang turing ko sa kanya hindi na sya iba sakin."

Vice Ganda echoed this statement when he was asked by the press about their status. He answered: "Basta masaya kami kung anong meron ngayon, masaya lang kami. Malambing siyang kaibigan. Mahawak, maharot, malambing, machika. We're friends. We're very, very good friends. Sabi niya nga dun sa interview niya, sweet friends daw,"

## Kylie begins a new chapter in her life + other stories



KAPUSO actress Kylie Padilla is glowing with happiness following her fairy tale-like wedding with longtime beau, Aljur Abrenica, last December 11 at Villa Milagros Mansion and Gardens.

The Kapuso star shared how she felt during her big day since it was how she and Aljur imagined it to be after one year of engagement, "Pinipigilan ko 'yung happiness that day, to be honest, kasi ayoko umiyak. Kasi kung hahayaan ko yung sarili ko na umiyak, buong araw na ako iiyak sa saya."

Kylie expressed that she was grateful as to how everything fell into place that day—giv-

ing them a Romeo and Juliet-themed intimate nuptials.

"Medyo over the top, but yes, it is my dream wedding. That day, I was really happy because it is both our decision to have that kind of wedding. And another thing, I am happy because Aljur gave me the creative freedom sa preparation."

She admitted that they had only less than a month to put together everything in time for the wedding. Nonetheless, the guests who witnessed the romantic ceremony were in awe of every ornate detail. The couple took magical to the next level - from the black acrylic aisle inscribed with the poem specially written by Lang Leav for Aljur and Kylie, to the many tear-jerking moments during the union, and the presence of both their families for the celebration.

"When asked how I want to be married, the first thing that popped into my head is the song. Then from there, nag-breed out na siya. Kaya masaya ako talaga na pati yung mga invited sa wedding namin—our friends and relatives, na-appreciate yung effort namin na

'yun."

As she begins a new chapter in her life, Kylie has decided to embrace the beautiful family they have created and the woman she has proudly become.

"Now, gusto ko talaga i-celebrate kasi it's a good thing to be married. It's a good thing to be in love. Everybody wants to be in love and be loved."

The love that can withstand time is definitely worth celebrating. For Kylie, her wedding with Aljur is not their happy ending but the start of a new chapter of the best that is yet to come.

## Miss Vietnam thanks Filipino coaches

Miss Universe Vietnam H'Hen Nie thanked her Filipino pageant coaches after she made it to the Top 5 of the 2018 Miss Universe beauty pageant held in Bangkok, Thailand last Dec. 17.

"From the bottom of my heart, thank you very much, My Teacher Anjo Santos," says Nie on Instagram. Aside from Santos, her other pageant coaches were Gerard Ruivivar and



Kim Rocafor Santos, who was born and raised in Bicol, trained Nie in pasarela and make-up. He said that the national director of Miss Universe Vietnam approached him to train Nie. Santos and Rocafor trained Nie for the

question-and-answer portion.

"Miss Vietnam is so determined na kahit hand movements lang, nakukuha niya ang instructions," says Santos, who is an independent pageant coach in an interview on "GMA News To Go" program recently.

Santos also trained Ma. Venus Raj, another Bicolana, who won 4th runner-up in the 2010 Miss Universe contest held in Las Vegas, Nevada. He has a grooming and modelling program called "Modelo Bicolano."



## Randy Bucao attends Irshad Chaudry Dinner



FIRST, Conservative candidate Irshad Chaudry poses with his family and PC deputy leader Lisa Raftt. SECOND, Irshad Chaudry poses with other candidates. THIRD, Randy Bucao (5th from left) his family and fellow supporters pose with Irshad Chaudry.



## John Lapus thankful for positive career changes in 2018

Comedian John "Sweet" Lapus recounts how he hurdled his struggles and soon reaped the rewards of his successful reinvention as scriptwriter, director and theater playwright: "From being jobless, biglang nagkasunud-sunod ang work natin. Kaya lahat ng mga nang-buhay natin, yung mga may purpose."

"Napakabait ng 2018 sa akin."

"Ang daming dumating na blessings na bigla-bigla."

"Naging playwright ako for CCP Virgin Labfest na Bagyolanda. "I studied directing sa Cinemalaya Foundation. I became a movie writer for Pang MMK. I studied scriptwriting with Ricky Lee scriptwriting workshop. Naging movie director ako para sa Cinema One Originals official entry na Pang MMK, at naging TV director for Wansapanataym Presents: Switch Be With You."

"Kaya salamat Lord, dahil hindi lang isa ang binigay Mo kundi tatlu-tatlo pa talaga!" masayang kuwento ni Sweet.



### STRUGGLES

"Umabot na ako sa point na nanawagan ako sa Facebook at text sa mga kaibigan kung may project, show or kahit raket lang."

"From being jobless, biglang nagkasunud-sunod ang work natin."

"It made me want to do more sa buhay ko," diin ni Sweet.

### A DREAM FULFILLED

Itong taon ding ito ay natapos na ring bayaran ni Sweet ang nabili niyang bahay noong 2010.

Na-purchase ni Sweet ang kanyang three-storey townhouse noong kasalukuyang namamayag-pag siya sa GMA-7. After eight years ay tapos na niyang mabayaran ito.

"Walang imposible talaga kay Lord," pagpapatunay pa ni Sweet.

### BUSY 2019

Sa pagpasok ng 2019 ay sunud-sunod na ang mga gagawing trabaho ni Sweet. Lahad niya, "I will be directing again the next episode of Wansapanataym. "Lalaki naman ang bida dito. Kakaiba siya. Isa siyang rom-com na punong-puno ng puso. "Hopefully, makapagdirek ako ulit ng movie. "Sumali ako ulit sa mga festival para may funding ang movie ko entitled Bingo! Ito yung final script ko sa Ricky Lee workshop."

Year of the Pig ang 2019, naniniwala ba si Sweet sa magiging suwerte niya? "Well, sabi ng zodiac nitong 2018 ay may malaking pagbabago nga daw na magaganap sa akin. Ito na pala yon."

"Hindi ko pa nabasa ang for next year, e. Sana positive ulit!" panalangin niya.

### LOVELESS BUT HAPPY

Pagdating sa lovelife ni Sweet, mas uunahin na lang daw niya ang sarili niya at ang mga taong nagmamahal sa kanya kesa sa isang lalake.

"Naku, hindi na 'ko umaasa."

"Dumarating pala talaga sa buhay ng isang tao na hindi mo na iintindihin ang lovelife, di ba?"

"Mas importante ngayon ay ang sarili mo," deklarala pa ni Sweet.

## Juan Miguel Severo on KathNiel:

### "I'm so happy to have found this friendship with them."

Juan Miguel Severo reveals dream concert with spoken word poetry and music.

In the coming year, 2019, spoken word artist Juan Miguel Severo sees himself headlining a concert, in which he will not only recite his spoken word poetry but also perform his original songs.

His dream venue will be Music Museum in Greenhills, San Juan.

"Gano'n talaga ako, ina-announce ko sa universe," Juan Miguel said.

Apart from performing poetry and music, he will also be busy in the coming year with two writing assignments for TV and movie director Dan Villegas: one is an original material and the other an adaptation.

Juan Miguel and Direk Villegas previously collaborated on *Hintayan ng Langit*, which was an entry to the QCinema International Film Festival 2018 and opened to cinemas nationwide last November.

*Hintayan ng Langit*, a drama-comedy about dead ex-lovers who meet in purgatory, is an adaptation of Juan Miguel's own one-act play that was staged at the annual theater event, Virgin Labfest 2015. The playwright-turned-screenplay writer recalled being inspired by a real-life incident that happened at the wake of his grandmother in 2011.

Aside from writing scripts, songs, and spoken word poetry, the performer in Juan Miguel would like to do more acting work.

In *The Hows of Us*, which broke box-office records when this Star Cinema production opened in August 2018, Juan Miguel plays a close friend of the lead characters played by Kathryn Bernardo and Daniel Padilla, also known as the KathNiel love team. He admitted being a KathNiel fan before being cast in the movie, and he became friends with the two popular young stars.

"Sobrang happy," Juan Miguel said about working with Kathryn and Daniel. "Very supportive sila sa akin, sa lahat ng ginagawa ko."

"I'm so happy to have found this friendship with them. Ang taas ng respeto ko sa dalawang taong yun."

Juan Miguel also has a recurring role in ABS-CBN's long-running teleserye, FPJ's *Ang Probinsyano*, and he hopes to have more acting stints on TV and in film.

He also has a strong stand as an independent artist, who believes that "an art that is not free cannot be trusted."

He then goes on explaining: "Importante ang kalayaan sa sining, especially kalayaan sa pagkuwento. As an independent artist ang stand ko ay hindi nila dapat pinapakialaman ang mga creators natin."

But he knows exactly which is the most financially rewarding.

"Believe it or not, ang pinakapinagkakakitaan ko is spoken word," he said.

### Bato wants Binoy in his biopic

A biographical movie revolving around the story of former Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Rolando "Bato" dela Rosa is in the offing. The film will be directed by the award-winning filmmaker and screenwriter Adolf Alix, Jr.

In an intimate lunch with the entertainment press held recently, Gen. Dela Rosa revealed the

stars that he wanted to be part of the film. He said he's choosing action star Robin Padilla and Sharon Cuneta to play the role of himself and his wife. He also wanted Anne Curtis to be in the film to play the young Sharon.

"I'm a fan of Robin and my wife is huge fan of Sharon," he started.

When he was young, he worked as a fish market porter and bus conductor. He also did his classmates' homework in exchange for lunch and used to walk eight kilometers daily from school to home.

"That's what I like the film to highlight so the story can serve as an inspiration to many," he said in Tagalog.

In the event that he is elected to the Senate, the 52-year-old Dela Rosa said he would push for the reinstatement of death penalty for drug-related offenses.

Dela Rosa retired from the PNP in April after nearly two years at the forefront of the government's war on drugs.



### Nora impresses Rochelle

NORA AUNOR surprised Rochelle Pangilinan when she gifted her pregnant co-star in GMA-7's hit primetime show, "Onanay", with a baby stroller filled with various infant items for her coming first born child with husband Arthur Solinap. Rochelle shared her photos with Ate Guy and the gifts in her social media account.

And here's what she wrote: "Kaya pala maraming nagmamahal sa kanya at hanggang ngayon ay nandyan pa din sila. Sa akin, maraming dahilan kung bakit nakilala mo ang isang tao, hindi aksidente lang, sa dami ng naikwento nya sa kin sa buhay na pinagdaanan nya, marami akong natutuhan. I am really blessed."

Meanwhile, Rochelle, Ate Guy and the entire cast of "Onanay", including Director Gina Alajar, are all grateful because their show has just surpassed its 100th episode, meaning they are now on their 5th month of telecast.

Expect the war between Onay and Maila versus Helena and Natalie to get worse in the next episodes now that "Onanay" is entering its sixth month of telecast.

### Sakitan sa teleserye, 'di maiiwasan -- Jean

Inamin ng seasoned actress na si Jean Garcia na hindi talaga maiiwasan na magkasakitan tuwing may confrontation at fight scenes na ginagawa sa serye. Kwento ni Jean, gumaganap na Eloisa sa GMA Afternoon Prime soap na Ika-5 Utos, pinag-uusapan muna nila ng kanyang co-stars kung paano nila mai-execute ang isang sensitibo at delikadong eksena para maiwasan ang aksidente sa taping.

"Siyempre, in real life naman kapag nakikipag-away ka, talagang magkakasakitan kayo, pero mga artista naman kami kaya alalay lang. Hangga't maaari, ayaw naming dayain, like may tootong mga sampal, 'yung sabunot, sometimes, nagiging totoo lalo na kapag na-carried away kayo sa eksena pero dapat alalay pa rin," paliwanag ni Jean.

Subaybayan ang umiinit na mga tagpo sa Ika-5 Utos, pagkatapos ng Asawa Ko, Karibal Ko sa GMA-7.

## Kiray Celis reveals why she left ABS-CBN; signs contract with GMA-7

MANILA — Kiray Celis is now officially a Kapuso.

The former ABS-CBN actress signed an exclusive contract with GMA-7.

Present during her contract signing were Simoun Ferrer, AVP for talent imaging and marketing, and Tracy Garcia, senior talent manager.

Kiray revealed the reason why she decided to transfer to GMA-7, after being with ABS-CBN for almost 20 years.

She said, "Sabi ko sa sarili ko, hindi na ako naggo-grow as an artist. I need something more."

Kiray admitted that she came up with the career move after realizing that she was not getting regular shows with her former network.

The 23-year-old actress recalled, "Nagge-guest lang ako kapag may pelikula akong pino-promote, and then I realized, 'Paano pala kapag wala akong pelikula, so wala akong guesting?'"

"So doon na nag-start na parang I need to step back and sa pag-step back ko na yun, iba na yung tatahakin kong papuntang lugar, kung saan ako dapat pumunta. And I decided na pumunta rito sa GMA."

"And sobrang nagulat naman ako kasi sobrang grabe yung welcome nila and naramdaman ko agad yung love and yung respeto sa talento ko, yung respeto nila sa akin sa pagiging artista."

On behalf of GMA Artist Center, Simoun Ferrer said they are glad to have Kiray in their roster of talents.

"We're very happy that Kiray is now with GMA Artist Center. Isa siyang napaka-talented na actress so madami siyang puwedeng gawin."

"We all know na she's very good with comedy but our plan is to really expose her in the different genres in GMA kasi madami nga siyang puwedeng gawin pa. Gusto namin ipakita yung versatility ni Kiray."

Prior to her contract signing with GMA, Kiray was already present at the story conference of the upcoming Kapuso series, *Luv U 2*.

The TV show will have Jennylyn Mercado and Gabby Concepcion as leads.

### CHINESE INVESTMENT continued from page 20

administration with the power to implement and complete Chinese investments. Duterte has also inherited Aquino's strengthened institutions and economic gains which have effectively muted opposition voices.

As a result, Chinese FDI is back in the strategic sectors of transportation, energy and infrastructure. In October 2017, China and the Philippines agreed on a US\$9 billion loan for Philippine National Railway's Bicol Express, which will connect the Southern Luzon provinces to Metro Manila by rail. China has also been targeted to build the Mindanao Railway Project. In the energy sector, Alfredo Yao — a Philippine economic elite — has decided to partner with Energy China to construct a US\$2 billion coal-fired power plant in Luzon. China companies are currently exploring potential ventures in ports, telecommunications, chemicals, tourism, and aquaculture.

In sum, foreign policy need not always be the cause of FDI flows. In the case of Chinese investments in the Philippines, rent-seeking elites and a mobilised populace can have a far greater effect.

## THE KNIGHTS OF RIZAL CANADA REGION CHRISTMAS PARTY By Romeo Ayson Zetazate



It's Christmas party time for the officers and members of the Knights of Rizal Canada Region was held at the Federation of Filipino Canadian hall at 1151 Denison Street, Markham, Ontario, Canada on December 8, 2018, Saturday, which was initiated by Sir Joe Damasco, KGOR, the regional commander; Sir

Mario Alpuerto, KGOR, the deputy regional commander; with Sir Mauro Calaguio, Jr., KCR, Don Valley Rizal Chapter which was the co-host although the other chapters representatives were there which include Dimasalang, Scarborough, Etobicoke, Brampton, Earl Bales, Brampton and among others.

The advisers who enjoyed the glow of the shindig include Sir George R. Poblete, KGCR, Sir Lapulapu Cana, KGCR; and immediate past Regional Commander Sir Eduardo Prillo, KGOR. The Ladies of Rizal were also active participants during the event with Lady Angel Dhaliwal, the press

relations officer of the ladies of Rizal and Pia Alfonso of the Kababaihang Rizalista and some of their members.

Wives of KOR have also attended the event and to mention some few include Ineng Calaguio, Emy Amante, Elvie Damasco, and others. (St. Jamestown News Service).



# Alex Gonzaga reveals sister Toni is perfectionist at work: “Masyado siyang pakialamera.” + other stories



Alex Gonzaga (left) on working with sister Toni (right): “Pag stressed siya, dapat lahat ng tao sa paligid niya stressed. Kailangang ganon ka rin sa paningin niya. Pag stressed siya tapos nakita niyang relaxed ka, magagalit siya.” In the movie *Mary, Marry Me*, Alex and Toni play sisters who are both romantically linked to the same guy played by Sam Milby (center).

Hindi nawawala ang “conflict” sa pagitan ng magkapatid na Toni Gonzaga at Alex Gonzaga hanggang sa unang pelikulang pinagsamahan nila, ang *Mary, Marry Me*.

Ang *Mary, Marry Me* ay official entry ng Ten17 at TinCan Productions para sa Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) 2018.

Parehong lead stars at co-producers din sina Alex at Toni sa pelikula.

“Lagi naman kaming may conflict,” bungad na pag-amin ni Toni.

Sinegundahan naman ito ni Alex, “During the filmmaking, parang ano lang, wala kaming na-discover na bago. Wala kaming nadi-skubreng bagong away na bago.

“Kumbaga, na-confirm lang yung pag-uugali na kinaiinisan namin sa isa’t isa.”

Naroon din ang leading man nilang si Sam Milby at direktor na si RC De Los Reyes.

Ano yung kinaiinisan ninyo sa isa’t isa?

Mabilis na sagot ni Alex patungkol kay Toni: “Masyado siyang pakialamera, masyado siyang perfectionist.

“Saka pag stressed siya, dapat lahat ng tao sa paligid niya stressed. Kailangang ganon ka rin sa paningin niya.

“Pag stressed siya ‘tapos nakita niyang relaxed ka, magagalit siya.

“E, ako, ayaw kong laging nai-i-stress, kasi pag nai-stress ako grabe rin ang stress. So, parang nire-relax ko. Ayun, nagagalit siya lagi.”

“Si Alex kasi is the more laid-back, relaxed type... Parang ang napansin ko naman sa kanya, she takes everything on a light mode.

“Feeling mo, lagi siyang hindi seryoso. So, kailangang palagi mo siyang kausapin, ‘Hoy, serious to!’”

Bumawi naman si Toni kay Alex nang purihin nito ang husay ng nakababatang kapatid.

Pagbibida ni Toni sa kapatid: “Even si Direk RC, sabi niya, ‘In fairness kay Alex, pag nag-drama kayo, drama siya.’

“Pero pag nag-cut, siya lang daw yung ‘Weh!!! Wehhhh!’ Yung parang after drama, maingay na.

“Kasi tayo pag heavy drama, after the scene, cut, hihinga ka muna, minsan i-iyak mo ulit.

“Pero ito, mabilis siyang mag-snap out doon sa situation.”

## ON ALEX’S GENEROSITY

Patuloy ang kulitan ng magkapatid nang tanungin si Toni kung generous ba sa kanya si Alex, lalo na noong pareho na silang nagtatra-baho sa showbiz.

Birong banat ni Toni, “Sakim! Waaah! Sakim!”

Pero matapos ang ilang sandali, sinabi ni Toni na sobrang generous ni Alex lalo na’t malaki ang kinikita nito sa vlogging.

Ani Toni, “Sobrang sini-share nya yung mga blessings na meron siya. Lahat ng na-experience niya sa vlog niya, sini-share niya sa akin.”

## Jasmine, Carla and Sophie learn important life lessons together

JASMINE Curtis Smith says that although “Pamilya Roces” will have its last telecast tonight, it will always be memorable for her. “Si-yempre kasi ito ang very first assignment ko after I transferred to GMA and I really enjoyed doing it because naging maganda ang bonding namin ng lahat ng mga kasama ko sa show,” she says. “We didn’t have any problems at all while taping the show for more than three months.”

Someone quips it’s probably smooth sailing all throughout because they’re all scared of their director, Joel Lamangan. “I think hindi naman dahil sa natakot kami sa kanya kundi more because we really respect him. Malaking factor din ‘yung maganda ang work ethic ng bawat isa sa amin kaya nagkasundo agad kaming lahat from the start.”

Carla Abellana adds that you’d be scared of Direk Joel only if you’re doing something hanky-panky on the set.

As for Sophie Albert who plays the funny Amber, she admits she immediately felt comfortable with her co-stars. What is the most important insight or life lesson they gained from doing the show?

Jasmine: “That whatever happens, blood is really thicker than water. Kapag pamilya, pamilya talaga at nandiyan kayo lagi para sa isa’t isa.”

Carla Abellana: “Na madalas, ang pamilya, siyang pinag-uugatan ng ating mga personal na problema. But in the end, after all is said and done, pamilya pa rin natin ang sasalo sa atin kapag may problema tayo to help us out.”

Sophie: “Ako, what I learned is the importance of acceptance and that the love of your family is like no other. You will always have them to fall back on when worse comes to worst.”

In the finale, all the sisters will be in danger after villain Katrina Halili kidnaps all of them and threatens to hang them all to death. Will Katrina succeed? How will the sisters escape from this deadly situation? Don’t miss the last episode of “Pamilya Roces” tonight to find out all the answers.

## Ricci Rivero admits that he adores Kathryn Bernardo

It has been an annual event that every Christmas day, foreign films are removed from the cinemas and the entries for the Metro Manila Film Festival take over for a period of time.

This 2018, the eight films that are included in the list of MMFF entries. Among these films is the movie OTLUM, which stars one of the most promising basketball stars in UAAP today, UP Fighting Maroons player Ricci Rivero.

While he was not busy with basketball practices, Ricci took the opportunity to star in OTLUM.

Ricci has been receiving acting offers even when he was still in La Salle, but he had basketball as his top priority.

“I received offers for acting projects since last year pero nagbe-beg off talaga kami kasi priority talaga ang commitment sa basketball

both for my former team (La Salle) and sa Gilas.”

Since the production company for OTLUM promised Ricci that his filming schedule will not interrupt any of his school & basketball activities, Ricci accepted the offer.

Ricci said, “This time, we said yes kasi first yung Horseshoe assured us that they’ll adjust the shooting schedule para wala po masagasaan na class and training schedule sa UP?”

Now, Ricci is also being talked about because of his admission that he likes Kathryn. Kathryn’s fans said that Ricci was just riding on Kathryn’s fame.

In an interview with PEP.ph last October 2018, Ricci admitted that he watched almost all of Kathryn’s movies in cinemas saying, “Idol ko talaga ang KathNiel, ever since. Lahat yata ng movies nila napanood ko sa movie house. Si Daniel, idol ko talaga.”

He also hopes that he gets to work with the love team someday.

Ricci was asked if he has a crush on Kathryn Bernardo.

The basketball player did not have any second thoughts and replied, “I adore her.”

He also said that if ever given the chance, he would accept even just an extra role just to work with Kathryn.



## Did Cesar Montano find the new love of his life?

Recently, netizens got a piece juicy information about veteran actor Cesar “Buboy” Montano and his current life status. This is after photos of Cesar while carrying a baby girl recently went viral on social media.

Aside from the baby girl, Cesar was also seen accompanied by veteran entertainment columnist Dolly Anne Carvajal who is known to be very close to the actor.

This leaves netizens wondering who the mother of the baby girl is. Eagle-eyed netizens noticed a stunning mestiza girl standing close to Cesar in the photo.

The lady happens to be Buboy’s new live-in partner named Socorro “Kath” Angeles.

PEP.ph’s reliable source said that Cesar already has three kids with Kath and it was their youngest daughter who was in the viral photo.

This is the first time that Cesar was seen with another lady after his much-talked-about breakup with ex-wife Sunshine Cruz.

As of writing, Cesar has not yet confirmed or denied his relationship with Kath Angeles.



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## Actress Carla Abellana and Tom Rordriguez are Ready To Marry Each Other

**F**ilipina actress and model Carla Abellana is ready to tie the knot. She said in an interview “Opo, ready na po ako. I am 32.”

The actress rose to fame in 2009 when she starred in the Filipino adaptation of Mexican teleserye entitled “Rosalinda.” She is also known for multiple other shows like her lead role in Sine Novela: Basahang Ginto in 2009, Kung Aagawin Mo Ang Langit in 2011, Makapiling Kang Muli in 2012, and most especially in very controversial prime time teleserye My Husband’s Lover in 2013. In present day she is currently starring as Aviona in Mulawin vs. Ravena as well as Hope in I Heart Davao. The actress has been in a long term relationship with Tom Rodriguez and



fellow My Husband’s Lover co-star, Tom Rordriguez.

When asked about wedding plans, she discussed with the social media news outlet “Napag-uusapan naman po namin, pero only God knows kung kailan kami ikakasal... Napag-uusapan naman po,

pero in terms of date o yung time, wala pa.”

At the same time, the actress talked about other priorities in their lives as both individuals and as a couple. She added that she had just recently franchised her new business while her boyfriend of four years is still focusing on his arts.

“So, parang medyo ano pa ho, medyo may iba pang bagay na medyo kailangan bigyan pa ng time... Relationship-wise we are ready. Financially, kahit paano.” the Pamilya Roces tells PEP.ph. Her show will air in

October 8 as she will play lead role Crystal Roces.

To further let us in on a secret, Carla talked about her future dream wedding plans and said very plainly that she wants to get married in a church, because she is a practicing Catholic and that is important to her values. She also wants it romantic (of course!) and as intimate as possible, with only their family and closest friends.

We are sure that when they do finally tie the knot, that she’ll be a

very beautiful bride in a beautiful wedding with a groom that loves her dearly! For now, let’s tune in on her new show, Pamilya Roces.

## Kathryn Bernardo clarifies “nose job” rumors in TWBA

Kathryn started out her show business career way back in 2003 when she appeared in It Might Be You in ABS-CBN. She played the young Cielo, while the grown up Cielo is played by Bea Alonzo.

In 2010, Kathryn got her breakthrough role as Mara in Mara Clara, together with her showbiz best friend, Julia Montes.

Kathryn was given another primetime teleserye, Princess and I in 2012. Here, she starred with Daniel Padilla. This is the show that gave way to Kathniel.

Kathniel became one of the most popular love teams of the country and Kathryn and Daniel were dubbed as the Teen Queen and King of this generation.

Growing up in front of the public eye, Kathryn did not get exempted from having rumors about her. One of the most debated rumor about Kathryn is whether the young actress underwent cosmetic enhancement procedures.

People are saying that Kathryn had a nose job because of the slight difference of her nose today from before.

“Siguro lang, as I grow older, nagbabago ng pakonti konti. Pero kung sa inayos, wala.”

Recently, Kathryn has once again denied the rumors.

In an interview in Tonight With Boy Abunda last December 3, 2018, she was asked by Boy Abunda how she overcame the negative comments about her and if she still gets affected by it.

Kathryn said, “Dati affected, ngayon hindi. Yung dating Kathryn, ngayon hindi na masyado.”

She continued saying, “Lahat tayo may kaartehan. Oo maarte ako minsan talaga, and wala naman masama basta nasa lugar, of course. E, alam ko naman na hindi ako maarte na wala sa lugar... Pero alam ko, kikay ako, minsan gusto ko ganyan. Alam mo yun? Nasa lugar.”

Regarding her alleged nose job Kathryn said, “Hindi po talaga, tigilan na iyan please.”

The actress also said that there is also nothing wrong if someone wants to improve how they look like.

“And yung ibang tao na nagpaparetok? Walang masama doon kasi una, katawan nila iyon. At anong masama kung gusto nilang mas gumanda or gusto nila ma-improve iyong sarili nila?”

## Did Coco Martin just visited Eat Bulaga’s “Dabarkads”?

When the news broke that three of the brightest stars in the showbiz industry will join forces for an action-packed film for the Metro Manila Film Festival 2018, fans could not help but get excited. It will be such a dream come true to see veteran comedian Vic Sotto, award-winning actor Coco Martin, and the Phenomenal Star Maine Mendoza to be in one screen.

Since Coco came from the rival network where Vic and Maine belong to, their movie “Jack Em Popoy: The Puliscredibles” will be a new sight and will surely bring delight to the viewers. Having a record of sold-out and box office movies, it is safe to assume that Vic, Coco, and Maine will set yet another box office record this year.

Ironically, loyal Kapuso viewers always get a glimpse of Coco in GMA-7 as the trailer of “Jack Em Popoy: The Puliscredibles” is being repeatedly aired during the timeslot of the network’s longest-running noontime show, “Eat Bulaga” where Vic and Maine are regular hosts.

Some part of the movie’s trailer also shows Coco’s character in the set of “Eat Bulaga” as if participating in the noon-time show’s contests.

Well, viewers should not really be surprised to see Coco’s face in the Kapuso network as according to a Philippine Entertainment Portal (PEP.ph) report, the award-winning actor has been a true-blue Kapuso before being famous as a Kapamilya.

## Marco grateful to VIVA

MARCO Gumabao says this has been his busiest year so far as he was in the cast of three new movies: “Abay Babes”, “Para sa Broken Hearted” and the coming Metro Manila filmfest entry, “Aurora”, where he is paired with Anne Curtis no less.



“It was a tough decision to leave Star Magic, but I can now say that right decision talaga ang ginawa kong paglipat to be managed by Viva as they quickly gave me so many projects,” he says. “Six years na ako sa showbiz pero ngayon lang ako naging ganito ka-busy. Bukod dito, nasa isang bago rin akong teleserye, ‘Los Bastardos’, so I really can’t complain.”

How is it working with Anne Curtis? “It’s an honor to work with an established actress like Anne. Baguhan lang ako compared to her but she never made me feel that way,” he says. “Never kong naisip na makakapareha niya ako balang araw. When they’d ask me then kung sino gusto kong makatambal, laging ang sagot ko, si Anne. And now, nangyari na, so dream come true ito for me. Sobrang bait niyang katrabaho, very approachable, easy to talk with and very humble. I enjoyed making ‘Aurora’ with her on location in Batanes and we guarantee that the movie will be enjoyed by viewers who love a good scare. Pareho kaming buwis-buhay ni Anne dyan sa swimming and diving scenes kasi ang lakas ng

undercurrent at para kang hinihilang pababa, but it’s all worth the risk. It’s good lumaki ako sa beach kaya di ako takot sa dagat.”

In the story, he plays the role of Anne’s former boyfriend. “First shooting day pa lang, pinabago ni Direk Yam Laranas ang hitsura ko. Sabi niya, gawin nyo siyang kawawa. So binago ang hairdo ko, pinaitim ko, ginawa akong marusing. Bilib ako kay Direk Yam as he knows what to do with his characters.”

What can he say about the prediction that he will be the Most Important Actor in Viva Films this coming New Year 2019? He has already finished another new movie, “Ulan”, opposite Nadine Lustre and is scheduled to shoot another film project but he’s not yet at liberty to divulge the details.

“Nakaka-overwhelm and it makes me nervous, but sana nga totoong sinasabi nila. I’m very thankful sa tiwalang ibinibigay sa akin ng Viva and I promise to always give my best para hindi naman ako mapahiya sa pagsuporta nila sa career ko.”

## Jessy wants to leave negativity in 2018

JESSY Mendiola was accused of using Enrique Gil for the promo of her Metro filmfest entry, “The Girl in the Orange Dress” when she revealed that Enrique has not apologized to her after that ugly incident in a plane on their way to London three years ago. “Bakit sila sa’kin magagalit?” she asks.

Hindi naman sa’kin nagsimula ‘yun. May nagtanggap lang at sumagot lang naman ako. Kung hindi ako sumagot, ‘yung writers naman ang magagalit sa’kin. E ang sabi ko nga, nag-move on na ako. Okay na ako. I even defended him and said siguro stressed lang siya. Magalit sila dun sa reporters na nagtanong noon and revived the issue.”

She adds that she’s at a point in her life where

she’s very happy now as both her love life and career are doing swimmingly well. She’s been officially on with Luis Manzano for more than two years and Luis just confirmed his love for her on social media when she celebrated her birthday last December 3.

“I feel so blessed kaya gusto ko, puro positivity na lang muna tayo. Kung anuman ang mga hindi magandang nangyari in the past, like nung when I experienced depression, let’s just move on. Iwan na natin sa lilipas na taon dahil malapit na ang 2019.”

Jessy is optimistic that “The Girl in the Orange Dress” will give her career the big boost that it needs. “To begin with, it’s challenging to play the title role no less. Maganda talaga ang role ko as Anna, medyo laidback siya but may pagka-adventurous din. Takot siyang umibig after experiencing heartbreak, but then she meets Jericho Rosales and ends up spending the night with him after she got drunk. Jericho plays a very famous actor named Rye and reporters become intrigued when they learned may kasama siyang girl in an orange dress sa isang hotel during the night. So they try their best to find out who that girl is. The whole movie happens inside the New World Hotel habang they’re searching for us at kami naman ni Echo, walang ginawa kundi iwasan at takasan sila. It’s a feel-good romantic comedy perfect for the holiday season so watch it and make orange the color of your Christmas holidays!”

Didn’t her BF Luis Manzano get jealous with all the romantic scenes she did with Echo in the movie? “No, he’s very supportive nga and he even volunteered to do a cameo role in the movie, playing the role of a waiter in one scene. Excited na nga siyang mapanood ang buong movie when it opens in theaters on Christmas Day.”



the redistributive implications on their rent-seeking activities.

Finally, Arroyo’s inability to temper her own elites’ rent-seeking activities led to the failure of Chinese FDI. The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) almost reached an agreement with Arroyo’s administration to establish operations in the Philippines. But the Philippine representative in the negotiations wanted equity in some of the planned branches, which ICBC declined to entertain. While Arroyo could have reprimanded her representative, she would have lost a key political ally, which might have led to her impeachment.

Some Chinese firms invest in the Philippines not to generate further investment or do business in the country. In other words, these firms are linked not to the inward foreign investment in the Philippines, but instead the outward movement of capital.

Recently, ICBC recently acquired the permission to create a branch and operate for this new purpose. So, it will only provide services and acquire contracts for Filipino capitalists planning to invest outside the Philippines or firms needing to acquire service for international projects. ICBC could immediately link Filipino oligarchs to major Chinese projects outside the country. Henry Sy’s SM investments in China, for example, will directly benefit from the ICBC’s branch office, along with numerous other Filipino capitalists.

To put this in perspective, there were over 20 deals negotiated, agreed and somewhat implemented during Arroyo’s term, but only one large project passed. This project was the 2007 consortium created by the State Grid Corporation of China (SGCC) with Calaca High Power Corporation and the Monte Oro Grid Resources Corporation. But the SGCC was only successful because its partner companies were

owned by Enrique Razon and then subsequently purchased by Henry Sy, two of the most powerful economic elites in the Philippines.

Elite competition and social mobilisation has also shaped the fate of Chinese investments during Benigno Aquino III’s (2010–16) and Rodrigo Duterte’s administrations.

At the start of his term, Aquino did not substantially deviate from Arroyo’s foreign policy position. Indeed, the Aquino government discussed the possibility of China investing in more than 10 projects. But elite competition and the victory of a particular faction within Aquino’s cabinet led to the Philippines’ defensive behaviour towards China.

When the South China Sea issue erupted in 2012, these plans were eventually shelved by both states. China further responded by limiting Philippine agricultural exports, banning Chinese tourist companies from operating in the Philippines and unilaterally imposing a fishing ban on the contested area in the South China Sea.

Fast forward to 2017, and the Philippines and China agreed on 24 major investments during Duterte’s state visit to China, signed memoranda of agreement worth US\$15 billion with companies and agreeing on US\$9 billion in loans.

While the current Chinese and Philippine governments seem to be continuing what the Arroyo government started, Duterte has a significant advantage. During Arroyo’s administration, elite competition and social mobilisation hindered the arrival of powerful players in the Philippine economy. In comparison, the majority of the elites and the population appear to support Duterte, providing his

**CHINESE INVESTMENT continued on page 18**

## CHINESE INVESTMENT continued from page 1

recognise China’s inevitable role in the global economy, shelving her countries’ territorial claims in the South China Sea to strengthen bilateral ties. The strong political relationship between the Philippines and China culminated in 65 bilateral agreements and more than 20 large Chinese investments in the Philippine economy.

But by the end of Arroyo’s term, the Philippines became one of the lowest recipients of Chinese FDI in Southeast Asia. Why?

The first reason was inter-elite competition and social mobilisation from her administration’s opponents. For example, the Chinese Department of Transportation and Communication and the Zhongxing Semiconductor Corporation (ZTE) agreed on an investment contract worth US\$329.5 million to upgrade the Philippines’ telecommunication infrastructure. But pressure from opposition parties and numerous social movements forced Arroyo to cancel the project. Nonetheless, ZTE has maintained its branch office in the Philippines, providing telecommunication equipment, technology upgrades, and numerous other services to major Philippine companies and call centers.

Intra-elite competition within the administration’s own allies also played a key role. The Jinchuan Non-Ferrous Metal Corporation in the Nonoc Mines and the ZTE in the Diwalwal mine both appeared to be promising multi-billion dollar deals. The Arroyo government also signed 18 land lease agreements with Chinese agribusiness companies. But these deals came undone as congressmen and local elites within Arroyo’s own party resisted China’s mineral and agriculture investments due to

## MAINE MENDOZA ADMITS TO GOING OUT WITH ARJO ATAYDE

It’s (somewhat) confirmed! Maine Mendoza has admitted that she is going out with Kapamilya star Arjo Atayde BUT only as friends.

Maine Mendoza and Arjo Atayde have been at the center of many intrigues involving each other. They have been spotted going out on multiple occasions and even reportedly going on an out-of-the-country trip to Bali, Indonesia together. During the grand press conference of Jack Em Popoy (The Puliscredibles), Maine has finally entertained questions regarding Arjo and has admitted that they have been going out as friends. “Friends kami, we’re going out as friends,” the phenomenal star blurted out when asked about Arjo.

Maine has not said anything more about the issue. Apart from this interview, the two have kept mum about the issue for awhile sharing only as far as how they are happy as individuals but not connecting their statements towards each other.





## Kate Valdez reveals that she wants to work with Manolo Pedrosa



Throughout the show business careers of actors and actresses, they get to work and get paired up with so many different celebrities until they find the love team that they really match with.

Even though some celebrities are already successful with their show business careers, they still wish of working or being paired up with some other famous celebrities.

One Kapuso rising star is expressed that she wants to work with a specific heartthrob.

Kate Valdez is one of the upcoming young stars of the Kapuso network.

Before getting into show business, Kate started modeling during her elementary days. When Kate got older, she started joining amateur beauty contests.

Kate also tried her hand at acting when she joined plays at their school. Because of this, Kate slowly discovered her love for acting.

In 2015, Kate became a part of the GMA Artist Center where she was given the opportunity to join the cast of *Destiny Rose*. She was cast as *Violey Vitto Jacobs* and starred alongside Kapuso actor *Ken Chan*.

Kate got her big break when she was included in the cast of the remake of *Encantadia* in 2016. She got the role of *Mira*, the daughter of *Sang're Pirena*, who was originally portrayed by *Yasmien Kurdi* way back in 2005.

Kate became known as one of GMA 7's fast-rising stars, appearing in various TV commercials and shows. Kate's TV shows include *Sherlock Jr.* and *Onanay*, and made appearances in various episodes of *Dear Uge: Mommy's Home*, *Magpakailanman*, and *Maynila*.

Kate's showbiz start has been good so far and in an interview with *PEP.ph* that was published last August 2018, the young actress said that she feels blessed.

Kate said, "Sobrang blessed po."

In her stint on *Onanay*, Kate was given the opportunity to work with veteran stars like *Cherie Gil* and *Superstar Nora Aunor*.

"Noong bata pa lang po ako na pinapanood ko sila, ngayon, ka-eksena ko na sila. It's a dream come true at hanggang ngayon, para siyang panaginip. Hindi ko ine-expect. Nasa loob ba ko ng panaginip ko, hindi ako nagiging, nandito na lang ako."

Aside from being grateful that she has already worked with amazing actors and actresses, Kate said in an interview with *MARS* last December 5, 2018, Kate admitted that she wants to work with *Manolo Pedrosa*, an ex-PBB housemate. She was asked about who among the Kapuso actors he wants to work with and Kate answered, "Um, Manolo."

The former *Kapamilya* recently transferred to *GMA 7* and also expressed his interest in working with Kate last October 2018.

Manolo said, "I also want to work with Kate Valdez, she is a potential love team."

## ARE BARBIE IMPERIAL AND JM DE GUZMAN IN GOOD TERMS AGAIN?



After their whole social media controversy, actress *Barbie Imperial* surprised fans when she suddenly posted a sweet photo with former leading man *JM de Guzman*.

On December 20, Barbie posted on Instagram a photo of JM who have his arms wrapped around her. The actress wrote the caption: "3 days straight shows starting tomorrow. Let's go, juanbies"

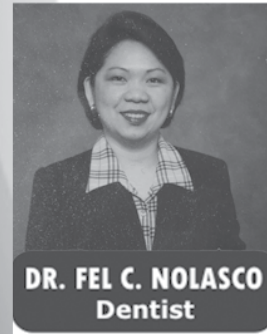
While Barbie didn't confirm if they're okay now, their *Araw Gabi* co-star and Barbie's good friend *Ara Mina* commented and teased the young actress: "Ehem ehem ehem" with heart eyes emojis.

Barbie's mother also commented which made fans think that things are already ironed out between the two. *Bing Imperial* commented: "ayan na sila..." complete with heart emojis.

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## Pinoy Super Junior fans demand apology from ABS



The characters of *Miles Ocampo*, *Trina Legaspi*, and *Michelle Vito* of the ABS-CBN sitcom *Home Sweetie Home* have angered Pinoy Super Junior fans after their scene compared the all-male K-Pop idol group with another all-male K-Pop idol group,

BTS. The script in the December 22 episode implied that BTS is the top trending group of this generation because members of Super Junior are "too seniors" for the current crowd.

Pinoy Super Junior fans are demanding a public apology from ABS-CBN sitcom *Home Sweetie Home* after the show's December 22 episode seemingly poked fun at the all-male K-pop group.

The cast of *Home Sweetie Home* were in Seoul, South Korea during the episode. In a brief conversation regarding activities that they should do while in Seoul, *Empoy's* character turned to the characters of *Miles Ocampo*, *Trina Legaspi*, and *Michelle Vito* and remarked, "Kasama ba sa 'Seoul bucket list' niyo ang pagpunta niyo sa Super Junior? Isama niyo ako, ah?" The three girls then audibly replied, "Eww..."

*Mile's* character added, "BTS na ang uso ngayon! Napaka 'Tito' mo talaga... Super Junior, sobrang lumal!"

This line was followed with laughter and another audible reaction of "Baduy." BTS refers to an all-male K-Pop group composed of seven members. Formed in 2013, BTS made its first global breakthrough in 2017.

Meanwhile, Super Junior was one of the first artists to lead the K-Pop invasion in the Philippines. The group was the first Korean idol group to hold a sold-out concert in Manila. According to fan community head *Happee* of @happeehour, this concert "lasted 3 hours and has the first concert in the Philippines to have [a] massive stage setup comparable to Las Vegas Circus shows." After the episode aired, Super Junior fans were quick to react to this dialogue and tweeted their anger through the hashtags "#ApologizeToSuperJunior" and "#RespectSuperJunior"

One netizen posted the video clip of the dialogue with English translation. K-Pop community account @happeehour then spoke out on behalf of the fans to explain why the ABS-CBN sitcom should apologize.

She began, "I can't believe I just watched something so ignorant & insensitive. It saddens me. 'I didn't see the need for the 'eww' & 'so baduy' comments... Michelle Vito, Trina Legaspi, and Miles Ocampo also took to their own Twitter accounts to apologize to fans."

Super Junior fans were not completely satisfied with the apology given by the *Kapamilya* show.

Some fans would want the public apology to be broadcasted on national TV.

Edward Barber, *Maymay Entrata*: "We're comfortable being weird."

*Maymay Entrata* and *Edward Barber* explain why fans love them. She says, "Gusto

kong magbigay ng totoong saya, parang kaibigan lang. Talagang todo ako kung sino ako." He says, "Because maybe they can relate to our craziness."

Para kina *Maymay Entrata* at *Edward Barber*, ang kanilang pagpapakatotoo ang rason kung bakit gusto sila ng mga tao.

"Like, just we're comfortable being weird coz that's who we are. "And I feel like a lot of people, especially the millennials nowadays, people our age, they can relate to weird."

"Because some people they have to hide their weirdness."

Isang halimbawa ng binanggit ni *Edward* ang kaibigan ng kanyang ina na itinago ang tunay niyang katauhan.

Lahad niya, "Yung nanay ko may kaibigan siya. They went to a concert, she went with her bosses."

"My mom's friend is such a loud person, funny person, exactly like *Maymay* in personality. "But when the bosses were there, she had to hide excitement just because trabaho yun. "But on free time, she could be who she really was."

Dugtung ng binata, "Maybe that's why they like *Maymay*, they like watching us because maybe they can relate to our craziness."

Sabi naman ni *Maymay*, ang pagiging "masa" niya ang nagustuhan sa kanya ng kanyang mga supporters

"Siguro nakaka-relate sila sa 'kin, yung pagka-fan girl. 'Pag iniisip mo 'pag artista, ang hirap i-reach."

"Alam mo yung tipong hindi mo siya makasap, hindi mo talaga makita, makilala sila."

Ito raw ang dahilan kung bakit sinisikap ni *Maymay* na magkaroon ng oras sa kanyang mga fans.

"Ipapakita ko para naman di ako mahirap i-reach. Pag nagmu-mall show ako, isa-isahin sila; kung pwede nga lang isa-isahin ko sila."

Sabi pa ni *Maymay*, "Gusto kong magbigay ng totoong saya, hindi yung pinipit mo lang. Parang abot nila ako, parang kaibigan lang."

## Barbie Imperial is friends with all her exes



When it comes to relationships, those of our celebrity idols' are the ones that we find most interesting. Since they live most of their lives in the public eye, their followers are updated with how their relationships turn out. Such is the case for *Barbie Imperial* whose personal relationships have been followed by her fans and followers ever since she stepped into the showbiz industry.

Ever since *Barbie* made her debut on Philippine TV, her craft was closely followed by Filipino audiences as well as her love life. During a question and answer Twitter party that *Barbie* did just recently, a fan with the username @CarpeBie asked if *Barbie* is close to her ex, *Ryle Santiago*. The actress answered it directly by saying, "Friends na kami. Actually, friends ko na yung mga ex ko."

*Barbie's* past relationships might not have had a happy ending each time but we're glad to know that she has no beef with her exes!

## DIEGO LOYZAGA EXITS LOS BASTARDOS SERYE

Avid viewers of the daytime serye *Precious Hearts Romances: Los Bastardos* were shocked and saddened by the sudden death of *Diego Loyzaga's* character.

It can be remembered that *Diego's* character, *Joaquin*, left for United States in the recent episodes. On the latest episode, it was revealed that on his way home, the plane he was in crashed and that there were no survivors.

When actor *Marco Gumabao* was asked about why *Diego's* character was suddenly killed off, he narrated how they found out that *Diego's* not coming back to the show anymore.

"Sobrang gulat na gulat ako. I found out kasi through his make-up artist. Parang sinabi sa akin, 'Hindi na makakapag-taping si *Diego*.' So, akala ko, 'Anong nangyari? Anong ginawa niya?'"

May kaaway ba siya sa staff? Tinawagan ko na sina *Jake*, *Albie* nag-usap kami, lahat kami natataranta,"

It was 2 a.m., tapos may taping pa kami ng 7 a.m. that same day, so we were all worried, we were scared kung anong mangyayari.

Siyempre, lima kaming magkakapatid dito and you'd tell us, mababawasan kami ng isa?"

*Marco* also revealed that it's the decision of *Diego's* family for him to leave the show.

He also shared his message for his friend *Diego*. "Magkaibigan tayo, matagal na. I'm here for you, I pray for you, and I wish you well. At sana, magkasama pa tayo."

It was rumored that *Diego* tried to take his own life last November.

## BEA ALONZO AND IAN VENERACION TO REUNITE IN A NEW PROJECT

After their hit teleserye *A Love To Last*, fans of the *Bea Alonzo* and *Ian Veneracion* team up are overjoyed at the news that they will be reuniting for the new serye, *Project Iron Heart* alongside *Richard Gutierrez*. Just like their fans, *Bea* and *Ian* are excited to be working together again.

*Bea* openly expressed how much she missed working with *Ian*. "Nakaka-miss! Nakaka-miss si *Papa Ian*,"

Veteran actor *Ian Veneracion* feels the same way. "Oo naman! Siyempre na miss ko si *Bea*, galing kami sa isang show noon. Araw-araw kami magkasama and ngayon lang kami nagkita ulit,"

*Bea* and *Ian* are also excited to be working with a new co-star, *Richard Gutierrez*. *Bea* stated: "Lalo na ngayon may bonus pa na kasamang gwapong-gwapo na *Richard Gutierrez*. First time ko to be working with *Richard*. It's actually our first conversation kami dalawa ni *Richard*,"

As of writing, no other details about the serye have been released.



## KC Concepcion reveals her CURRENT relationship with PIOLO Pascual



terms as friends.

This happened after the actress-host responded to a netizen's comment about her present relationship with the hunk celebrity.

"My wish is maging mag-friends na kayo ni Piolo Pascual at accept doing a [photo op] with him. Just for the happiness of your fans."

KC revealed that she and Piolo have finally come to terms with forgiving each other and that there's no bad blood between them.

This is not the first time that KC proved that she and Piolo are now in good terms with each other. In 2015, she already posted a picture with him on Twitter. She then answered some netizens' question about them.

The hunk actor, on the other hand, has also opened up about their failed romantic relationship in an E! News Asia episode in 2014.

**K**C Concepcion and Piolo Pascual's breakup really made big headlines in the past. It was one of the most talked-about moments in the showbiz industry in 2011 and a lot of speculations have been made explaining the reason for their breakup.

Although they didn't exactly reveal the reason at all, KC recently said with conviction that she and her Piolo have completely moved on from their past and are in good

## JERROLD TARROG PLANS TO REVISE DARNA SCRIPT AND COSTUME

The highly anticipated latest installment of Darna starring Liza Soberano has finally started running, although still at its initial stages with Direk Jerrold Tarog now taking the helm.

Darna is finally running and close to starting production but the film's new director, Jerrold Tarog, is first going to review and revise the initial work that the original director, Erik Matti, has laid out.

In an interview with ABS-CBN Entertainment, Direk Jerrold Tarog gave an update on the much-awaited big screen return of the iconic Filipina superhero, "Hindi pa (kami nagkikita ni



Liza), kasi kailangan ko ulitin 'yung script na tiina-tra-

baho nila Direk Erik Matti, so andun ako sa stage ngayon na kailangan ko siya i-rewrite. Nag te-take off ako doon sa draft nila, so mula doon kailangan ko mag-research ng konti so medyo may reset ng konti."

Direk Jerrold also gave his insight on how his version of the script and story will be different, "Ang treatment ko sa kanya, mas grounded na character siya so para siyang 'Darna' na lang na nag-exist siya na parang normal lang na tao na 'yung experience niya."

Upon the announcement of the film and the involvement of Liza Soberano in it, netizens were already concerned with how the costume will turn out and have voiced out their hope that the latest version of the story will feature a more demure look for Darna to make it more in line with Liza's image. Although Direk Jerrold did not confirm that he will agree with this appeal just yet, he did confirm that he will be making some changes with the costume, "Yes, pero may mga gagawin pa kami na additional for the costumes. Mas practical basta kasi mayroong design na ginawa 'yung previous team, eh medyo iba yung gusto kong direksyon."

As of writing, no more updates have been given regarding the upcoming movie.

We sure can't wait to see this film come to life!

## Maine Mendoza in the 'getting-to-know-each-other' stage with Arjo Atayde



For the first time, Maine Mendoza broke her silence over rumors that "something" is brewing between her and Arjo Atayde.

The 23-year-old TV host-actress reiterated that she and Arjo are friends.

Maine and Arjo's alleged "dating status" has been in the headlines for some time

now, this after being spotted together in numerous occasions.

"We're going out as friends," she reiterated, adding she and the actor are still in the "getting-to-know-each-other" stage.

Prodded if she is happy with her personal life, Maine briefly answered "yes."

According to her, she is fortunate to experience the "freedom" she has now.

"I can now do things I want to do as person and as an actress," she smiled.

Merely three years in the industry, the budding actress has learned a lot of lessons.

"I realize that sometimes the people in front of you are not all true," she noted.

## Aiko avoids Jomari: 'We might regret exchange of words'

LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers looks to score against John Wall of the Washington Wizards in their NBA game. Kawhi Leonard (right photo) of the Toronto Raptors finds himself in trouble against the Denver Nuggets defense.



AIKO Melendez plays the daughter of

Eddie Garcia in "Rainbow's Sunset" who cannot accept that her dad is having a gay relationship all these years with her godfather or ninong, Tony Mabesa.

The other children, played by Tirso Cruz III and Sunshine Dizon, are more tolerant but Aiko is vehemently against their dad's coming out as it might ruin her political reputation as their town's mayor. But she herself has her own secrets, what with her own husband, Marcus Madrigal, engaged in some corrupt activities.

What if Aiko would learn in real life that her son is gay? "Honestly, no problem for me," she says. "Matatanggap ko but my son Andrei, sobrang malayong maging gay kasi lalaking-lalaki po talaga siya. Pero kung may gay akong anak, okay lang. What's more important naman is what he can contribute to the betterment of our society."

How is she and Andrei's dad, Jomari Yllana, doing right now? "Honestly, we've not talked lately and siguro, it's for the better na ring huwag na lang kaming mag-usap para hindi na rin kami nagkakasakitán with exchange of words we might

only regret later on. So, mas okay na ganito na lang kami. Huwag na lang pag-usapan pa, out of respect for him and respeto na rin niya sa akin."

Does she resent Jomari's having a new baby with his wife now? "No, not at all.

A baby is always a blessing. Ang baby, angel 'yan so we should always welcome a baby. I'm happy for them and their baby."

Aiko herself is now happy with her current boyfriend, the mayor of Subic named Jay

Khongkun. "His two kids accept me and my two kids accept him, so okay kami. We're blessed na naging maayos ang relationship namin sa lahat."

Have they any wedding plans?

"In passing yes, we talk about it. But nothing final, kasi marami pa ring dapat ayusin. So hindi kami nagmamadali."

Aiko will be attending the premiere night of "Rainbow's Sunset" with the entire cast and Director Joel Lamangan scheduled for tonight at Trinoma. "We're all encouraged by the very positive reviews we're getting after the press preview," she says. "So we encourage everyone to watch it when it opens in theatres on Christmas Day."

Some folks are predicting she might win the best supporting actress award for her performance in this movie. "Ay, ayokong mag-expect kasi maraming magaling dito, nandiyan din sina Sunshine Dizon and Max Collins. Basta ako, I gave my all to the movie. Kundi man ako ang manalo, sana sina Tito Eddie Garcia or Tita Gloria Romero, they surely deserve to win kasi ang gagaling nila in their respective roles."



DUTERTE CRITIC. Opposition senator Antonio Trillanes IV faces another arrest warrant, this time over a libel complaint filed by presidential son Paolo Duterte in Davao City.

## Trillanes on arrest warrant: 'Baliktad ang hustisya sa gobyerno ni Duterte'

'Ang mga mandarambong ay pinalaya na. Ang mga kritiko naman ay gagawan ng kaso para pilit na maikulong,' says Senator Antonio Trillanes IV who is ordered arrested on the same day former senator Bong Revilla is acquitted of plunder

MANILA, Philippines - Opposition Senator Antonio Trillanes IV, on December 7, slammed what he called "topsy-turvy" justice under the Duterte administration, after a Davao City court issued a warrant for his arrest stemming from a libel complaint filed by presidential son Paolo Duterte in his hometown.

On the day Judge Melinda Alconcel Dayanghirang of the Davao City Regional Trial Court Branch 54 ordered his arrest, the anti-graft court Sandiganbayan acquitted former senator Bong Revilla of plunder in relation to the pork barrel scam.

"Baliktad ang hustisya sa gobyerno ni Duterte. Ang mga mandarambong ay pinalaya na. Ang mga kritiko naman ay gagawan ng kaso para pilit na maikulong," said the fierce critic of President Rodrigo Duterte. (Justice is topsy-turvy under the Duterte government. Plunderers have been set free. Cases are made up against critics just so they can be jailed.)

"Regardless, I will face this," Trillanes added.

Upon learning that he again faced arrest, the senator said he planned to coordinate with National Capital Region Police Office chief Director Guillermo Eleazar "once the warrant is available, so that I could turn myself in voluntarily."

He said he decided to just post bail on Monday, December 11, after learning of his privilege as a member of Congress under a Department of Justice (DOJ) circular.

"I was informed by my lawyers that the service of warrants of arrests for minor cases like libel on Fridays, weekends, and holidays is prohibited per existing DOJ circular and that under Article VI, Section 11 of the Constitution, as a member of Congress, I am privileged from being arrested in cases punishable by less than 6 years imprisonment while Congress is in session," Trillanes said.

"So, instead of turning myself in, which is apparently not possible under the circumstances, I will just post bail before the appropriate court on Monday," he added.

In September, Trillanes became the second opposition senator to be arrested under the Duterte presidency a presidential proclamation sought to void his amnesty. A Makati court issued an arrest warrant against him for the charge of rebellion, but he gained temporary liberty after posting a P200,000-bail.

Senator Leila de Lima, another outspoken critic of Duterte's bloody campaign against illegal drugs, was jailed over drug charges in February 2017.



FIRST, Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation's Miss Cream Silk Jasmine Paguio walks at the Celebration dinner. SECOND, Beauties of PCCF take a bow after the fashion show.



## Dina confesses misgivings as a woman

DINA Bonnevie just finished doing "Blood Sisters" at ABS-CBN and she's now with GMA-7 to do "Cain at Abel". "I'm happy na tuluy-tuloy lang ang trabaho ko and I really like my new show's theme kasi it's about family, a celebration of brotherhood," she says. "Viewers can easily relate with the story and with Dingdong Dantes and Dennis Trillo as two brothers na nahibalay sa isa't isa. Naisip ko nga, sana may brother din ang son kong si Oyo (Sotto). It's nice to have two sons along with our daughter Daniela. But I really wish I had more kids. Sayang."



In real life, Dina is now happily married to Congressman DV (for Deogracias Victor) Savellano of Ilocos Sur. "Six years na kami and we're doing fine. I can really say na we're okay naman."

So what it makes it work compared to her past relationships? "Of course, I've matured a lot. Before, marami akong expectations based on books that I read. But now, I just follow my heart. First and foremost, you should know your responsibilities as a wife, but don't lose love and respect for yourself. Allow each other some space. If you feel like you wanna be alone today, then be alone. If you feel happy and you want to show your appreciation to your husband, then show it."

It's good her husband still allows her to accept acting jobs even if she doesn't really have to work anymore? "He's very supportive. Alam naman niyang acting is my passion. And I'm not the type na tutunganga na lang sa bahay."

## Chavit Singson to finance Miss Universe 2019

Chavit Singson says Miss Universe 2018 Catriona Gray will turn over her crown to the next Miss Universe in South Korea.

Isa si former Ilocos Sur Governor Chavit Singson sa mga tumulong mag-finance ng 67th Miss Universe na ginanap sa Bangkok, Thailand nito lamang December 17, kung saan ang ating kandidatang si Catriona Gray ang itinanghal na Miss Universe 2018.

Naging judge pa nga ang anak niyang si Richelle Louise Singson-Michael, na chief executive officer ng Platinum Skies Aviation.

Ayon pa sa politiko, ang Miss Universe 2019 ay sigurado nang gaganapin sa South Korea kung saan siya ay may negosyo roon.

Solo raw niyang ipi-finance ang pageant sa susunod na taon.

### MISS UNIVERSE PHILIPPINES FRANCHISE

Samantala, hindi pa raw tinatanggap ni former Ilocos Sur Governor Chavit Singson ang franchise ng Miss Universe Philippines pero in-offer nga raw ito sa kanya ng Miss Universe Organization (MUO).

Aniya, "Totoo, pero di ko pa tinanggap, pinag-aaralan ko pa."

Sa hiwalay na panayam kay Chavit ng DZRH, sinabi niyang kailangan raw niyang pag-isipan kung tatanggapin ang Miss Universe Philippines franchise.

Dagdag pa niya, "Dahil baka dagdag trabaho iyan. Hindi kagaya yung sponsor, hindi masyadong matrabaho."

Ilang taon na ang nakalipas na ang kandidata sa Miss Universe mula sa Pilipinas ay pinipili ng Binibining Pilipinas Charities, Inc. (BPCI) ni Stella Marquez-Araneta.

Pero ayon kay Singson, nag-expire na ang kontrata ng BPCI at MUO.

Kung sakaling tatanggapin niya ang alok, magkakaroon daw ng hiwalay na pageant na ang pangalan ay Miss Universe Philippines.

Sabi pa niya, "If ever na matuloy, wala na yung Binibining Pilipinas. Magiging Miss Universe Philippines na."

Si Singson, sa pamamagitan ng kanyang LCS Group, ang financier ng ika-65 Miss Universe na ginanap sa bansa noong January 2017.

## What Alden desperately needs now

ALDEN Richards now has more time to rest after his show "Victor Magtanggol" has ended.

Those managing Alden's career should now plan his next career moves. Right now, his only exposure is in being one of the hosts of "Eat Bulaga". He should maximize the remaining years of his youth and make them truly productive before fans focus their attention on other younger idols. We think they can still get some good mileage with his love team with Maine Mendoza, but Maine herself is now charting her career without banking on Alden. She has a new movie, "Pulis Credibles" with Coco Martin, and a new sitcom, "Daddy's Gurl" with Vic Sotto. And she has proven she can stand on her own without relying on a ka-love team.

What Alden desperately needs is a new movie, kasi nasasayang lang ang oras at kasikatan niya ngayon, including his youthful good looks. His last movies where he played a lead role were "My Bebe Love" in 2015 and "Imagine You and Me" in 2016, which both did well at the box office. But both these films were still with Maine. He should now try going solo.

His next film project should have a really good material that will make him shine as a good leading man and drama actor, and will pair him with other actresses. What's sad is that GMA Films is no longer around to help cook up good movie projects for him. Unlike ABS-CBN where they have Star Cinema that continues to come up with good movies for their roster of talents, especially their love teams.

Maybe GMA Artist Center should now lend Alden to other movie companies like Regal or Viva Films that can pair him with other stars and come up with good commercial projects for him, handled by



reliable directors, before it's too late.

## Heart ipapalit kay Regine

AYON sa singer-actress-painter, fashion icon and vlogger na si Heart Evangelista, sobra umano siyang na-depress nang siya'y magka-miscarriage (ng twins) na magiging unang mga supling sana nila ng kanyang husband of more than three years na si Sen. Chiz Escudero. Pero unti-unti niya itong na-overcome by looking at things positively. Naniniwala ang 33-year-old Kapuso actress na may dahilan ang Diyos kung bakit nangyayari ang mga bagay na hindi natin inaasahan dahil may iba Siyang plano para sa atin.

Heart makes herself busy with so many things at kasa-ma na rito ang kanyang pagpipinta para sa isang kilalang clothing line at pagiging in-demand celebrity endorser. Although nung nakarang January 12, 2018 pa nagtapos ang kanyang huling teleserye, ang "My Korean Jagiya" sa bakuran ng Kapuso Network kung saan niya nakapareha ang Korean singer-actor na si Alexander Lee, mid next year na niya planong gumawa ng bagong TV projects sa kanyang home studio, ang GMA dahil magiging busy rin siya para sa kampanya ng kanyang mister na si Sen. Chiz Escudero na tatakbo sa pagka-gobernador ng Sorsogon sa darating na mid-term elections in May 2019.

Although hindi pa inihahayag ni Heart ang kanyang bagong hosting job para sa GMA, marami ang humuhula na baka siya ang ipalit sa Asia's Songbird na si Regine Velasquez (na isa na ngayong Kapamilya) bilang host ng singing competition na "The Clash" na magkakaroon umano ng panibagong season next year.

Samantala, hindi pa rin nawawalan ng pag-asa si Heart na magkakaroon pa rin sila ng baby ng kanyang mister na si Sen. Chiz at sana'y mangyari ito soon kung kelan handa na siyang maging isang ina. Heart is stepmother to Sen. Chiz' twins sa una nitong marriage (kay Christine Flores) na sina Joaquin at Ma. Cecilia.



## Maine Mendoza and Coco Martin talks about them being distant relatives

Maine Mendoza and Coco Martin surprised their fans when they revealed why they don't have a kissing scene on their upcoming film.

It turns out that Maine and Coco are distant relatives! It was during a family reunion when the Dubsmash Queen discovered it through their family tree.



Apparently, Maine shared this piece of information with Coco before they even started filming "Jack Em Popoy: The PULIScredibles." The news shocked the King of Primetime television, however, he was able to confirm it through his grandmother.

"Nalaman na po namin, may family reunion po kami sa Bulacan. Sa pagkaka-laki-laki ng family tree, nandito ako (points at one side) at nandito si Coco (points at the opposite side)."

Coco also spoke about it and said:

"Nung sinabi sa akin ni Maine yun, tinankng ko yung lola ko, 'La, may ka-mag-anak po ba tayo dito sa Bulacan?' So yun, nagkatugma-tugma."

When asked if what kind of relation they had Coco said that they were very distant relatives. But all in all, this is the main reason why they don't have any kissing scenes on their film nor will they ever have one.

Netizens couldn't help but react to the news. Some said that since they are not close relatives, they could still get married based in the law. However, many of them also said that even if that was true, to our grandmothers and fathers, it is still unacceptable.

Coco said, "Actually, malayung-malayo na. Kumbaga sa family tree, sobrang malayo na."

"Pero siyempre pag sa reunion, nagkikita-kita mga magkakamag-anak."

Many others who were fans of AIDub also left comments saying that Maine and Alden Richards are a better pair anyway.

## PIDC Celebrates The Holiday Season

Toronto, ON, Dec. 14, 2018/PIDC/ - On December 14, 2018, the Philippines Independence Day Council, Toronto ("PIDC") hosted its annual Christmas party. In addition to various community members in attendance, the event welcomed a number of special guests, including PIDC's very own Honorary Member, Michael Levitt, M.P. (York-Centre). M.P. Levitt was on hand to recognize both Karen Pascual-Binaday, President of PIDC and Aurora (Rory) Elefano, Special Project Vice President of PIDC, for their tremendous work within the Filipino community.

The event was chaired by Rory Elefano and Aimee Maravilla, Executive Secretary. Tom Tan, External Vice President, Mia Mahinay and Melanie Lazaro kept the mood light and lively,

servicing as Masters of Ceremonies. Guests were entertained with performances by Melanie Lazaro, who delighted the crowd with a beautiful



rendition of "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree", as well as the dancing sensations, better known as the "PIDC Titas", who provided the audience with wonderfully choreographed routine. Guests got their groove on, thanks to the sounds

provided by DJ John Badian. Mel Galeon, of FV Foods, provided the wonderfully, delicious catering for the evening's event.

In the spirit of the Christmas season, the PIDC family got the entire room into the festive season by singing a collection of Christmas carols. Guests were surprised with raffle prizes, some of which included several gift cards to

Max's Manila, provided by PIDC's Business Manager, Clyde Pacis. Once the evening's agenda had been completed, everyone got into the holly jolly spirit by filling up the dance floor and dancing to their hearts content until the very end of the night.

As another PIDC Christmas Party wraps up, we at PIDC reflect on the past year and the milestones that have been accomplished, including the recognition of Filipino Heritage Month, on a national level. This initiative involved our very own Paulina Corpuz, Community Liaison, who

has been instrumental in garnering recognition and support towards the Filipino Community. We look forward to the year ahead, which will certainly feature several events to mark this monumental occasion. In the meantime, we would like to wish you all and your families, a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

### About PIDC

PIDC is an organization, whose main objective is to foster unity within the Filipino-Canadian community by showcasing the best of Philippine Arts, Culture and Heritage.

For additional information, on these events, as well as other upcoming events or to join and/or volunteer with PIDC, please check their website at [www.pidctoronto.com](http://www.pidctoronto.com) or their Facebook and Twitter page under Philippine Independence Day Council Toronto.

## The Knight Before CHRISTMAS PARTY



FIRST, Sirs Mario Alpuerto, Joe Damasco and Mauro Calaguja pose. SECOND, Sir Frank Crawford assists Sir Mario Alpuerto in the karaoke contest vs a waiting contestant Conservative MP Roman Baber. THIRD, MP Roman Baber wins and survives with his song My Way but donates his winnings back with the help of Santa Claus Sir Chris Jones. FOURTH, Sirs Jojo Tadoran, Chris Jones, Mario Alpuerto and Fe Tadoran pose. The Knight Before Christmas Knights of Rizal Christmas celebration, Hosted by KOR Don Valley Chapter in cooperation with the KOR Region



## Infra 'insertions' in 2019 budget P75B, not P51.8B — Diokno

MANILA, Philippines — The controversial infrastructure budget in the 2019 national budget was P75 billion and not P51.8 billion, Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno admitted.

But Diokno clarified it should not be called "insertions" because "it's part of the budget process."

"We want infrastructure to be higher, we decided to augment, to add to the P480.2 billion (budget of the Department of Public Works and Highways) another P75 billion," he explained during the "question hour" conducted by the House of Representatives.



House Majority Leader Rolando Andaya Jr. said: "It's clear now the insertions is not P51 (billion) but P75 (billion). Thank you very much for admitting. P75 billion in public funds in which Public Works (Department) doesn't have an idea where it came from."

Lawmakers also grilled Diokno for allegedly having ties with officials whose provinces received billions in infrastructure projects.

Diokno admitted that his daughter was married to the son of incumbent Sorsogon Vice Governor Ester Hamor, who is running for the mayoral seat in Sorsogon City in 2019.

"Let me tell you, your honors, I've served three presidents, I'm known for my integrity.

"I have no relatives, no friends, as far as the public affairs is concerned. That's my reputation, that's why they call me Dr. No," Diokno added. "So I don't know what your question is all about."

There's a "strong possibility" that President Rodrigo Duterte and other Cabinet officials were involved in the alleged "insertions" of infrastructure funds in the proposed 2019 national budget, an opposition lawmaker said.

"I don't think Secretary Diokno can do this on his own," Albay 1st Dist. Rep. Edcel Lagman said, adding that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) chief probably "has the consent" of other government officials.

"There is a strong possibility... Including members of the Cabinet, including the President," he added.

## Boracay folk, tourists send SOS

ILOILO CITY — A group of stakeholders in Boracay is calling on the government to address problems plaguing tourists and residents, less than two months after the island reopened to tourists.

In a letter addressed to the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF), the group of residents and business operators urged government agencies to, among other things, install lights along the beach for the safety of tourists, ban cruise ships from dropping anchor off the island and stop public transport drivers from overcharging passengers.

Citing feedback from tourists, the stakeholders said that while standard rates were provided by the Boracay Land Transport Multi-Purpose Cooperative, tourists were usually charged exorbitant rates for special or chartered trips.

The group urged the task force to ensure that more public transport vehicles be allowed to provide rides at standard rates.

Transport personnel or checkers should also be deployed to ensure that rates are being followed, it said. Even before the island closed for six months from April 26 to Oct. 25 for rehabilitation, residents and tourists alike had been complaining of exorbitant transportation rates.

After the island's reopening, residents now have difficulty getting rides during peak hours, as tricycle drivers prefer to cater to foreign tourists, the stakeholders said. Students should also be provided with school vehicles so they would have available transportation, they added.

The BIATF was also urged to provide a clearer and adequate system to regulate the number of tourists on the island and keep its carrying capacity at manageable levels.

While there is policy against vendors and peddlers of water sports and activities along the beach, the vendors can be found in side streets and other areas where tourists flock. The stakeholders said designated areas should be provided for public markets and vendors that were accessible to tourists.

Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said the agency would look into the concerns of the stakeholders, especially the banning of cruise ships.

He maintained, though, that the cruise ships did not affect the carrying capacity of the island.

"[They don't] strain the carrying capacity of the island because cruise tourists don't stay long on the island, they don't even swim on the beach. They are just there for sightseeing," he said in a text message to the Inquirer.

Antiporda said the carrying capacity was based on the number of people on the "beach front and the swimming areas only."

## Vilma Santos can hardly wait for Luis Manzano, Jessy Mendiola to get married



Why Vilma Santos approves of Jessy Mendiola for son Luis Manzano? The actress-politician says, "Every time they are here with me, sa lahat ng kalokohan ng anak ko, ang unang-unang tumatawa, si Jessy... nagsu-swak yung character nilang dalawang ng anak kong si Lucky."

Aminado si Vilma Santos na naiinip na siya sa paghihintay kung kailan lagay sa tahimik ang anak niyang si Luis Manzano at girlfriend nitong si Jessy Mendiola.

Boto raw si Vilma kay Jessy bilang future wife ni Luis.

At naniniwala ang congressman ng Lipa City, Batangas, na nasa hustong edad na sina Luis, 37, at Jessy, 26, upang magpapasal.

Sabi ni Vilma, "Siyempre naiinip na rin ako dahil ang feeling ko, kung yun ay para sa kanilang dalawa, sana ay go na.

"Pero at the end of the day, uulitin ko lang, ang huling magdedesisyon, silang dal-

awa, kasi silang dalawa ang magsasama.

"Pero kung sila naman, sana matuloy na."

Matamis ang pagkakangiti ni Jessy habang nakikinig sa positive feedback sa kanya ng ina ng nobyong si Luis.

Nabanggit kasi ni Vilma na saksi siya kung paanong magmahalan ang couple.

"Every time they are here with me, sa lahat ng kalokohan ng anak ko, ang unang-unang tumatawa, si Jessy.

"Kapag magkasama sila, cool lang naman si Jessy. She has a very charming personality.

"So, siguro kahit paano nagsu-swak yung character nilang dalawang ng anak kong si Lucky."

Natutuwa raw si Vilma na makitang kayang sakyan ni Jessy ang mga kalokohan ng anak.

Patuloy ng actress-politician, "Kasi si Lucky, Plet's face it, ilang taon na rin ang anak ko, 37. Jessy is 26. So, mayroon silang age gap.

"So, siguro yung age na yun, yung in between ay nagko-compliment sila sa isa't isa. So I think doon silang dalawa nagki-click."

Sa parte ni Jessy, nagpasalamat siya kay Vilma dahil parang "anak" na rin ang turing

nito sa kanya.

Tulad ng endearment ni Luis sa ina ay "Momski" na rin ang tawag ni Jessy sa kongresista.

Sabi ni Jessy, "Momski, thank you po sa pagmamahal.

"Tuwing nandiyan ako sa inyo ay palagi niyo akong niyayakap at palagi niyo akong sinasabihan ng advice. Thank you lang po.

"Sobrang bait niyo lang po. I hope to see you very soon. Miss ka na po namin. I love you Momski!"

Hindi napigilan ni Jessy na maluha nang ipagtanggol siya ni Vilma laban sa mga taong hindi siya gusto.

"Sometimes mahirap tayong ma-good shot sa tao dahil lang sa nakikita natin," sabi ni Vilma, na tila aminado sa pambabatikos na natatamasa ni Jessy sa social media.

Patuloy ng Star For All Seasons, "Pero ang importante, dapat kilalanin niyo muna ang tao.

"At pag sinuportahan niyo si Jessy, tandaan niyo, sasabihin ko, hindi kayo mag-sisisi."

## Kapuso comedia Michael V finally responds to Mystica's request

The Kapuso comedian Michael V recently talked about plans for his two GMA-7 comedy shows, "Pepito Manaloto" and "Bubble Gang." In addition to being the lead star of these television programs, Bitoy also stands as the creative director here.



But aside from that, the comedy genius also clarified an issue that has long bugged him over the past weeks. Michael V. finally dished out the reason he didn't make any response over Mystica's viral video asking him to include her in his comedy shows.

On Twitter, Michael V explained that he's not the one who chooses on whoever artist can join a show. According to him, it was the top management who has the final word on who could join the comedy programs.

"Good morning Tweeps! As much as gusto kong magpasok ng ibang artista para maging cast ng #BubbleGang and #PepitoManaloto, hanggang suggestion lang po ako. Nasa GMA Network po

ang final decision."

We can recall that Mystica, or Ruby Rose Villanueva in real life, previously expressed interest to be part of Bitoy's shows in the Kapuso network.

"I would say Michael V. [laughs]. Nandun si Michael V. in terms of Bubble Gang nga pala, kasi I remember 'yung mga nakaraang years ko noon when I'm just getting starting. I actually able to join Bubble Gang several times already."

However, her effort to be part of the show didn't go well after weeks of no response from the comedy genius. This was the reason why Mystica made another viral video on Facebook a week ago saying that she already moved on and is now on the hunt again for another acting gig in the showbiz industry.

## Bea Santiago diagnosed with 'kidney failure,' needs 'life saving transplant'

MANILA, Philippines — Miss International 2013 Bea Rose Santiago revealed on Wednesday she was diagnosed with kidney failure and is in need of a "life saving transplant."

"Yeah..... kinda have kidney failure. I was diagnosed months ago, I was in denial and that's why I left the Philippines to get a second opinion in Tokyo and when it turned out to be a confirmation," Santiago wrote in an Instagram post.

Kidney failure, according to the American Kidney Fund,

is also called end-stage renal disease (ESRD) and "is the last stage of chronic kidney disease."

Last August 2018, Santiago said she was diagnosed with chronic kidney disease. She warned fans of the possible kidney-damaging effects of pre-workout supplements.

After getting diagnosed, Santiago said she immediately flew to Canada to be with her family and

potential donors, adding "Yes, I will be needing a life saving transplant."

"I live because of a machine, my dialysis machine and the doctors and nurses at Home Hemo Dialysis centre in Toronto General," she added.

Santiago then encouraged people to get themselves checked because "apparently it's genetics and popular in Asians."

Regardless of the situation, Santiago remained positive: "I'm unstoppable and will be healed! God loves me and he keeps showering me with love and blessings from friends and family! I am lucky and I am loved!"



## Dennis Trillo feels elated co-starring with Dingdong Dantes

Dennis Trillo admits that he could hardly sleep upon learning that he would share stellar billing with Dingdong Dantes in GMA's latest prime time offering Cain at Abel.

"Imagine, it's with Dingdong. It's really one special project," he says.

Touted as GMA's Drama King, the good-looking actor has high regards for his equally accomplished co-star.

"He is the Kapuso Primetime King. I've admired him for the longest time both in the professional and personal side. When Cain at Abel was offered to me, I felt it's a dream-come-truly perfect timing because at this stage, we've gone through a lot and are more experienced. I'm looking forward to learning new things from Dingdong now that we're working on this project," avers Dennis.

Cain at Abel is pitted against the more established



Ang Probinsyano of rival network ABS-CBN which has been on air for a few years now. How does he feel about it?

"Of course, being under pressure is inevitable. At first, we had no idea as to the timeslot we'll be fielded. From there, we really worked hard to come up with a quality soap which will fight in the ratings charts regardless of

what show it will face. I'm confident with our material because it's really good," he asserts.



FIRST, Melanie Lazaro and mom Loida enjoy dinner as Melissa Ventocilla celebrates her 16th birthday at FV Foods. SECOND, Friends and family celebrate with Melissa Ventocilla (7th from left). THIRD, Patricia and mom Leslie Ruiz pose with Razel Enverga at the Celebrate Life of Senator Enverga dinner.



## Arnel Pineda's life story soon a Hollywood movie?



The life story of a Filipino singer "rescued from obscurity by a YouTube video that led him to become the lead singer of the iconic '80s arena rock band Journey" is reportedly being worked out to be filmed for the silver screen.

Deadline, "Crazy Rich Asians" director Jon M. Chu was said to have revealed he is re-teaming with Warner Bros to chronicle the journey of Arnel Pineda, whom he illustrated as an "unlikely hero" and "an undeniable talent."

He even described Pineda's story as a "true fairy tale and triumph of the human spirit."

"I have been a fan of Journey's music since I can remember. I am excited to be bringing the audience along on this incredible story with my partners at Warner Bros who have been a leading champion of diverse voices in front and behind the camera."

In 2007, the Filipino singer was discovered on YouTube by Journey co-founder Neal Schon. He reportedly picked Pineda for his rare voice that could replicate the powerful vocals of exited original lead singer Steve Perry, best known for the band's hits such as "Don't Stop Believin'" and "Foolish Heart."

Perry, after a long sabbatical he recently released a new album and took the stage with Pineda, Schon and the rest of the band when Journey was inducted in the Rock N' Roll Hall Of Fame in 2017.

In the same article, Warner Bros. is said to be negotiating to license the original Journey tunes, mostly written by Perry and Schon, and the studio has acquired rights to "Don't Stop Believin': Everyman's Journey," a 2012 documentary that chronicled Pineda's "impossible rise."

According to him, Pineda's tale is "more astounding and this film will tell his true story, one that has ambitions to be something like 'Slumdog Millionaire.'"

Chu, on the other hand, said his vision is to "make an empowering movie that follows the real life rock 'n' roll fairy tale of a formerly homeless Filipino singer to overnight rock star."

## Jennylyn: 'No wedding bells with Dennis in 2019'

"No wedding bells, no walking down the aisle just yet." That's how definite Jennylyn Mercado is with regard to taking her relationship with Dennis Trillo to the next level in the near future. They both agree that a wedding can wait especially since they



are happy with what they've got going to even rock the boat.

"We're also busy with our respective careers, so everything's good right now," she added for emphasis.

What's waiting for Jen next year for sure is a movie.

"I just need to finish a few more commitments and papalampasin muna ang Pasko then I'll be good to begin shooting. Alam mo naman pag ganitong panahon everybody's busy. In my case, I also have a business — yung cookies ko na ako mismo ang nag-be-bake," she related.

Baking has always been Jen's hobby and those who have tried the goodies that come out of her oven say she's great at it.

Encouraged by endless compliments to the baker, she found the courage to put up Chunky Dough, an online cookie business where she personally makes her variety of giant cookies.

"I have the plain cookie, cookie with nuts and the chocolate cookie on offer. My favorite is the plain while [my son] Jazz likes the chocolate with all the chunky bits of kids' favorite sweet. Si Dennis, naku! Ang lakas niya kumain ng cookies. Like me, he also likes the plain."

Even if her cookies are calorie-laden, Jen says

eating such treats in moderation is the key to enjoying life.

"I've always been fond of sweets but hindi naman yung type na uubusin sa isang upuan lang. Dapat limited intake and of course may exercise. In my case, I really burn calories fast because I do Pilates."

Asked when she enjoys indulging on her baked cookies the most, Jen replied, "When I'm watching 'Cain at Abel!'"

She quickly added, "And hindi naman just because Dennis is in the show. Maganda talaga ang Cain At Abel. It has a very good story and a great cast. This is the type of series that you'll get hooked to once you start watching. Kami talaga, pinapanood namin habang nagdi-dinner tapos dessert yung cookies! It's become an evening habit for us," the very supportive girlfriend ended.

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Kapuso actress Sunshine Dizon is busy promoting the 2018 Metro Manila Film Festival movie "Rainbow's Sunset." Counting the reasons why, she cited her reunion with the film's director, the multi-awarded Joel Lamangan, whom she has always looked to as a father and mentor since her days as a child star.



"I've really missed working with Direk Joel," Sunshine volunteered. "It's funny because when I accepted the offer because of that, I suddenly felt nervous. Biglang nag-refresher's course ako sa acting and hinimay-himay ko talaga yung script to study my character vis-a-vis the other characters I will get to interact with."

Sunshine is also busy with a new soap for GMA Network, "Inagaw na Bituin," whose lead star is Kylene Alcantara.

"So these days, I'm enjoying working with my friends Angelika Dela Cruz, Angelu De Leon, Marvin Agustin, Gabby Eigenmann, kasi magkaka-age kami so we're so happy on the set," she laughed. "It's also great I get to work with Kylene again after 'Kambal Karibal.' She's a really great actress and napaka-galang."

## Raymart Santaigo says hello to television once again as he joins Judy Ann Santos in an upcoming series

It took 19 years for Raymart Santiago to finally cross over the border between his home network and its rival. The seasoned celebrity, in all his years in the industry, decided to plant himself in Kapamilya territory due to an upcoming series that has been years in the making. We haven't heard from the seasoned actor after his stint in GMA-7's "My Korean Jagiya" which featured the beautiful Heart Evangelista.



Now, Raymart Santiago is set to be the leading man to another actress that has probably inspired younger actresses to pursue a career in showbiz. This 2019, ABS-CBN will present to its loyal viewers, "Starla," a television series featuring Judy Ann Santos Agoncillo. In all honesty, the inclusion of this mega-watt star can also be the reason why Raymart chose to say yes to moving to ABS-CBN. Who could ever say no to working with an amazing actress like Judy?

Raymart is truly excited for people to watch and love the project they have worked so hard for. He shared that "Starla" has been in the works in ABS-CBN's oven for quite some time now so it is sure to be entertaining and worthy of a primetime slot!

In an interview of PUSH, Raymart said: "Naku abangan nila, medyo matagal tagal din 'tong pinaghandaan ng ABS-CBN." He also expressed how much he wanted to work with Judy Ann since the last project they have together was "Aishite Imasu" which was way back in 2004.

The actor decided to give a summary of what we are about to expect in the series. He said: Magk-ababata kami dito (Judy Ann Santos), hanggang umalis siya sa barrio namin at nakapunta sa Manila nakapag-aral ng law at ako naman naging doktor dito at naging doktor to the barrio so magkakaroon my conflict sa aming dalawa."

However, since this is the beginning of a career in the Kapamilya network, are we expecting that Raymart Santiago would be starring in another action movie or series since that is what he is known for since he debuted? Well, the celebrity isn't closing any doors to this possibility.

"Wala pa naman pag-uusap, right now focus muna ako sa paparating. Kung meron naman why not 'di ba?"

# Hunk Shot



Nathaniel, 12, loves pizza. He plays soccer. He wants to be a soccer player. He is visiting from Ireland with his parents Ethel and Nestor. He is the nephew of Star Circle Entertainment's Ellen Galorport.

## Nathaniel Daquil

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# A touch of Brazilian graces Filipino parties

BRAZILIAN  
page 26



but the Brazilian Samba dancers. It seems a few community functions have started hiring these dancers for entertainment, in addition to the Filipino dance groups and singers which we have in our community.

Dr. Vicky Santiago celebrated her clinic's Christmas with a brunch at the Seasons at Westin Prince hotel with her staff, family and a friends. Let me tell you, that brunch was delicious. No Brazilian dancers here. Just a simple get-together enjoying good food and more importantly, good company. And of course, giving of the gifts.

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usual lull that comes after dinner and everyone seems to be waiting for the dance to start. Meanwhile, everyone is listening to the program and the performers that come one after another. Suddenly, these Brazilian samba dancers come out and everybody comes to attention. They jolt a party to life when everybody is in a state of restlessness.

Of course, hiring Brazilian dancers only makes sense for large parties.

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Krystal Castillo, of the singing group Charms celebrated her quinceañera, (Spanish: "15 years) also called quinceaños with a buffet lunch at Mandarin restaurant. She was joined by friends,



her Charms co-singers and family.

Randy Bucuo invited me, Fe and Jojo Taduran to Conservative candidate for MP Irshad

Chaudry's buffet dinner. Well, even if I am on a diet, who will resist a buffet dinner, specially one that's free? All I have to do is not eat in-between parties.

And UMAC / Forex had their Christmas get-together at Bistro manila with the nightshift band playing.

On another note, I will miss Joey Abrenilla who went back home to the Philippines. I was not close to him but as a public figure in the community, he brought life to the community. Whether he will stay there for good or not, even he does not know.

"I don't have a family here," he said when asked why he is going back. I asked him what he'll do back home.

"I'll probably run our little grocery. SM is opening in Butuan. We might open a stall there."

ABOVE, Krystal Castillo celebrates her birthday with brother Padi and cousin Christopher. LEFT, Cely Tutay joins her sister Dr. Vicky Santiago at the Christmas brunch.



ABOVE, Jojo Taduran, Joey Abrenilla, Ricky Caluen and Marissa Corpuz attend Agnes Miranda's birthday bash at Rembrandt.

We wish him luck in his new adventure.

And as we usher in 2019, Happy New Year to everyone. May God bless us with good health, prosperity and peace.



RIGHT, Maria Panaligan in 2010. BELOW-Ferdie Baguira (far right) of Forex poses with the Nighthshift band, standing beside him is Maria Panaligan.



## Dennis, masaya 2018 lovelife at career

Masayang magtatapos ang taon ni Dennis Trillo sa lovelife man o sa career.

Sa career, sobrang feeling thankful ngayon ni Dennis dahil bukod sa drama series nila ni Dingdong Dantes na Cain at Abel sa GMA-7, mayroon din siyang Metro Manila Film Festival movie, ang One Great Love with Kim Chiu and JC de Vera.



Sa lovelife naman, aminado ang aktor na masaya siya sa piling ni Jennilyn Mercado at mukhang nahanap na nga raw niya ang kanyang "one great love."

"Gusto kong isipin at naniniwala ako sa one great love. Gusto kong isipin na nahanap ko na siya, kasi okay naman ako, masaya ako ngayon and ganun 'yung nararamdaman ko," ani Dennis. Feeling blessed din ang aktor na nakasama nila ni JC si Kim sa movie for the first time. "Masuwerte kami na nakatrabaho namin siya kasi nakita namin 'yung dedication niya sa shooting. Kahit pagkatapos ng shooting, talagang nagbabantay siya sa editing, inaalam niya kung ano ang magandang soundtrack na gagamitin, daig pa niya ang producer, kaya sobrang saya namin na talagang tutok siya at ganun siya ka-involved sa pelikula," sey ni Dennis.

Paano naman niya inalalayan si Kim sa mga love scene nila?

"Noong una, pareho talaga kaming kinakabahan, pero habang pinag-uusapan namin kung ano ang gagawin, parang mas nagiging kumportable na kami sa isa't isa and with the guidance of Direk Eric (Quizon), naitawid namin nang maayos and very artistic 'yung pagkakagawa namin," sey ng aktor.

## Jodi Sta. Maria's other dream jobs

Jodi is slated to top-bill her forthcoming prime-time series "Mea Culpa," along with young actors Bela Padilla, Tony Labrusca, Kit Thompson, Sandino Martin, Ketchup Eusebio, Ivana Alawi, and Ayen Laurel.

Meanwhile, Jodi earlier shared that among her dreams in life is to become a pilot.

The actress recently and finally earned her certification to be an acupuncture detoxification specialist. According to reports, Jodi attended a 6-day intensive training to achieve such feat. "Today, I am a certified Acupuncture Detoxification Specialist! After a week of intense training, I found a better appreciation for those actively practicing this. It is when we meet others' needs that our needs are satisfied in the process. By healing an individual, you heal a community. You need not be a medical practitioner to do this - all you have to be is someone who cares for another person's well being."

Currently, Jodi studies at Southville International School and Colleges. She is taking up Bachelor of Science in Psychology. On top of it all, Jodi is a Dean's Lister and among the top students in her batch. Such an incredible foundation for someone like Jodi, not to mention that she is also a single mom.

## Dimples Romana is beyond excited to work with Angel Locsin once again!

We would like to believe that once two, veteran, and talented actresses get together for a project, a lifetime bond would be made. This could be true especially if they play as best friends! This is what happened to "Kadenang Ginto" star Dimples Romana and "La Luna Sangre" actress Angel Locsin.

These two women are considered to be at the forefront of the Kapamilya roster because honestly, their acting chops are just out of this world! In any role they are assigned to, Dimples and Angel truly exhibit to the younger generation what it takes to be considered as a seasoned or veteran celebrity. We daresay, no one relatively new in the business can match the versatility and intensity shown by these megastars.

Filipino viewers were totally in love with Dimples and Angel during the 2008 television series named "Lobo" where they starred alongside a star-studded cast namely Piolo Pascual, Shaina Magdayao, Ryan Eigenmann, Agot Isidro, Pilar Pilapil, Robert Arevalo, Irma Adlawan and Dante Rivero. The fantasy series revolving around an ordinary man and a shapeshifting woman truly captured our attention.

If you can remember, Dimples played the character of Trixie, Angel Locsin's character's best friend. Ten years later, the two actresses remained close friends with each other. Despite not being placed in the same television show or movie for quite some time, they managed to foster a strong friendship off-screen.

However, it is exciting to think that this dynamic duo would once again reunite in the upcoming action television series entitled "The General's Daughter." This drama would feature Angel Locsin as a rough, military woman and we truly cannot wait for what it has to offer especially since the behind-the-scenes look at the series show how Angel truly prepared for the role.

As for Dimple though, she's just happy to once again work with someone she considers as a close friend. It turns out that Angel taught Dimples to invest in certain businesses and that they consider each other as a close confidante when it comes to their problems, whether in showbiz or in real life, as well as when they just need someone to talk to for the day.

## Patricia Tumalak explains why she left "Wowowin"

After several months of her stint at "Wowowin," Kapuso TV host and beauty queen Patricia Tumalak became abruptly absent in the show. This being said, Patricia recently and finally clarified through her interview with GMA News the reason why she has been unseen by viewers in the program.

"I'm super forever grateful sa GMA kasi both sides na from hosting and acting, pinapa-try sa akin. So kung ano'ng ibigay na opportunity, doon tayo and go with the flow. I'm up for challenge so kung ano ibigay sa'yo just

accept and just be ready for the challenge, and of course, do you part also."

This talk was also to shut down speculations that she had been axed by the program. The article added that the TV host is slated to star in the forthcoming musical-drama teleserye "Inagaw Na Bituin." To conclude, Patricia could not afford to juggle two jobs at the same time.

Earlier this year, as well, Patricia was reported to have left her former hosting stint at the longest-running noontime show, "Eat Bulaga."

Similarly, there were rumors that claimed she was removed from the program, too.

Soon enough, Patricia straightened out the gossip by stating that moving forward without the program was her personal decision.

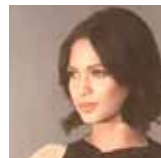
"Timing is everything and change is good," she told GMA News.

The TV host also added that the Dabarkads fully supported her. Also, Patricia confessed that she also misses being in the show.

"Siyempre nami-miss ko sila. Iba ang live, e, iba yung energy na nakakatawa. And, nag-uusap naman kami. So for me, kailangan din, change is inevitable and everything is temporary. So as long as it's for the better, then go."

During that time, the hit Kapuso series "Kambal, Karibal" had only been introduced to the public. Patricia was part of the cast, and she stated in the same interview that she was game to do more in the entertainment realm.

"Challenge accepted, I'm up for challenges. And since hosting ako back then, siguro try natin different ano, more on acting. But there's always a room for improvement. I still need to enhance or hone my acting skills." Patricia competed at the 2011 Binibining Pilipinas and made it to the Top 15. In 2014, she was chosen to represent the country Miss Multiverse International 2014 beauty pageant that was held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. Prior to these, she was crowned as Miss Philippines Fire in 2009 and also bagged the accolade Miss Science and Technology.



## Dr Jose P. Rizal 122nd Martyrdom Celebration in Toronto

By Romeo Ayson Zetazate & Dindo Orbeso

The Knights of Rizal Canada Region will be hosting the 122nd celebration of the martyrdom of Dr. Jose P. Rizal on December 30, 2018, 4:00 pm, at the Earl Bales Park Community Centre (Bathurst & Sheppard) in Toronto, where his bust is located. Dr. Rizal, the Philippine national hero, was executed by the Spanish soldiers at Bagumbayan (now known as Rizal Park in Manila).

Sir Joe Damasco, KGOR, and Sir Mario Alpuerto, KGOR, regional commander and the deputy regional commander, respectively, of the Knights of Rizal Canada Region, have announced that Philippine Ambassador to Canada, Her Excellency Petronila (Girlye) Garcia and Philippine Consul General Rosalita Prospero, will be gracing the occasion.

In addition to Knights of Rizal Region officers, Chapter commanders and members, and the board advisers which include Sir George Poblete, KGCR; Sir Lapulapu Cana, KGCR; Sir Jimmy Marasigan, KGOR; Sir Roland Guzman, KGOR; and Sir Eduardo C. Prillo, KGOR, will be in attendance. Also providing support to the event will be the Ladies of the Knights of Rizal, Kababaihang Rizalista, Aspirations of Rizal, and the Rizal Youth.

For further information, please get in touch with Sir Joe Damasco at email: joedamasco@rogers.com, (416) 717 - 3461 or Sir Mario Alpuerto at email: almarioni@gmail.com, (416) 732 -4751. (St. Jamestown News Service.)

## Candid SPOOF

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

As part of her royalty for appearing in your movie, Samantha wants a new Iphone everytime Apple issues a new one.



Samantha Gavin, her mom Emely and Fe Paca Taduran attend Li Eron's birthday last October.



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**MARIS RACAL GETS EMOTIONAL DURING  
DUET WITH INIGO PASCUAL**

Actress Maris Racal teared up while singing a duet with her love team partner and rumored boyfriend Inigo Pascual at the Holiday segment of One Music POPSSSS' Season 6. Alongside Ryle Santiago and AC Bonifacio, the MarNigo love team prepared different performances for their fans.

One of MarNigo's song numbers was a powerful duet of the song The Power of Two by Indigo Girls. The young actress struggled to continue singing because she was already tearing up. Thankfully, Inigo was there beside her to fill her part and finished the song while she cried in his arms.



Forex / UMAC holds their Christmas get-together at Bistro Manila.



LEFT, Mel Galeon (with apron) prepares the boodle fight for Melissa Ventocilla's 16th birthday. ABOVE, Melissa poses with dad Ricky and Flora.



Dr.Solon and Josephine Adorna Guzman's Dundas Tower Dental Centre and Laboratory, Dentistry in Milton, Absolute Tower Dental Centre and City Dental Centre held their Christmas party at Mississauga Grand for their employees and their families, friends. They had a wonderful time.



Dr. Annette Simbulan (3rd from right) and husband Ed (2nd from right) attend the the Celebration for Life of Senator Enverga dinner.



Dr. Solon Guzman (2nd from left) and wife (not in photo) poses at the Celebration for Life of Senator Enverga dinner with relatives.

**ARE CK AND VIVOREE FINALLY  
FALLING FOR EACH OTHER?**

When two people are paired it up to be a love team, it is inevitable that they will find themselves falling for each other given that they spend almost all of their time together. Case in point are some of our favorite love teams such as JaDine, JoshLia, KathNiel, and many more. Now is the KierVi love team, composed of Vivoree Escrito and Hashtag member CK, the next one to have this fate?

Since the tandem's first appearance in Philippine television in Ipaglaban Mo, fans have been rooting for them to eventually have a reel-to-real relationship like the many love teams that have come before them and have been vocal about these wishes. "Merong mga

fans na 'di maiwasan 'yung ganun [na comments]," shared CK.

Vivoree also stated that this pressure for her to have a romantic relationship with CK do not faze them both, "Naiinindihan ko naman sila. Siguro nakita talaga nila 'yung chemistry naming dalawa - on or offscreen. Hindi ako napepressure kasi friends naman kami. Parang magaan lang talaga 'yung work namin."

CK echoes this by saying that he and Vivoree are friends at this point, "Wala pa sa amin 'yung ganung stage."

Although it is clear to both CK and Vivoree that they are currently just friends, they are not closing the idea of being in a real relationship together. "We'll cross the bridge when we get there," both CK and Vivoree replied.





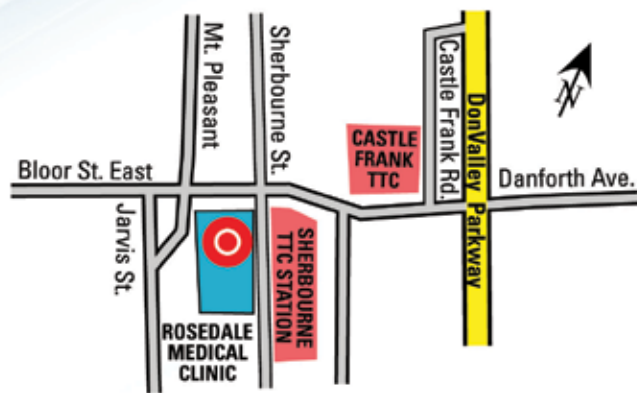


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