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PHILIPPINE VP DUTERTE'S IMPEACHMENT NEARS END AS PROSECUTORS STAKE CASE ON UNEXPLAINED WEALTH

By Karen Lema

MANILA, Nov 10 (Reuters) - Philippine prosecutors are focusing their impeachment case against Vice President Sara Duterte on a single allegation of unexplained wealth, dropping three other charges, to try to conclude the trial by the end of this year before attention shifts to the 2028 election, the lead prosecutor said.

Duterte, daughter of former president Rodrigo Duterte, has consistently led opinion polls for the next election, which President Ferdinand Marcos Jr cannot contest because he is limited to a single term.

A conviction could remove Duterte from office and disqualify her from holding public office, potentially ending her presidential bid. Duterte denies wrongdoing and has called the proceedings political harassment.

"We're all in," on the unexplained wealth charge, Gerville Luistro, who leads the House prosecution panel, told Reuters on Tuesday, saying it was the strongest case and there was no need to pursue every charge.

"Impeachment fatigue is real," Luistro said, citing public weariness after investigations dating to 2024 and impeachment proceedings stretching from 2025 into this year.

But analysts say the strategy is high risk.

Japhet Quitzon, an associate fellow with the Southeast Asia Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said dropping most of the charges, including Duterte's alleged threats against Marcos, the first lady and a former House Speaker, may have cost prosecutors a "significant piece of narrative."



Philippine Vice President Sara Duterte arrives at the Quezon City Regional Trial Court for her arraignment in Quezon City, Philippines, October 9, 2026. REUTERS/ Noel Celis

Those threats, captured on video, raised questions beyond alleged financial wrongdoing to Duterte's conduct and suitability for the presidency.

'NUMBERS DO NOT LIE'

Luistro said the charge of unexplained wealth rested mainly on documentary evidence, including Duterte's statements of assets, liabilities and net worth, corporate financial statements, tax and property records, firearms registrations and financial transaction reports. She said that Duterte herself had prepared, signed and filed the asset declarations.

A forensic analyst has estimated 817 million pesos ($12.97 million) in unexplained assets, a figure Duterte's defence disputes. Her lawyers began their defence on Monday.

"Numbers do not lie," Luistro said, adding Duterte's long experience in government made it difficult to attribute any failure to declare them simply to oversight.

There was no immediate comment from her lawyers on Luistro's remarks.

IMPEACHMENT
CONT'D ON A-3

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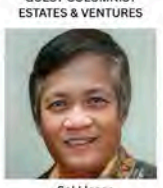

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IMPEACHMENT
FROM PAGE A-1

The House originally sent four impeachment articles to trial, but prosecutors in October withdrew three covering alleged misuse of public funds, bribery and threats. Luistro said continuing with multiple charges would give the defence more to contest and could push the trial into next year.

"This has to end in 2026," she said.

'NO POLITICAL LOYALTY IS PERMANENT IN THE PHILIPPINES'

Whether the prosecution's move secures enough votes for conviction remains uncertain. Quitzon said senators would weigh shifting alliances and their political interests ahead of 2028.

"No political loyalty is permanent in the Philippines," he said.

The impeachment court gave prosecutors a boost in September when it ruled that only senator-judges able to participate in the trial would count in determining the constitutional two-thirds threshold for conviction.

With 4 of 24 senator-judges unable to participate, prosecutors will need 14 votes to convict Duterte rather than 16 if all were sitting.

"The number for conviction was reduced, but we should not overlook the fact that the number for acquittal was also reduced," Luistro said.

($1 = 63.0070 Philippine pesos)

(Reporting by Karen Lema; Editing by Kate Mayberry)

DPWH official links Estrada to P1.6-billion budget insertions in 2025

MANILA, Nov 11 (Mabuhay) -- Sen. Jinggoy Estrada is allegedly involved in over P1.6 billion worth of insertions into the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) budget back in 2025, an official said.

In a judicial affidavit, DPWH Programming Division Chief Engr. Peter Paul Cortez said 16 projects attributed to Estrada were not in the National Expenditure (NEP), but were included in the 2025 General Appropriations Act.

Twelve of these projects were for Bulacan amounting to P855 million, while four other projects were for Metro Manila at P750 million, Cortez said.

The DPWH official testified during Estrada's bail hearing at the Sandiganbayan Fifth Division on Tuesday. The suspended senator is fighting a plunder case over allegations of involvement in flood control project kickbacks.

Cortez said he previously received a list from the late DPWH Undersecretary Catalina Cabral with six projects.

This bore a heading that indicated these would be for funding of Estrada, according to Cortez.

But Cortez clarified this meant the DPWH would be financing the projects as these would be included in the National Expenditure Program (NEP) proposal for the agency.

Cortez admitted to having no personal knowledge that Estrada personally made the request.

DPWH Engineer Gerard Longoria also stood as witness during the bail hearing.

Longoria mentioned a referral or action slip with a list of projects allegedly connected to Estrada for funding in the 2025 NEP.

More witnesses will be presented in the following days, including ex-Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Bulacan First District Engr. Henry Alcantara, who is scheduled on Friday. (MNS)

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VP Sara's sworn admission of GenCorp shares carries more weight – House prosecution

MANILA, Nov 12 (Mabuhay) -- Vice President Sara Duterte's sworn declaration that she was a shareholder of GenCorp Industries Inc. could carry greater evidentiary weight than corporate records denying her ownership, the House prosecution argued Wednesday during her impeachment trial.

Private prosecutor Lorna Kapunan stressed that Duterte personally declared her GenCorp shareholding in her 2024 and 2025 Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALNs), making it an admission that could be used as evidence against her.

The issue arose after GenCorp in-house counsel Suzette Balucanag-Punay insisted that Duterte was not listed as a shareholder in the company's general information sheets (GIS) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Asked why Duterte would declare shares she supposedly did not own, Punay replied, "I cannot answer for the vice president, ma'am."

"She can answer, yes," Punay added when asked whether Duterte herself could explain the discrepancy.

Senator-Judge Panfilo "Ping" Lacson challenged Punay for giving greater evidentiary weight to GenCorp's SEC records than Duterte's sworn SALN.

"The SEC records, Your Honor," Punay replied when asked which document carried more weight.

"SEC records? Are you sure?" Lacson pressed.

"For me, the SEC records, Your Honor," she maintained.

Lacson cited Section 27, Rule 130 of the Rules of Court, which allows a party's declarations to be presented as evidence against that party.

"Mas may probative weight or admissibility weight 'yung admission against interest (An admission against interest carries more probative weight or admissibility weight)," Lacson said, emphasizing that Duterte's SALN was notarized.

Kapunan supported Lacson's position, arguing that Duterte's sworn declaration should carry greater weight than a GIS certified by a corporate secretary.

"Forgetting, Your Honor, that the SALN itself is a public document," Kapunan said.

She stressed that Duterte personally signed and swore to the SALN, unlike the corporate filing certified by another person.

Presiding Officer Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero acknowledged that an admission has been described as the "queen of evidence," but said each senator-judge must ultimately determine the weight of the competing documents.

Escudero also questioned why Duterte declared an interest in GenCorp itself rather than specifying that her investment was limited to one Jollibee branch.

"Hindi po niya in-specify na 'yung Jollibee lang sa (She did not specify that her investment is only the Jollibee store at) Times Square," he said.

Punay maintained that Duterte's declaration alone did not establish ownership.

"Her unilateral declaration, Your Honor, will not make her a stockholder," she said.

Kapunan argued that if Duterte's admission was accurate, her financial interest would extend to GenCorp's five Jollibee franchises in Davao City: Bolton, Matina Crossing, GMall, Times Square and Abreeza.

The dispute also raises questions under Article VII, Section 13 of the Constitution, which prohibits the vice president from participating in any business during his or her tenure and from holding direct or indirect financial interests in government contracts, franchises or special privileges granted by the government.

Earlier, Punay confirmed that Duterte received PHP2.14 million from GenCorp between 2022 and 2025, describing the payments as returns of capital from a "loose investment."

The controversy forms part of Article II, the remaining impeachment charge involving at least PHP817.87 million in alleged unexplained wealth. (MNS)

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Marcos trust, performance ratings fall; Sara Duterte hold steady in OCTA Q3 survey

MANILA, Nov 12 (Mabuhay) -- President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. saw a decline in his trust and performance ratings while Vice President Sara Duterte's ratings held steady in the latest OCTA Research Group survey.

Based on OCTA's Tugon ng Masa noncommissioned survey, the results of which were released Wednesday, Marcos' trust rating declined from 49% in July to 45% in September.

His distrust rose from 32% to 36%, while 19% remained undecided.

The President's performance rating also fell from 47% in July to 44% in September, while his dissatisfaction increased from 33% to 36%.

"This is the second consecutive quarterly decline in both ratings, following a brief rebound in March 2026, and the fourth decline in the last five survey rounds," OCTA explained.

"Since July 2025, his trust rating has fallen by 19 points (from 64%) and his performance rating by 18 points (from 62%)," it added.

The survey showed that Balance Luzon remains the only major area where he holds majority ratings, at 54% trust and 55% satisfaction.

Marcos' lowest ratings were recorded in Mindanao with 28% trust and 27% satisfaction.

By socioeconomic class, Class E gives him his highest ratings, at 59% trust and 55% satisfaction.

Palace reaction

In a statement, Palace Press Officer Undersecretary Claire Castro said the survey serves as a reminder but does not show the true work of the President.

"Ang mga tao na naabot na ng gobyerno tulad ng mga magsasaka, mga pasyenteng nakaranas ng zero balance billing sa mga hospital ay maaaring hindi nakasama sa mga survey kaya iba iba ang numerong lumalabas sa mga survey," Castro said.

(People who have already been provided assistance by the government such as farmers, patients who experienced zero balance billing in hospitals may not have been included in the surveys, so the numbers that appear in the surveys are different.)

"Dahil ang mga nagbago ang kondisyon sa Walang Gutom program ay maganda ang nabigay na numero. Anumang numero ang lumabas ay hindi magpapatigil at magpapatinag sa ating pangulo sa pagtatrabaho," she added.

(Because those whose conditions have changed in the Walang Gutom program, the numbers given are good. Whatever number comes out will not stop and sway our president from working.)

Sara Duterte

Meanwhile, Duterte's trust rating slightly increased from 47% to 48%, while distrust remain unchanged at 33%.

Her performance rating also went up from 45% to 46% while the dissatifaction remained at 36%.

"These small gains are within the margin of error and do not yet amount to a recovery," OCTA said.

It added that Duterte's performance rating fell in two successive quarters from 54% in December 2025 to 50% in March and 45% in July 2026.

Meanwhile, her trust rating fell by 8 points between March and July, from 55% to 47%.

"Her September ratings remain just above the series lows recorded in July," OCTA said.

"Beneath the steady national figures, her trust rose by 12 points in NCR and 8 points in the Visayas, but fell by 7 points in Class ABC and 11 points in Class E," it added.

The survey revealed that Duterte continues to enjoy very high ratings in Mindanao at 94% trust and 88% performance and majority ratings in the Visayas at 66% trust and 60% performance.

However, her ratings are much lower in NCR, at 40% trust and 24% satisfaction, and in Balance Luzon, at 25% on both measures.

The survey was conducted through face-to-face interviews with 1,200 adult Filipinos from September 28 to October 4, 2026.

It has ±3% margin of error at a 95% confidence level. Subnational estimates for the geographic areas covered in the survey have margins of error of ±6% for NCR, Balance Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, also at a 95% confidence level. (MNS)





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By: Doris Lacson Bauer

PNANV Fall Educational Seminar 2026:

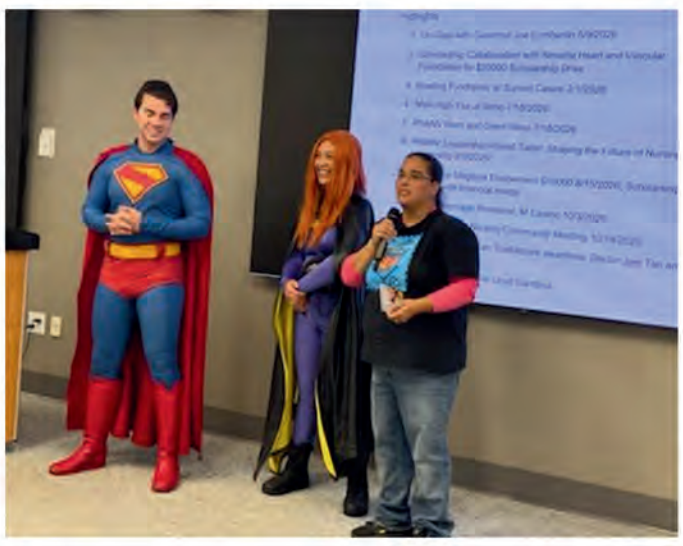
Gaining Knowledge, Collaborating with Organizations, Recognizing Losses

Each year, the Philippine Nurses Association of Nevada (PNANV) offers 2 Educational Seminars to Nurse members, students and the public. 6 CEUs (Continuing Education Units) are offered to RNs to help in renewing their Licenses. Members attend for free. There is a zoom link to accommodate the participants who are unable to attend in person, mostly those in the Reno area. Each Seminar has a theme. Held on October 24 at UMC Delta Point, the Seminar's theme was "What's a Nurse Got to do with it? The topics explored community resources and support services, strategies to strengthen advocacy, interdisciplinary coordination, resource navigation and quality of care.



Gaining Knowledge

Sherry Perucho, DHA, CCC-SLP, CBIST started the seminar and spoke about The Brain Injury Rehab Continuum. **Dr. Aury Nagy** presented the current Treatment Pathways for Alzheimer's Disease. **Emily Brown, APRN, FNP-BC** spoke about the differences between Palliative Care and Hospice. **Lisa Schaffer, BSN, RN, CIC, CRRN, CCM** talked about facilitating a Safe Discharge. A Panel of Nurses: **Diane McGinnis, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, Evette Wilson, DNP, RN** and **Donna Miller, RN, CMTE, CRP** discussed Nevada Nurses Legislative Actions. **Dr. Victoria Squier** navigated the panel. **Lisa De Leon Gamboa, MSN Ed., RN, CPHQ, CCM, CMCN** reviewed how Nurses can do Self-Care which included an audience participation of a line dance to the tune of "Dancing Queen". There were a lot of take-aways from these topics from the top-notch speakers.



Collaborating with Organizations

The **PNANV** received a **$20,000** Scholarship Donation from the **Nevada Heart Foundation** and is passing it on to Nevada Nursing Students. They have to apply for the Scholarship and have to meet the criteria. Applications are still open with a deadline for submission on November 15 with the award date scheduled for December 13, 2026. *(For more information, please go to www.pnanv.org)*



With each Seminar, **PNANV** supports a charitable community organization that makes a difference in Healthcare. This time, the organization selected was Critical Care Comics. This non-profit organization visits cancer-stricken children in the hospitals and medical facilities to deliver toys and comic books. Critical Care Comics volunteers visit the children dressed as Super Heroes. Heather Reeder, Community Liaison was there to explain their mission. She was accompanied by Superman and Batgirl. **PNANV** requested seminar attendees to bring a new toy for children. All the donations were given to Critical Care Comics. *(For more information, please visit www.criticalcarecomics.org)*

Recognizing Losses

At the Seminar, **PNANV** acknowledged the passing of 2 High Profile Nurses, a big loss to the profession. **PNANV** observed a moment of silence to honor these 2 nurses.

Remedios "Remy" Rigor Caballero was a past President of the **PNANV**. She was born in Victoria, Tarlac on March 26, 1944. She pursued her Nursing career at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila where she met her husband, Rafael Caballero who supported her through schooling. After graduation, she and 12 other nurses went to work in Chicago, Illinois. Due to the harshness of the winters, she and her husband moved to Redlands, CA and then eventually moved to Las Vegas. Remy completed her Masters in Healthcare Administration and opened up Hope Home Health in 2016. Remy worked in various areas of Nursing. She and her family were always active in the Filipino communities where they lived. She became a member of the PNANV and became the second PNANV President of the organization. Remy was also a very religious person. Her life up to her death was all about helping and supporting others.

Catherine Frances Dinauer, lovingly known as Cathy, passed away in Carson City at the age of 69. Cathy was raised in southern California. She graduated from the California Hospital School of Nursing and began a remarkable Nursing career. She moved to Carson City, continuing her commitment to patient care and mentorship. Cathy later joined the Nevada State Board of Nursing (NSBN)and became the Executive Director of the Board where she led with kindness, clarity and conviction. Cathy was always supportive of Nursing organizations, including the PNANV where she shared her expertise with lectures and talks, including guesting at the PNANV podcast – FilipiNars. She was also a member of PNANV.

The PNANV also elected the new Officers for the 2027 -2028 term who are to be officially announced later.

Special recognition is given to the Vendors who supported the Seminar: NEVVAN – Nevada Vascular Access Network, Saladmaster, Global Financial, Dr. Victoria Squier who introduced her new book – "Don't Fake It Till You Make It – Just Make it". JojiLynn Haus donated a percentage of their sales to PNANV. A huge thanks is also given to UMC and the Lions Club for helping to secure the venue for the seminar.

And of course, kudos to the PNANV Education Committee and the current PNANV Board of Directors led by President Emer Sambo for all of their hard work. Mabuhay ang PNANV!















Palace urges lawmakers to scrutinize 2027 nat'l budget

MANILA, Nov 11 (Mabuhay) -- Malacañang on Tuesday urged lawmakers to thoroughly review the proposed 2027 national budget and address questionable items to ensure that public funds are properly allocated and used to benefit Filipinos.

Speaking to Palace reporters, Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro said President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. is encouraging Congress and other concerned parties to flag potential irregularities or "red flags" in the proposed spending plan.

Castro clarified that while the Executive Branch had submitted the proposed 2027 National Expenditure Program (NEP), subsequent changes and decisions made by the House of Representatives were beyond the President's control.

"Ang isinagawa po ng ehekutibo ay ang proposed budget. Kung ano man po ang nangyari at naging desisyon sa House of Representatives, hindi po iyan saklaw ng Pangulo (What the executive branch prepared was the proposed budget. Whatever transpired and whatever decisions were made in the House of Representatives were beyond the President's authority)," she said.

Castro made the statement after the Makabayan bloc filed a resolution seeking the recall of the proposed 2027 national budget over alleged prohibited lump-sum appropriations and undisclosed amendments.

She stressed the importance of examining the items flagged by lawmakers, noting that the Senate has committed to reviewing provisions identified for possible irregularities.

Castro said the administration wants to ensure that the 2027 national budget undergoes proper scrutiny and is free of questionable allocations.

"Hinihikayat ng Pangulo ang lahat ng maaaring magsalita sa kanilang maaaring nakikitang red flags dahil kailangan na ang budget sa 2027 ay dapat maayos, malinis at pondong magagamit para sa taumbayan (The President is encouraging everyone who has concerns or has spotted potential red flags to speak up because the 2027 budget must be properly prepared, transparent, and contain funds that can be put to good use for the Filipino people)," she said.

The Makabayan bloc is seeking the recall of House Bill 10858, citing alleged provisions and lump-sum allocations similar to those questioned by the Supreme Court in connection with the 2024, 2025, and 2026 national budgets.

The Senate, however, rejected the call, saying such a move would only delay the passage of the budget bill. (MNS)

Palace slams VP Sara for belittling PH amid China dispute

MANILA, Nov 11 (Mabuhay) -- Malacañang on Tuesday criticized Vice President Sara Duterte for allegedly belittling the capabilities of Filipinos after comparing the Philippines' military strength with that of China, saying government leaders should instead promote national unity and confidence.

Palace Press Officer Claire Castro made the statement after Duterte reportedly likened the Philippines' military force to a pinky finger or "hinliliit" compared with China's fist.

"Ni-humiliate ng Bise Presidente, minaliit ng Bise Presidente Sara Duterte ang kakayahan ng mga Pilipino (Vice President Sara Duterte humiliated and belittled the capabilities of Filipinos)," Castro said during a Palace briefing.

She said that while the Philippines may be small compared with other nations, the courage and bravery of Filipinos should not be underestimated when they stand together.

"Maliit mang bansa tayo kung magkakaisa-isa ang bawat Pilipino, walang makakatalo sa katapangan, kagitingan ng isang tunay na Pilipino (Even though we are a small nation, if every Filipino stands united, no one can overcome the courage and valor of a true Filipino)," she said.

Castro stressed that the country's leaders should not give up on defending the Philippines, citing President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s call for unity in protecting the nation.

"Ang isang liderato, hindi dapat sumusuko. Ang sabi ng Pangulo, iisa lang ang bansa natin, iisang bansa ang dapat natin pinoprotektahan (A leadership must not give up. The President stated that we have only one nation, a single nation that we must protect)," she said.

She added that while Filipinos may have differing opinions on various issues, their love for the country should remain undivided.

"Magkakaiba man ang opinion sa ibang bagay pero ang pagmamahal sa bansa ay hindi dapat nahahati-hati (Even if opinions may differ on other matters, love for the country should not be divided)," Castro said.

She ended her response with a warning against what she described as "Manchurian candidates" who may be operating around the country.

"Kaya tandaan natin, baka marami nang Manchurian candidates ang nakapaligid sa ating bansa, mag-ingat po tayo (So let us keep in mind that there may already be many Manchurian candidates surrounding our country; let us be careful)," she said, without identifying anyone.

"Manchurian candidate" refers to a political figure who appears to be independent or acting in their own country's interest, but is actually secretly controlled, brainwashed, or manipulated by an enemy power, rival party, or external agenda. (MNS)

MacBook Neo laptops for teachers gov't property, not for sale – DepEd

MANILA, Nov 11 (Mabuhay) -- The Department of Education (DepEd) on Tuesday reminded teachers that the newly procured MacBook Neo laptops given to them are government property and cannot be sold.

The DepEd rolled out the nationwide distribution of 172,654 MacBook Neo laptops, comprising 169,008 units for teachers and 3,646 units for administrative staff, along with 62,717 Windows-based laptops.

At a Palace briefing, DepEd Secretary Sonny Angara assured stringent measures to ensure that these laptops will not be sold.

"Government property iyon. Kapag ibinenta ho nila iyon, babayaran nila iyon (That's government property. If they sell it, they will have to pay for it)," he said.

This means all laptops remain as government property assigned through official accountability records to prevent illegal sales, pawning, or unauthorized transfers.

The education chief also said each school with MacBook Neo allotment has its respective custodian for the units.

"The IT (information technology) officer – each school has an IT officer, parang siya 'yung custodian nung IT equipment sa (they are somehow the custodian of IT equipment at their) school," Angara added.

Under the Mobile Device Management (MDM) system, all laptop units are enrolled to ensure that authorities can remotely lock or disable stolen or illegally sold devices.

Violators may also face administrative and criminal charges.

Angara, meanwhile, cited priority schools and areas for the nationwide distribution of the newly procured laptops.

"Tinitingnan ho natin in the last few years sino iyong mga nakatanggap uunahin natin iyong mga schools na walang allotment, so, iyon ang priority (We are looking at the last few years schools which have not received allotment, so, that's the priority)," he said.

Besides these, schools with IT and Educational Technology (EdTech) programs will also be prioritized, including those using Khan Academy.

Khan Academy Philippines provides select basic education schools with free education courses, alongside artificial intelligence (AI)-powered tutor Khanmigo which assists both learners and teachers.

For schools with no electricity and internet connections, Angara said the agency is intensifying its electrification and solarization efforts in partnership with other agencies to provide teachers with similar access to these technologies under the massive computerization program underway. (MNS)

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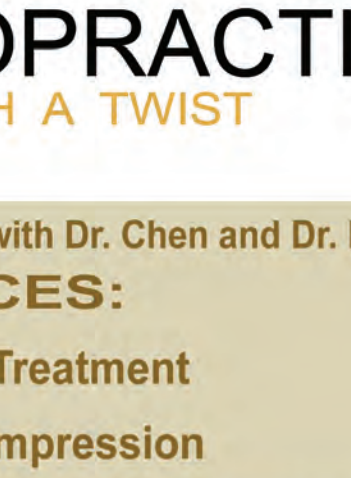
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HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Our Layout Editor, Norm Clark and his lovely wife, Loi recently celebrated their 22nd wedding anniversary at their home along with several members of the Amen Ministry.





A Tragic Loss and a Call for Justice



October 15, 2026, will forever be a heartbreaking date for those who knew and loved Rey. The loss of a loved one under such violent circumstances brings a grief that is difficult to put into words. Alongside that grief comes the painful uncertainty of waiting for answers and hoping that those responsible will be identified and brought to justice.

We are calling on the community to stand with Rey's family and loved ones in seeking justice.

The suspects remain at large, and we respectfully urge anyone who may have witnessed the incident, seen anything unusual in the area, or possesses credible information that could assist the investigation to come forward and contact the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

Even the smallest detail may prove important. We ask the community to share verified information responsibly, avoid spreading unconfirmed accusations, and help ensure that this case receives the attention it deserves.

We ask for your prayers, your compassion, and your support. Please help keep Rey's story alive and encourage anyone with relevant information to speak up. Our hope is that, through the cooperation of the community and the diligent work of investigators, the truth will come to light and those responsible will be held accountable under the law.

We seek justice—not revenge. We seek answers—not silence. We seek accountability so that Rey's death will not be forgotten and his loved ones may one day find some measure of peace.

Forever in Our Hearts

The death of Rey "Cacoi" Rodis II leaves behind a void that words cannot fill. The shock of his passing, the pain of his absence, and the unanswered questions surrounding his final moments will remain difficult burdens for those who loved him.

Yet even in the darkest moments of grief, love endures. His memory lives on in the stories shared, the moments treasured, the relationships he built, and the legacy of his work through RED Boxing International.

May his loved ones find strength in one another during this painful time. May those who knew him remember his life with love and dignity. And may the pursuit of truth and justice bring answers to a family and community that deserve them.

Rey's life mattered. His future mattered. And his memory matters.

Rest in eternal peace, Rey "Cacoi" Rodis II.

You deserved more time, more memories, and more life. Though your journey ended far too soon, you will not be forgotten. We will continue to honor your memory, speak your name, and hope for the day when justice is served.

Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts. May you rest peacefully until we meet again.

In loving memory. In the pursuit of truth. In the hope of justice. Never forgotten.
JUSTICE FOR REY

Robbie Jaworski reveals he once survived on street food, P10 rice



MANILA, Nov 11 (Mabuhay) -- Despite being born into one of the country's most recognizable families, rising actor Robbie Jaworski revealed that his upbringing was far from the privileged lifestyle many people assume.

In an interview on "Oh My Gan!," the son of equestrienne Olympian Mikee Cojuangco and politician Robert Jaworski Jr. opened up about his experience working a corporate job, commuting to work, and budgeting his modest salary.

Before entering show business, Jaworski worked in human resources at a shipping company, where he interviewed job applicants and helped organize corporate social responsibility programs.

At the time, he was still an undergraduate and earned very little. He also shared that his father had a strict rule when it came to financial support.

"May batas din 'yung daddy ko sa akin dati. Kung hindi ka nag-aaral, wala kang allowance."

With no allowance and a limited salary, Jaworski recalled relying on affordable street food to get through his workdays.

"So 'yung ginagawa ko, pang pampatipid, kumakain ako ng fishball at kikiam for lunch. Eh, sobrang sarap naman siya."

"Parang 'yun na lang kinakain ko everyday. Tapos bumibili ako ng one cup rice for 10 pesos."

The actor also recalled commuting on small trucks and riding jeepneys during his student years, experiences that helped him appreciate the value of hard-earned money.

Jaworski admitted that he understands why some people assume he grew up spoiled because of his family's prominent surname.

However, he emphasized that his parents made sure he understood the importance of hard work and personal responsibility.

"I don't blame people for thinking that. Pero, I'm blessed also na pinalaki ako ng mga magulang ko na ayaw nila dumikit yung pag-iisip sa akin na dahil Cojuangco-Jaworski ako, may entitlement ako."

"In all things in life, you have to work hard for. No short cuts."

Jaworski also revealed that he experienced a difficult period in 2023 when he struggled with his finances, career direction, and physical health.

He described that period as one of his biggest personal heartbreaks, realizing he needed to take greater responsibility for his future.

Now an actor, television host, and businessman, Jaworski said those experiences continue to shape his outlook on life.

He currently runs a marketing startup and is also involved in his family's hospitality business.

For Jaworski, success is not simply about earning money or becoming famous, but about building a stable future while helping others along the way.

"Ang pangarap ko sana sa buhay or ang goal ko sa buhay is hindi lang kumita pero sana, 'yun nga, 'yung in all walks of my life, sana kaya ko din i-angat 'yung mga tao sa tabi ko."

"I want to be a blessing to others."

Jaworski currently stars in "The Loyalty Game" alongside Janine Gutierrez and is also one of the hosts of "Y-Speak 2.0." He is also part of "Pinoy Big Brother Collab 3.0." (MNS)

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Philip S. Chua
MD, FACS, FPCS

Socialism - Bad for Health

Younger generations in the United States, especially Gen Y/Millennials (born between 1981 and 1996) and Gen Z (born between 1997 and 2012), seem to favor Socialism, Marxism, and Communism, swallowing hook, line, and sinker, baited by left-leaning politicians promising lots of freebies as incentives. Some extremists are even advocating the abolition of the Police, ICE, other security governmental agencies, and worse, the elimination of the entire government we know today, in this 250-year-old USA, the great land of freedom and democracy.

With the election of several left-leaning socialists on November 4th, one wonders what direction America is headed in.

Obviously ignorant of the history of the dismal failure of Socialism, Marxism, and Communism in several countries around the world, how their political and economic decay and abridgement of all individual freedoms had led to the massive suffering of their people, socialists in America who are against capitalism and rich people in the United States, calling for redistribution of wealth, financial equality without working harder for it, are eliminating all the incentives for those driven to excel and achieve their greatest. This is what has been going on in China, Russia, and Venezuela, etc., where socialism, dictatorship, and lack of freedom, and violations of human rights, have impaled the people's lives with misery of various kinds and proportions.

Americans have been very successful in their two-and-a-half-century experiment in democracy and capitalism, with liberty in various aspects of life, economic prowess, political superiority, and international dominance. Not perfect, but still the best in the world. In the Philippines, 80 years of democracy since July 4, 1946, 40 years after the Marcos dictatorship, from Cory Aquino to the present, thank God, without such a crazy socialist movement.

Of course, freedom is not free. The toll on human lives to gain liberty is great, but the final dividend and benefits are worth the sacrifice. Living a life of freedom and limitless opportunities is priceless.

Perhaps those who are advocating socialism for Americans should live in China, Russia, or Venezuela, etc., even for 6 months, to actually live the difference. I am sure they will all be running back home fast, except for the masochists.

Socialism impacts healthcare

The intersection of socialism and healthcare delivery is rooted in the philosophy that medical care is a fundamental human right rather than a market commodity. In a purely socialist healthcare model, the state owns, operates, and funds the healthcare infrastructure, aiming to provide universal access regardless of an individual's wealth. While this approach seeks to eliminate financial barriers to care, its real-world implementation has yielded mixed results, ranging from equitable baseline health outcomes to catastrophic systemic collapses.

Socialist principles impact healthcare delivery primarily through central planning and universal coverage. By centralizing funding—typically through progressive (high) taxation—these systems effectively remove profit margins and insurance administrative overhead. This allows governments to focus heavily on preventative medicine, primary care, and public health campaigns, which can lead to high immunization rates and increased life expectancy across lower-income populations. Furthermore, centralized bargaining power enables the state to negotiate lower prices for pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, containing overall national health expenditures, but to the detriment of these companies and allied businesses, eventually leading to poor-quality and delayed health care.

However, the state-directed model introduces significant structural challenges. Without market mechanisms to balance supply and demand, socialist healthcare systems frequently rely on non-price rationing. This often manifests as prolonged wait times for elective surgeries, specialized diagnostic imaging, and consultations with specialists. Bureaucracy can stifle administrative efficiency, and rigid state budgets may lead to underinvestment in cutting-edge medical technologies and infrastructure.

Furthermore, when healthcare professional salaries are strictly capped by the government, it can result in a "brain drain," where top medical talent migrates to countries with market-driven, higher-paying systems, like the United States.

The most prominent examples of failed socialist healthcare delivery occur when systemic political and economic crises dismantle state funding. Venezuela serves as a contemporary case of severe healthcare failure under a socialist framework.

Following the expansion of state-controlled medical programs under the "Barrio Adentro" initiative, subsequent economic collapse, hyperinflation, and state mismanagement left the country's public hospitals without basic medical supplies, electricity, or running water. This triggered a resurgence of eradicated infectious diseases like malaria and measles alongside a massive exodus of medical professionals.

Similarly, the historical healthcare system of the Soviet Union experienced a severe decline in its later decades. While the Semashko system initially succeeded in combating infectious diseases and establishing widespread geographic access, chronic underfunding by the 1970s and 1980s led to a stark decline in the quality of care. Soviet hospitals suffered from shortages of basic disposables, such as sterile syringes, and fell significantly behind Western nations in medical technology and specialized treatments.

In summary, socialism in healthcare prioritizes equity and preventative access, often successfully lowering financial barriers for the general population. However, its long-term viability depends entirely on the economic stability of the state. When centralized economies falter or mismanage resources, the healthcare system loses its sole funding mechanism, transforming the promise of universal care into severe shortages and systemic failure. This eventually happens to all socialist/Marxist/communist nations.

As for liberty, these undemocratic and restrictive systems, in reality, abridge your freedom to say what you want and do what you want, without fearing for your life. While they seem to promise free this and that, these are material things that are not worth the loss of freedom we now enjoy in this land of the brave and of the free. Those freebies are short-lived and will soon disappear.

All we have to do in a capitalist environment is to work diligently and earn an honest wage, which will allow us to buy those things and more. And with human rights and human dignity as bonuses.

When it comes to healthcare and its delivery to the public, the United States is second to none. People from neighboring and far countries fly to the United States for state-of-the-art diagnostic and specialized medical and surgical therapeutic procedures, which are readily and promptly accessible to all.

In this age of information, where Dr. Google is on-call 24/7, it behooves everyone to learn about the nightmares of socialism, Marxism, and communism before unwittingly and unwisely jumping into the fires of these repressive, authoritarian, and human-rights-abusive systems with ignorance and stupidity.

Philip S. Chua, MD, FACS, FPCS, a Cardiac Surgeon Emeritus based in Northwest Indiana and Las Vegas, Nevada, is an international medical lecturer/author, Health Advocate, newspaper columnist, and Chairman of the Filipino United Network-USA, a 501(c)3 humanitarian foundation in the United States. He was a decorated recipient of the Indiana Sagamore of the Wabash Award in 1995, conferred by then Indiana Governor, later Senator, and then presidential candidate, Evan Bayh. Other Sagamore past awardees include President Harry Truman, President George HW Bush, Muhammad Ali, Astronaut Gus Grissom (Wikipedia). Websites: FUN8888.com, Today.SPSAtoday.com, and philipSchua.com Email: scalpelpen@gmail.com

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Purchasing a new vehicle? Car loan interest could be eligible for a tax deduction

Now is a popular time of year for people to purchase a new vehicle. What they might not know is that this new purchase could qualify for a tax benefit. Under the Working Family Tax Cuts, taxpayers may be able to deduct their car loan interest, if certain eligibility criteria are met.

Let's go over the basic qualifications for this deduction.

Who can claim the deduction?

The deduction is available for both itemizing and non-itemizing taxpayers. The VIN must be included on the tax return for any year the deduction is claimed. The maximum annual deduction is $10,000 and phases out for taxpayers with modified adjusted gross income over $100,000 ($200,000 for joint filers).

What vehicles qualify?

The vehicle type can include a car, minivan, SUV, pick-up truck, or motorcycle. Additionally, the vehicle must:

Have a gross vehicle weight rating of less than 14,000 pounds
Have undergone final assembly in the United States
Be new. Used vehicles do not qualify
Ways to verify final assembly
The information label attached to the vehicle at the dealership
The vehicle identification number
The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA VIN Decoder (verify vehicle assembly location)
What interest qualifies?
Interest must be paid on a loan that:
Was originated after Dec. 31, 2024
Was used to purchase a qualifying vehicle used by the taxpayer
Was secured by a lien on the vehicle
Was for personal use and not for business use
Was for a personal use (non-business) vehicle

Leases are not eligible. If a qualifying vehicle loan is later refinanced, interest paid on the refinanced amount is generally eligible.



PBBM steps up push for key energy, flood control, social protection projects

MANILA, Nov 12 (Mabuhay) -- President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. is pushing for the faster implementation of key development projects to strengthen the country's energy security, address flooding, improve mobility, and expand social protection services.

In a statement, the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) said Marcos reviewed the implementation of various government projects during the 12th meeting of the Economy and Development Council (EDC) at Malacañan Palace on Wednesday.

"Isinusulong ng pamahalaan ang mga proyektong may direktang pakinabang sa bawat pamilyang Pilipino, kabilang ang mas maaasahang suplay ng kuryente, mas matibay na proteksyon laban sa baha, mas mabilis na biyahe, at mas abot-kayang edukasyon (The government is advancing projects that deliver direct benefits to every Filipino family, including a more reliable electricity supply, stronger flood protection, faster travel, and more affordable education)," the PCO said.

Reliable power supply

The PCO said Marcos is pushing for the rehabilitation and modernization of the Agus-Pulangi hydropower plants to boost Mindanao's electricity supply, ensure affordable power rates, and protect consumers.

The project aims to restore the Agus-Pulangi Hydropower Complex's generating capacity to 1,001.96 megawatts (MW) and increase annual electricity production from 3,746 gigawatt-hours (GWh) to 4,305 GWh.

Under the proposal, electricity tariffs will be capped at PHP4 per kilowatt-hour, subject to approval by the Energy Regulatory Commission.

The project will be implemented through a proposed 25-year public-private partnership (PPP) between the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) and the consortium of San Miguel Global Power Holdings Corp. and Sta. Clara International Corp.

"PSALM has received three unsolicited proposals for the project, with two remaining under evaluation. The selection of the private partner is targeted for December 2026, while rehabilitation works are expected to begin in 2027," the PCO said.

"The agreement may be extended for another 25 years, subject to performance and government approval."

Marcos underscored the need to maintain the National Power Corp.'s authority and accountability even as the private sector assumes responsibility for the hydropower plants' day-to-day operations and maintenance.

He also highlighted the importance of keeping electricity rates affordable and competitive to shield consumers from possible increases in power costs.

Flood protection

The meeting also tackled the completion of the seven remaining pumping stations under Phase 1 of the Metro Manila Flood Management Project (MMFMP).

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) are seeking an extension until May 31, 2027 to complete the construction, testing, acceptance and turnover of the remaining facilities, the PCO said.

The proposed extension would move the project's deadline from Dec. 2, 2026, without changing its approved scope or total cost.

The seven stations are part of the project's original target of 38 facilities across Metro Manila.

Once completed and fully operational, the facilities are expected to improve floodwater management and provide better protection to communities in flood-prone areas.

The proposed extension would be the project's second and final extension, with the remaining period dedicated to completing the facilities and ensuring their operational readiness.

Improved connectivity

Marcos also directed the DPWH to address funding and implementation concerns to keep the Samal Island-Davao City Connector (SIDC) Project on track.

The 3.98-kilometer, four-lane cable-stayed bridge will connect Davao City to the Island Garden City of Samal, providing a direct link between mainland Mindanao and the island.

It will cross the Pakiputan Strait, linking the R. Castillo-Daang Maharlika junction in Davao City to the Samal Circumferential Road in Barangay Limao.

Once completed, the bridge is expected to cut travel time, facilitate the movement of people and goods, and create more economic opportunities for residents and businesses in the Davao region.

Affordable student accommodation

The EDC also discussed Project Balay (Building Access to Learning for Students), a pilot initiative to provide safe and affordable dormitories at five state universities and colleges (SUCs).

Implemented through the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Pag-IBIG Fund, the program aims to provide accessible accommodation, particularly for students living far from their schools and those from low-income families.

The pilot program will prioritize students from disadvantaged sectors, including beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, indigenous peoples, persons with special needs, children of solo parents, underprivileged students and first-generation college students.

CHED estimates that each dormitory will cost around PHP165.6 million. Under the proposed financing scheme, the government will provide either 30 percent or 10 percent of the project cost upfront, with the balance financed through the Pag-IBIG Fund.

Under the 30-percent funding option, the government will need PHP51.85 million per SUC, or PHP259.27 million for all five schools.

Under the 10-percent option, the initial funding requirement will be PHP19.35 million per SUC, or PHP96.35 million for all five institutions.

The proposed financing scheme also provides for government funding of succeeding loan payments starting in 2028. (MNS)

Revilla bid to file demurrer to evidence in corruption raps junked

MANILA, Nov 12 (Mabuhay) -- The Sandiganbayan anti-graft court on Wednesday denied former Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla's motion to file a demurrer to evidence, which seeks dismissal of the malversation case against him and others over alleged irregularities in a multimillion flood contract project in Bulacan.

Revilla's co-accused are former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Bulacan district engineers Brice Hernandez, Jaypee Mendoza, Arjay Domasig and Emelita Juat, as well as DPWH personnel Juanito Mendoza and Christina Pineda.

The anti-graft court set the initial presentation of the defense's evidence on Nov. 24.

Revilla is presently out on bail after posting PHP1 million for his temporary liberty last August.

Meanwhile, Sen. Rodante Marcoleta also filed his own motion seeking to submit a demurrer to evidence in his plunder case before the Sandiganbayan.

Marcoleta was accused of receiving election campaign donations worth PHP75 million in three tranches from former congressman Mike Defensor, and businessmen Aristotle Viray and Joseph Espiritu in the mid-term 2025 elections.

Under court rules, an accused may submit a demurrer to evidence, seeking dismissal of charges and claiming the insufficiency of the evidence presented by the prosecution.

If filed with a "motion for leave," an accused may still file his defense even if the actual demurrer is denied. (MNS)

Romualdez camp: 90-day suspension not a finding of guilt

MANILA, Nov 12 (Mabuhay) -- The camp of former Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez of Leyte on Wednesday stressed that his 90-day preventive suspension does not constitute a finding of guilt, pointing out that the Sandiganbayan itself acknowledged that his alleged participation in plunder and receipt of supposed kickbacks remain matters to be established during trial.

Lawyer Ade Fajardo, counsel for Romualdez, said the November 10 resolution merely determined that the criminal Information was legally sufficient and that preventive suspension was mandatory under the law.

"The court has not found Martin Romualdez guilty of plunder. It has not established that he received a single peso in illegal commissions or kickbacks," Fajardo said in a statement sent to the media.

In its resolution, the Sandiganbayan Third Division expressly stated that the particular acts attributable to Romualdez, his degree of participation, and the specific transactions through which he allegedly received kickbacks or commissions "are matters to be threshed out and established during trial."

Fajardo emphasized that the court's ruling on the validity of the Information should not be mistaken for proof of the accusations.

"An allegation is not evidence. A valid Information is not a conviction. The prosecution must still prove its case beyond reasonable doubt," he said. (MNS)

Agri damage due to El Niño reached nearly P10-B, says DA

MANILA, Nov 12 (Mabuhay) -- The agricultural sector has incurred nearly P10 billion in losses due to El Niño, which is expected to persist until early next year, the latest Department of Agriculture (DA) data showed.

Latest assessments by DA regional offices showed that agricultural damage and losses have so far reached P9.99 billion amid the prolonged drought.

The damage was recorded in Cordillera Administrative Region, Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, Bicol Region, Western Visayas, Negros Island Region, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, Davao Region, SOCCSKSARGEN, and Caraga.

There were 324,327 farmers affected and 323,419 hectares (ha) of agricultural areas destroyed.

Of the total damage and losses recorded, corn accounted for the biggest share at P5.63 billion. Rice also suffered, with P3.65 billion in losses.

"For 2026, rice production is projected at approximately 18.6 million MT, representing a decline of roughly one million MT from the 2025 level," said DA.

"Meanwhile, corn production in 2026 is projected to decrease by approximately 500,000 metric tons (MT) compared with 2025, as farmers face higher production costs, particularly inorganic fertilizers and fuel, alongside adverse weather conditions and El Niño," the department said.

High-value crops also posted P655.74 million in losses. Among the affected crops are upland and lowland vegetables, spices, legumes, watermelon, banana, and pineapple.

Livestock and poultry, including swine, carabao, duck, chicken, goat, cattle, turkey, and goose, suffered P40.83 million in losses.

Cassava also recorded P5.60 million in losses.

However, the DA noted that the figures are subject to validation.

The Agriculture Department has so far provided P18.64 billion worth of interventions, including P10.82 billion worth of agricultural inputs and P6.26 billion worth of financial assistance.

The DA earlier said it is proposing a P61.99-billion action plan to mitigate the impact of El Niño on the country's food supply and livelihoods. (MNS)



Ruffa Gutierrez shares why relationship with Herbert Bautista did not work

MANILA, Nov 9 (Mabuhay) -- Ruffa Gutierrez opened up on her breakup with Herbert Bautista.

On “Fast Talk with Boy Abunda”, the actress and beauty queen said she is currently single and not dating, but a few men are seeking her attention.

“I think that space just became much bigger with Herbert,” Ruffa said in a mix of English and Filipino.

“We are still friends, we communicate regularly. If I need advice, I still talk to him and sometimes he calls me. But I have not seen him since we broke up last year,” she added.

Ruffa said their relationship did not work because “there were things beyond our control” that made them go through different phases.

“Not all storybooks are meant to last forever. Sometimes, you just enjoy that chapter, then you close the book, and move on,” she said.



Ruffa confirmed their relationship in 2024. In a June 2025 “Fast Talk” interview, Ruffa admitted that she and Herbert are going through a “rough bump” and were not on speaking terms.

In May, she penned a touching message for Herbert’s birthday. (MNS)

Aiko Garcia on building her first house: ‘Iba pa rin kapag pinaghirapan’

(with photo: 10aiko.jpg)

MANILA, Nov 10 (Mabuhay) -- Actress Aiko Garcia has finally completed the construction of her house after two years.

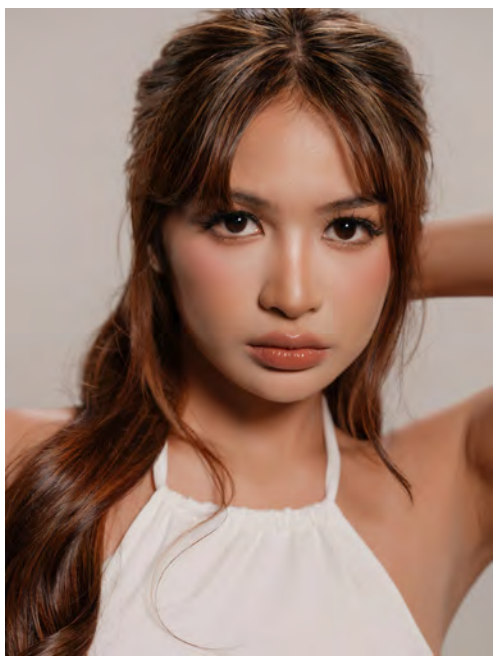
Garcia said she managed to finish the house early this year after going through periods of uncertainty over whether she could complete it.

“On and off kasi nawawala budget. May time nawalan ako pag-asa. Pero Thank God, natapos,” she recalled during the press conference for her new show “Alindog ni Aiko” in Quezon City.

While she does not consider it her dream home, Garcia clarified she remains grateful for what she has accomplished.

“Sobrang grateful may nagawa ako. Pero di ko dream house, may ni-look forward ko pa. Pero at least may napuntahan kahit maliit lang,” she reasoned.

The actress explained that she solely funded the construction.



“Natapos ko project on my own, from scratch. Hindi ko man dream house to ito lang kaya ko, at least. Habang ‘di pa natin afford pangarap natin, doon na sa maliit,” she said.

“Alindog ni Aiko” is directed by Christian Paolo Lat. (MNS)

Janice de Belen recalls doing first ‘Shake, Rattle, & Roll,’ surprised by its lasting impact

MANILA, Nov 4 (Mabuhay) -- More than 40 years after a haunted refrigerator gave Filipino moviegoers nightmares, Janice de Belen admitted she never expected “Pridyider” to stay with people this long.

Janice looked back on the episode, part of the very first Shake, Rattle & Roll in 1984, at an event where Regal Entertainment and gaming platform BingoPlus unveiled five horror-themed games drawn from the franchise.

She played Virgie in “Pridyider,” which was directed by National Artist for Film Ishmael Bernal. The episode follows a family that settles into a house with an old refrigerator. Before long, people start dying in horrifying ways, and the family realizes the fridge is to blame.

Janice said she thought the movie would eventually fade from people’s memories.

“I never thought it would be that way ’cause I thought, you know, the movie is done, time has passed, parang okay na, nakalimutan na nila,” she said.

That changed when people began telling her how much the episode scared them.

“But when people come up to me and tell me that they watched ‘Pridyider,’ they were scared, parang, ‘Oh, may impact pala siya,’” she said.

“Because I thought what would stick was ‘anak ni Janice.’ But ‘Pridyider’ stayed on as well,” she added.

Asked if fans have told her the episode traumatized them, Janice said many have.

“Oh yes. The ‘Pridyider’ in particular. Kasi nga naman, who would ever think something as harmless as a refrigerator would be something you would really be scared of,” she said.

Janice also said she had fun making horror films.

“You know, weirdly, I enjoyed doing these films. Kasi nga different eh. They are different. You know that they will stay, you know na may matatakot, ‘yun ‘yung effect mo sa kanila. So it was really fun,” she said.

Working with the late Ishmael Bernal made the project even more special for her.



“‘Pridyider,’ when we did it, it was my first time working with Ishmael Bernal. So that alone was a great experience,” she said.

Still, she admitted that while they were filming, she had her doubts about whether a kitchen appliance could actually frighten moviegoers.

“Then again, ‘yung pridyider, habang ginagawa n’yo ‘yung movie, iniisip mo, ‘Matatakot ba talaga sila sa pridyider? Ano ba ‘yung nakakatakot?’ But when you watch it, mafi-feel mo, ‘Ah, kaya pala sila natatakot,’” she said.

The 1984 film had two other episodes, “Baso” and “Mananganggal,” and was an entry in that year’s Metro Manila Film Festival, where Herbert Bautista bagged Best Actor for “Mananganggal.”

The fridge story proved so memorable that Regal turned it into a full-length movie in 2012, directed by Rico Maria Ilarde and starring Andi Eigenmann and JM de Guzman. Janice was part of that one too, this time playing the mother of Andi’s character.

Over the years, Janice has become one of the franchise’s most familiar faces, returning for more episodes such as “Multo” in 1990 and “Ate” in 1991. Last year, she was back for Shake, Rattle & Roll Evil Origins, playing a nun named Mother Juana in the episode “1775.”

Produced by Regal, Shake, Rattle & Roll now has 17 films in the franchise, nearly all of them Metro Manila Film Festival entries. Its tales of monsters from local folklore and everyday objects turned deadly have made it a Christmas season favorite for many Filipino families. (MNS)



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LAS VEGAS FIL-AM COMMUNITY NEWS

MAYA TWEETS

BY MAE P. BARROS-WAYNE



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF LOVE, COMMITMENT AND FAITH



"You are the steady grace I didn't know to ask for... You are the answered prayer I'll carry all my days, And my heart finds home in you in every single way.

My happiest moments are the ones we share together, And I will keep on loving you until our last forever." - Florence Jacinto's My 25th Anniversary Song

Twenty five years of marriage is more than a milestone; it is a beautiful testimony of love, commitment, faith and the enduring goodness of God. It is 25 years of choosing each other, growing together, weathering life's storms, celebrating victories, and discovering that the greatest blessing of marriage is having God at the center of it all.

Florence and Fred Jacinto joyfully celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on Saturday, October 24, 2026 in the warmth and beauty of their lovely backyard, surrounded by their family, friends and churchmates. It was meaningful gathering filled with laughter, good food, and overflowing gratitude. The renewal of vows flowed seamlessly into the program reception with flawless coordination of time and activities. More than a celebration of 25 years together, it was honoring God's faithfulness through every season of their lives.

Their remarkable journey spanned years from the Philippines to Hawaii and eventually Las Vegas. Each place became a chapter in their unfolding love story filled with new beginnings, challenges, opportunities and countless blessings. Through every transition, God remained their constant source of strength, protection, guidance and provision. Their marriage stands as a living testimony that when two people walk together in faith and trust God's plans, life's uncertainties become opportunities to witness His grace.

The Hawaiian inspired motif added a vibrant and refreshing touch to the celebration. It beautifully reflected the couple's joyful spirit and the flourishing life they have cultivated together as servants of God. Guests came in tropical and floral colors, and what better reminder that love continues to grow, blossom and bear fruit through the years. A particularly meaningful part of the celebration was the ceremony officiated by Pastor Warfil De Leon, their dear friend and spiritual mentor. His message centered on four significant themes culled from an original song composed by Florence: Faith, Resources, Encouragement and Discipleship (F-R-E-D). These are principles deeply connected to Fred and Florence's Christian service and stewardship. Their marriage reflects not only building a home together but also becoming instruments of God's love, sharing His blessings, encouraging others and making a difference in His Kingdom.

One of the most touching highlights was the Tunnel of Prayer and Blessings, where 4 couples formed a special passage and lifted heartfelt petitions for Fred and Florence as they walked through the tunnel (an arch of flowers). It was truly symbolic of how a marriage is supported by a faith-filled community. The program was followed by dancing and games . The ladies let loose and shook off any stress, tying the whole celebration together with the magic they worked behind the scenes on the party planning committees.

As Fred and Florence turn the page to another chapter, may God continue to fill their hearts and home with good health, boundless devotion, and many countless reasons to praise Him. Here's to another 25 years and many more! Congratulations, Sis and Partner (as I endearingly call them respectively). To God be all the glory!























Ah, Mary Can Dream!



By Marylaine Louise L. Viernes

Award-winning Author / Journalist
Carlos Palanca Awardee & Professional Host/Emcee

Cebuano rockstar Troy Degamo headlined the successful fundraising concert by Yu Foundation, Farah Landicho in partnership with the Nevada Bicycle Club. Troy performs with sulty songstress and first WCOPA Champ Rizza Navales



Congratulations to the phenomenal leaders behind the successful, sold-out concert headlined by 40 the Band rockstar, Troy Degamo: Yu Foundation and Farah Landicho with the Nevada Bicycle Club (NBC), a non-profit organization founded in 2014 with the mission of raising awareness of road biking and promoting it as an alternative, healthy lifestyle for recreation & transportation. They are comprised of driven individuals promoting camaraderie and unity in providing bicycle rides at various levels and educating members and the public in safe riding habits and etiquette. Please support NBC today! Visit their website for info: www.nevadabicycleclub.org



An astounding concert for a cause: Retro Night for Sight



What an unforgettable and powerful moment! "Retro Night for Sight" was a sold-out success, featuring FOB Band's Catrina Gat on vocals, Robin Nievera on guitar, Caloy Obra on bass, Camilo on keyboard and Josh on drums. We also had spectacular performers from Lexi Yu, the wonderful daughter of Dr. Santos and Bambi Yu, along with Noel "Pops" Popham, Recreational singer and NBC members, plus WCOPA champion Rizza Navales. Let us not forget DJ Odie Lim and world-class violinist, Jaime Sales. Of course, the main performer of the night was no less than 40 The Band's Troy Degamo who is currently based in Canada but is proudly bringing back the good times across the world through his music and astounding performances! What a great night for all of us! Congratulations!

My personal thanks go to the organizers, Ms. Farah Landicho and of course, Dr. Jun and Bambi Yu of the Yu Foundation and the Neurology Center of Nevada for trusting me as master of ceremonies for such an important event to them. Most of all, it is the heart and soul behind this project that makes many including myself proud to be a part of it since the proceeds go to patients suffering from cataract. So far, their group have been behind more than 40 successful surgeries in Surigao and counting! They have indeed shone the light to many of our Filipino brethren living in darkness. And this is just one of their many meaningful endeavors which include housing and shelter, health and wellness and more!





NEWS IN PHOTOS with Kuya Sol



Sol Felipe D. Llasos - *PRO of: FAMAN - Filipino Americans Media Association of Nevada • Historian of the NaFFAA State - National Federation of Filipino American As-sociations and the US-Filipino Veterans Group of Las Vegas • PRO-Balayan Las Vegas Asso. • Adviser/Founder of SILVAK Society of Ilonggos in Las Vegas Abyan kag Kasimanwa • BOD of PACF Philippine American Charity Foundation. To be featured please email solying@yahoo.com or call 702•336•0753, Faceboo Messenger - Sol Felipe Llasos.*

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USA CROWN 2026 NATIONAL FINALS HELD AT LUXOR CROWNED FOUR BEAUTY QUEENS, NEVADA BET PLACED 2ND RUNNER-UP

An evening of beauty, glamour, live entertainment, and empowerment as extraordinary women from across the nation competed at HyperX Arena at Luxor Hotel & Casino last November 2, 2026 here in Las Vegas. Hosted by pageant's official Host Dani Reeves, and featured Ada Vox former American Idol Top 10 Finalist, including Garth Garcia, International Recording Artist. Four prestigious international titles were awarded to the following: Miss Intercontinental USA 2026 - Niricha Williams, Miss Tourism International USA 2026 - Stefany Hernandez, Miss Global International USA 2026 - Endra Ramos, Miss Tourism World USA 2026 - Jenny Nguyen. The USA Crown 1st Runner Up - Chrishell Seals, The USA Crown 2nd Runner Up - Laura Rosmarino of Nevada.

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NATURELLE HONORS 36 AT FACES OF MENTAL HEALTH CELEBRATION IN LAS VEGAS

By: Dr. Michael StaJuana

LAS VEGAS — Naturelle WellEarth Foundation International honored 36 people, including leaders from the Las Vegas Filipino American community, at its fifth annual Faces of Mental Health Celebration and Masquerade Ball on October 24, 2026, at The Orleans Hotel. Dr. Michael StaJuana, president of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations–Nevada (NaFFAA-NV), served as Master of Ceremonies and received an Outstanding Leadership & Community Service Award. The foundation presented its highest honor, the 2026 Josie Harrison Mental Health Excellence Award, to Dr. Frank Sinclair. Shiela De Forest received the 2026 Grace Morris Community Leadership Excellence Award. The program also featured a City of Las Vegas proclamation recognizing Naturelle WellEarth Mental Health and Wellness Day. Joining StaJuana as recipients of the Outstanding Leadership & Community Service Award were Natividad "Natty" Mendoza, Samuel Buban, Pam Phan, Olympia Reantillo Ramones, Melanie Holthaus, Karla Severson, Marlon Multo, J. Ruel B. Rodriguez, and Jacqueline "Jacque" P. de Joya. Seven honorees received awards for mental health advocacy. They were Jocelyn "Joyce" Ponio, Marie Jane Cutshall, Ann Eddins, Sarah Uganiza, Sadie Eddins, Autumn Racela, RN, and Riza Asa. Naturelle honored Elsa Frayre-Domingo for lifetime achievement in education. As the foundation's director of programs and education in Nevada, she also helped plan the celebration and coordinate community participation. Three others received lifetime achievement honors. Bernie Benito was recognized for community service, Dr. Prescilla Agritelley for her work in dentistry, orthodontics, aesthetics, and wellness, and Hon. Bella Aurora "Amie" P. Belmonte for diplomatic leadership and public service. Eight individual awards recognized work across the arts, education, and community service. Sharon Tanyag was honored for mentorship through the arts, Sol Felipe D. Llasos for cultural and community leadership, and Jean Amour for creative leadership and humanitarian service. Dr. Marzil Rutenberg received recognition for leadership in mental health and resilience, and Mailenie "Lenie" Leilani Vaders for global mental health education. Christopher Wycoco was honored for visionary community leadership, Dina Phinney for her legacy of service, and Chelsea Roberts for bringing hope to mental health advocacy. Five healthcare professionals also received honors. Naturelle recognized Wenonah Abaya Morgan, RN, for nursing and mental health advocacy, Dr. Allen Romero Espelita for occupational therapy and healthcare leadership, and Dr. Philip M. Paleracio for dentistry and community service. Dr. Homer C. Tuazon was recognized for medicine and behavioral health, and Dr. Rhigel "Jay" A. Tan for psychiatric nursing and global healthcare leadership.







For more Photos:







US FILIPINO VETERANS GROUP HELD ITS US ARMED FORCES GLOBAL REUNION HELD AT THE ORLEANS HOTEL & CASINO

The US Filipino Veterans Group held its 10th US Armed Forces Global Reunion on November 7, 2026 at the Orleans Hotel and Casino. The annual event is to thank veterans and families for their service and sacrifice. The main event was to award the Congressional Gold Medal to six families of World War II Filipino and Filipino-American veterans which was headed by Major General Antonio Taguba (US Army retired). Over 325 in attendees from the east coast to Alaska. A picnic followed the next day at Torrey Pines Resource Center where families enjoyed authentic Filipino food, fun games, karaoke, dancing and award presentations to winners of their golf tournament. The day culminated with a presentation from Captain (US Navy retired) Daniel Gruta about their fundraising for USS Telesforo Trinidad, a guided Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer of the US Navy, to be commissioned sometime in 2033. Telesforo Trinidad, the first and only Filipino in the US Navy to be awarded the Medal of Honor. By Alex Peña, USFILVETS President











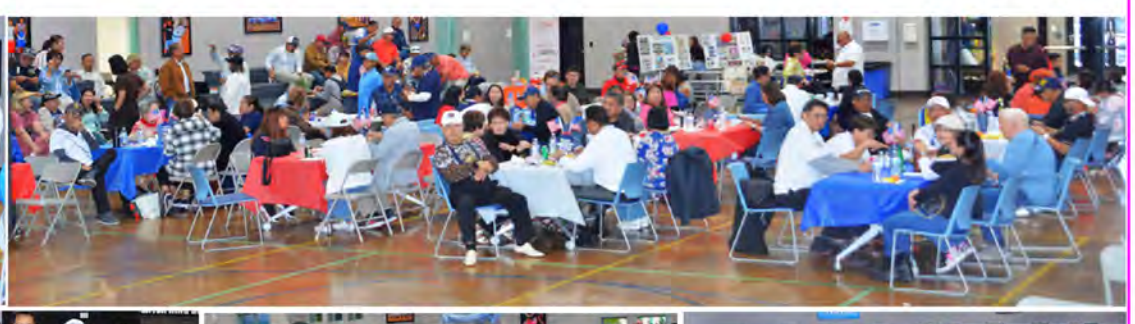
US FILIPINO VETERANS GROUP HELD ITS ANNUAL PICNIC LAST NOVEMBER 8 AT THE TORREY PINES RESOURCE COMMUNITY CENTER

For more Photos:

The US Filipino Veterans Group held its Annual Picnic a day after its 10th US Armed Forces Global Reunion last November 8, 2026 at 2900 N Torrey Pines Dr, Las Vegas, Nevada 89108. The annual event is to celebrate veterans and families for their service and sacrifice. One of the highlights of the picnic was the awarding of winners of the early morning USFILVETS Golf Tournament held prior to the picnic, aside from food, games and entertainment.

















NEWS IN PHOTOS with Kuya Sol

For more Photos:

TID BITS ON WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE FILIPINO AMERICANS COMMUNITY IN SOUTHERN NEVADA

THE LAS VEGAS 4TH FILIPINO SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 2026 HELD AT GALAXY THEATER, BOULEVARD MALL, WINNERS CITED

The 2026 edition of the 4th Las Vegas Filipino Short Film Festival celebrated the rich art of storytelling through film from October 30 to November 1, 2026 at the Galaxy Theater, Boulevard Mall. Las Vegas, Nevada. The festival invites Filipino filmmakers from diverse backgrounds to share their unique perspectives, showcasing the vibrant diversity of Filipino culture and creativity. The organizers goal is to foster connections within the community and elevate diverse voices in the cinematic landscape, making the festival a hub for Filipino film and storytelling. For emerging talents or an established filmmaker, the Las Vegas Filipino Short Film Festival is the perfect platform to share their stories with the world. For this year's Festival, two special screenings brought the Philippines' Oscar hopes to Las Vegas: GMA Films' 58, a documentary on the 2009 Maguindanao massacre, and Agapito, the Cannes-selected short by Arvin Belarmino and Kyla Danelle Romero. The Awards night was held at Sahara Rancho Corporate Center. People behind this great event are: Margie Gonzales, Olive Enriquez, Manette Roxas Thomas and Shawn Rosen.











LUNANIANS INTERNATIONAL MINI REUNION AND INDUCTION HELD AT CAFE DE MANILA, OLYMPIA REANTILLO RAMONES NEWLY INDUCTED PRESIDENT

The Lunanians International whose members are mostly from Luna, Isabela, held its reunion at Cafe de Manila last October 17, 2026. A turn over of responsibility to the newly elected president Olympia Reantillo Ramones from its past president Malou Medina Cu. The highlight of the night was the induction of new set of officers: President - Olympia Ramones, 1st VP Ferdie Beltran, 2nd VP Eddie Ramones, 3rd VP Perlita Agcaoili, 4th VP Raymond Sebastian, Secretary Nora Alejandro, Treasurer Merle Baysac Yra, Asst Treasurer Editha F. Rivera, PROs, Mila Cacal Yuchongtian, Benny Agustin, Maxima Sales and Elvira P. Villamil. The Induction rites was officiated by Philippine Honorary Consul HON. Amie Belmonte. Keynote speaker Judge Marie Parlade, gave some words of encouragement and quoted some scriptural text for the new set of officers as they start their journey of leadership. The event was celebrated with food, music and dancing, hosted by Marlon B. Multo. The new president Olympia Ramones is also the present and outgoing president of Ilocano American Association of Nevada IAAN, and Vice President of Fi-lAm Civic Action International FACAI. She is a multi awarded community leader, crowned in Thailand last 2024 as Mrs. Ambassador for Arts and Culture, her recent citation was awarded as Hall of Fame Awardee last November 7, 2026 given at North Hollywood In Los Angeles, California during its 10th Edition Amerika Prestige Awards. Lunanians from nearby states and Fil-Am community leaders were present to witness the Induction.



















For more Photos:

PHILIPPINE CONGRESSMAN BENNY ABANTE'S PRESENCE HIGHLIGHTED THE V. MAPA HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA 26th BIENNIAL REUNION AT THE ORLEANS HOTEL & CASINO

The V. Mapa High School Alumni Association of America Reunion was held recently at The Orleans Hotel and Casino with a special guest Hon. Congressman of the 6th District of Manila Benny Abante, a member of the Philippine House of Representatives, a Bible-Baptist Pastor and also an alumnus of the school. Alumni from all over the US and some from the Philippines came over to Vegas to celebrate the 21st Biennial Reunion and Homecoming. Abante's spouse Marie Paz Toledo together with his other 2 brothers and their spouses were also present during the event. The reunion celebration started with a Bowling event at Gold Coast Bowling Center from 10 AM to 1 PM at 4000 W Flamingo Rd. and a Meet and Greet Dinner Dance at Mountain West Eater at 5110 Blue Diamond Rd, and culminated with a Gala Night celebrating its 21st Biennial Reunion. Dr. Alenor Sunga, VMHSAAA President, welcomed and thanked the members and guests for their presence and cooperation which made the Homecoming a success.









NEWS IN PHOTOS with Kuya Sol & Kuya Ben



TID BITS ON WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE FILIPINO AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN SOUTHERN NEVADA

Nevada Honors First-Ever Filipino Trailblazers During Filipino American History Month

By: PHLV Radio

LAS VEGAS — In a historic first for the Silver State, Nevada Governor Joe Lombardo honored nine distinguished Filipino American leaders during the inaugural Filipino Trailblazer Recognition Ceremony held Monday at the Nevada State Building in Las Vegas. The event, organized by the Governor's Office for New Americans (ONA) and the Governor's Southern Nevada Outreach Director Sonny Vinuya, recognized individuals whose contributions have helped shape Nevada through leadership, public service, education, healthcare, media, law, and community advocacy. Held at 1 State of Nevada Way, home to the Southern Nevada office of the Governor, and a central hub of the State of Nevada campus, last November 19, 2026, the ceremony highlighted the achievements and lasting impact of Filipino Americans across the state. The inaugural honorees included: Philippine Honorary Consul Amie Belmonte, Community leader Gloria Caoile, Broadcaster and meteorologist Tedd Florendo, Filipino media advocate and PHLV Radio President Johann Sayson, UNLV School of Nursing Dean Dr. Sigrid Barrett, Former Nevada State Board of Nursing President and UNLV Associate Professor Dr. Rhigel Jay Tan, Clark County School District Superintendent Jhone Ebert, Judge Cedric Kerns, and North Las Vegas City Manager Micaela Moore. The honorees were recognized not only for their professional accomplishments but also for their efforts to create lasting opportunities for future generations of Filipino Americans in Nevada. The recognition ceremony coincides with the celebration of Filipino American History Month, observed nationally each October to commemorate the history, contributions, and achievements of Filipino Americans in the United States. Nevada has also proclaimed October as Filipino American History Month, aligning the state's observance with the national recognition. The event underscored the growing influence of Filipino Americans in Nevada, where community leaders continue to make significant contributions across government, education, healthcare, business, media, and civic life.





HENDERSON MAYOR MICHELLE ROMERO WELCOMED LAS VEGAS HONORARY CONSULATE TEAM DURING ITS COURTESY VISIT AT HER OFFICE

The team of the Philippine Honorary Consulate of Las Vegas, headed by Honorable Honorary Consul Amie Belmonte, Executive Director Leo Belmonte, volunteer staff Jean Celemin, Cynthia Derequito Resty Lopez and community leader, Gloria Caoile, along with the Philippine Chocolate lady Raquel Choa and Chocolate Chamber team did a courtesy visit to Mayor Michelle Romero of Henderson to promote cocoa products of the Philippines as part of cultural diplomacy last October 19, 2026 at the Henderson City Hall located at 240 S Water St, Henderson, NV 89015.



COMMUNITY LEADERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS CELEBRATED MILA PAGLINAWAN'S 60TH BIRTHDAY

A great Birthday celebration was held at a Banquette Hall located at 1401 N Decatur Blvd, Ste # 13 last October 18, 2026. The celebration was attended by no less than the Philippine Honorary Consul Amie Belmonte and most Fil-Am community leaders and friends. Celebrating her 60th Birthday, Mila Paglinawan, owner of CMC Boutique, instrumental in bringing to the community Filipino Barongs and Ternos thanked all who supported her family, her business and their presence in this unforgettable event, a milestone of her life. Food, music, entertainment and dancing made Mila's celebration a night to remember.



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ECHO RESIDENTIAL ADULT CARE PROVIDERS OF NEVADA HELD ITS RECOGNITION AND AWARDS NIGHT AT GOLD COAST HOTEL AND CASINO

With focus on Nevada's Residential Care Industry, ECHO held its annual Recognition and Awards Night at Gold Coast Hotel last October 24, 2026. Under the leadership of its Chairman Ron Sumbang, and its present President Dorothy Domingo, Vice President and Treasurer Merila Tinio, and Secretary Margie Antonio, the event highlighted and recognized the efforts of various residential adult care providers. Dinner, entertainment and dancing made the night another milestone in the history of ECHO as they continue to serve their over 400 constituents.







NEWS IN PHOTOS with Kuya Sol

TID BITS ON WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE FILIPINO AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN SOUTHERN NEVADA

RUTHERINE UMALI'S "RUTHERINE LIVE" CONCERT AT THE BALKAN BAR AND GRILL ATTENDED BY FILIPINO COMMUNITY FRIENDS, FAMILY AND FANS

Rutherine Umali a talented singer, actress, religious leader, radio, TV and movie personality presented an evening of music which included spiritual songs, held her recent concert entitled "Rutherine Live" at the Balkan Bar and Grill located at 953 East Sahara Ave., B-26 Las Vegas Nevada 89104. Friends, supporters and some Fil-Am community leaders were present to witness her live concert.

According to Backstage - Behind the Screen Stories, Rutherine Umali is a talented singer and actress known for her live performances and roles films, including notable works like "Arena Wars" (2024), "Phoenix" (2023), "The Factory" (2021), "Dirty Little Secret" (2023), "Boneyard" (2024), and "Bermuda Island" (2023). In addition to her roles in film, Rutherine has carved a niche for herself in the music industry. She has debuted her first music video and performed live in Las Vegas, showcasing her vocal prowess to enthusiastic audiences. Her work has not gone unnoticed; she has been featured in some of the hottest news outlets including Journal News for her role in the latest Mel Gibson movie, Las Vegas Chamber News, Philippines Star News Paper known as the top newspaper in the Philippines, and MSN.







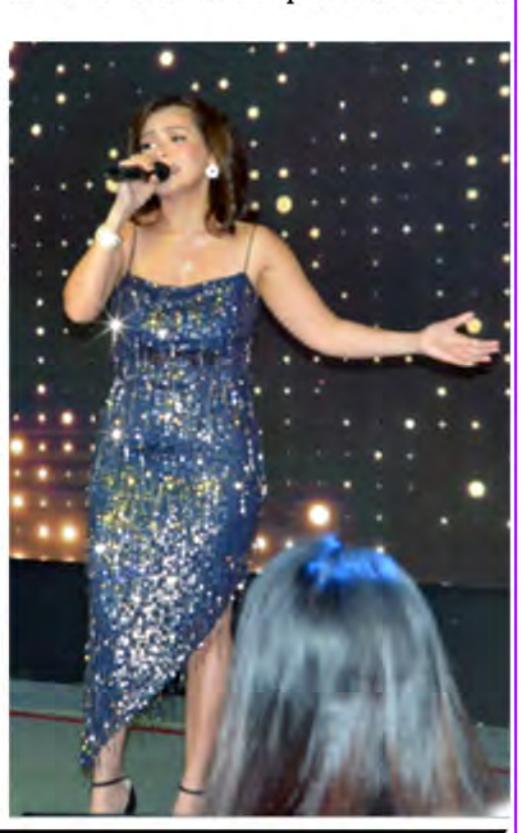
For more Photos for News in Photos pages, visit:

FORMER PHILIPPINE ACTRESS CAROL BANAWA HELD A FULL HOUSE CONCERT "A VEGAS AFFAIR" AT JACKPOT BAR AND GRILL LAST OCTOBER 17, 2026

Carol Claire Aguilar Banawa-Crisostomo is a Filipino actress, former pop singer, and Family Nurse Practitioner currently based in the United States. Prior to her coming to America, Banawa rose to fame in the Philippines as a child star through the ABS-CBN show Ang TV and Star Magic Batch 4. She released hit albums and songs such as "Iingatan Ka", "Bakit 'Di Totohanin", and "Tanging Yaman", and appeared in TV series like Mara Clara and Bituin. Her concert at Jackpot Bar & Grill located at Jones Blvd., drew a huge audience and fans that made it a full house concert in standing ovation. The concert was joined by Special Guest: Michael Laygo and the Special participation by the Philippine Heritage Dancers. The concert benefited the Las Vegas Breast Cancer Warriors & Filipino American Museum, produced by Vegas All.











AN EVENT FOR A CAUSE "HIGH FREQUENCY" CONCERT OF SHARON AND BRENN TANYAG AT UNCLE'S TAPAZ RESTAURANT, HENDERSON BENEFITED THE FILIPINO AMERICAN MUSEUM OF LAS VEGAS

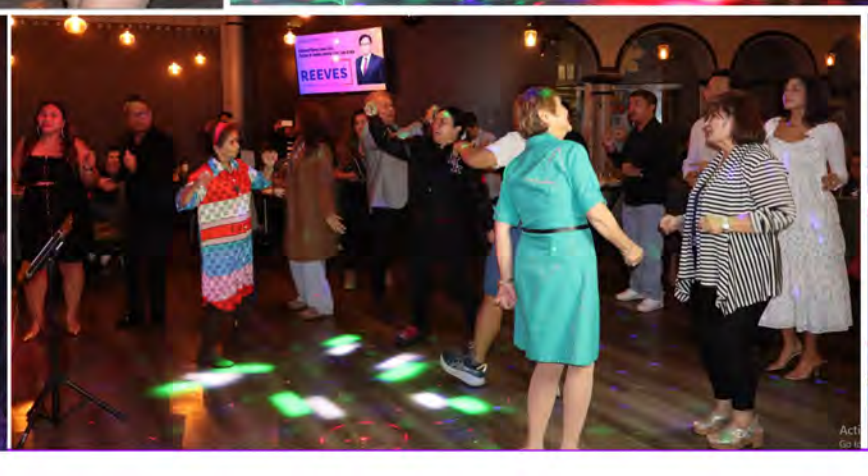
The "High Frequency" Duo Concert of Sharon and Brenn Tanyag was held at Uncle's Tapaz Restaurant by Pebble Rd., and S Eastern Ave. Guests and friends were there to support and witness the concert. Saharon T, Brenn, Christianne, Sam and Prince Leviticus Five singers brought the music into magic during this fund raising event.















Angeline Quinto announces world tour for 'Aquinse' in 2027



MANILA, Nov 11 (Mabuhay) -- As early as now, Kapamilya singer Angeline Quinto is gearing up for a world tour next year, bringing her 15th anniversary concert "Aquinse" to different cities and countries from Australia to America.

ABS-CBN Global was represented by Maribel Hernaez, Global Events Business Unit Head for ABS-CBN Global; Raymund Romero, Events Business Unit Head, APAC Region for ABS-CBN Global; and, Roxy Liquigan represented ABS-CBN Integrated Events, during the contract signing.

Also present were Cara Bella Valenton, Chief Operating Officer and Christian Valenton, Managing Director of Daybreak Entertainment Media and Diane Diokno from Kreative Den, Quinto's management team.

"Thank you, Lord, talaga, makakabalik na naman ako ng ibang bansa para dalhin ang 'Aquinse' doon, maraming Pinoy na naman ang mapapasaya natin doon," she said, adding that this anniversary tour is a dream come true.

Quinto also emphasized that each stop of the tour will have a unique flavor and experience for fans and fellow Filipinos to enjoy.

"Yan din 'yung pinaghahandaan ko sa ngayon pa lang, siyempre gusto ko 'pag napanood ito ng mga kababayan natin sa ibang bansa, may ibang flavor naman. Mag-a-add ako ng mga personal na mga kanta para sa mga Pinoy."

She added, "Yung mga Pinoy sa ibang bansa, mas sabik sila na nami-miss nila ang Pilipinas, ang tagal na silang hindi nakakabalik dito dahil sa trabaho nila doon. 'Yun talaga ang nagpapaiyak sa kanila, lalo na sa mga espesyal na okasyon. So maglalagay ako ng mga awitin na para sa mga pamilya."

According to Daybreak Entertainment Media, the four-city Australia and New Zealand stops have already been confirmed. The tour will also have stops in key cities in North America and more dates and countries to be announced soon. (MNS)

Sam Milby chooses 'to live the best life' despite diabetes diagnosis



MANILA, Nov 10 (Mabuhay) --

Kapamilya actor Sam Milby is choosing to push forward with his fitness journey despite the challenges of living with diabetes.

In a recent Instagram post, Sam showed off his physique as he opened up about how his diagnosis initially affected his motivation to stay fit at 42 years old.

"When I found out I had diabetes, I was really discouraged. At 42, I almost gave up on my fitness journey," Sam opened up.

Despite the initial setback, Sam realized that his health condition should not stop him from working toward a healthier lifestyle.

"But I realized giving up isn't an option. I just need to keep fighting," he added.

Choosing to remain positive, Sam expressed his determination to make the most of life, saying: "Despite the challenges, I choose to live my best life. And I'm just starting."

Sam first revealed in 2024 that he had been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, a condition he learned he had the year before. At the time, the actor admitted that the diagnosis came as a surprise, considering his perception of himself as a healthy person.

"I've always thought of myself as a healthy person. I don't have a sweet tooth, bihira din mag junk food, pero last year I found out na may type 2 diabetes na ako," Sam said.

The actor also expressed regret over not having his condition detected earlier: "My parents and grandparents never had it. I just wish I got checked up earlier nung pre diabetes pa. My advice - don't ignore the symptoms (my main symptoms - always thirsty and urinating often) and get checked up regularly."

Sam also shared what changes he needed to do in his current lifestyle: "I am trying to be more physically active. During pandemic hindi masyado eh. I will do some push ups and sit-ups pero cardio kulang eh. Hindi ako mahilig sa treadmill eh. Well, I do pickleball now. I've been playing pickleball for on and off two years. That's my cardio. Sometimes, I run." (MNS)

Kim Chiu warns fake news peddlers of possible legal action



MANILA, Nov 12 (Mabuhay) -- Actress-host Kim Chiu is taking a stand to protect her peace and privacy as she warns those who are spreading fake news and rumors about her.

On Twitter, Chiu said that her legal team is already "looking into the individuals and platforms responsible for spreading false information, malicious rumors, and invading my privacy, including possible violations of Article 26 of the Civil Code of the Philippines."

Chiu also reminded the public about the power of social media and how to responsibly use it.

"Social media can be a powerful tool for both good and bad. Sana gamitin natin ito sa mabuting paraan, hindi para manira, manghusga, o makialam sa pribadong buhay ng ibang tao. Not everything I go through needs to be shared, explained, or justified to the public. You never know what someone is going through until you're in their shoes," Chiu said.

"Freedom of expression comes with responsibility A little kindness and respect can go a long way," Chiu added.

The "It's Showtime" host also added: "It's sad what our society has come to. Creating narratives about someone's life you barely know, just to make a story more interesting for monetization. At whose expense? I understand how difficult it is to earn a living, especially as we get older. But should earning money come at the cost of someone else's peace and dignity? At the end of the day, what legacy do we want to leave behind in Philippine showbiz? Monetization is temporary. Integrity is your legacy."

Meanwhile, Chiu promoted her bag business, as well as her upcoming film with actor Paulo Avelino "A Perfect Marriage," which is an official entry to this year's Metro Manila Film Festival. (MNS)

IN MY CORNER

BY JULIE ANN TORREMORO
LAS VEGAS COMMUNITY NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER



Filipino American Heritage Month

PHLVRadioCommunity by by Jo Hann

PHLVRadioCommunity: In the spirit of Dolly Parton Day on September 25, inspired by the legendary "9 to 5," two Fil-Am entrepreneurs joined forces to make a difference. Marissa Hawkins, franchise owner of Massage Envy , and Alexis Pascual, owner of Rolling In Dough Bakery LV , shared how their businesses give back to the community while celebrating the values of service, generosity, and bayanihan.

As we mark Filipino American History Month, their stories remind us that success is most meaningful when it uplifts others. Adding to the fun, Las Vegas-based Fil-Am nurse Julie Anne Torremoro wowed judges with her Dolly Parton impression and took home a prize package that included a complimentary one-hour massage from Massage Envy.

From Marissa Hawkins:

In Filipino culture, the quickest way to bring people together is food and community. That's exactly what happened on 9/25 (a nod to *9 to 5*) when local baker Alexis Pascual invited us to celebrate the late Dolly Parton in a way that gives back.

We dressed in our best Western outfits, shared treats from Rolling in Dough, and matched book sales to give away up to 100 books through StoriedKids, supporting Dolly's Imagination Library. Every book stays local, helping children in our own community build a love of reading.

Moments like this remind me that business and community aren't separate. When you lead with generosity, people feel it, and they show up.

Giving has always been at the forefront of Filipino values, and I'm proud to practice it alongside my team and neighbors during Filipino American History Month.

Thank you, Alexis for the idea and for including us. Congratulations to Julie Ann Torremoro our winner of a one-hour service at Massage Envy Boca Park.

Thanks Massage Envy Boca Park, Rolling In Dough Bakery and PHLV Radio.

HLVRadioCommunity by Jo Han

PHLVRadioCommunity: In the spirit of Dolly Parton Day on September 25, inspired by the legendary "9 to 5," two Fil-Am entrepreneurs joined forces to make a difference. Marissa Hawkins, franchise owner of Massage Envy , and Alexis Pascual, owner of Rolling In Dough Bakery LV , shared how their businesses give back to the community while celebrating the values of service, generosity, and bayanihan.

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Glaiza de Castro reveals once wanting to become a journalist



MANILA, Oct 19 (Mabuhay) -- Kapuso actress Glaiza de Castro once dreamed of becoming a journalist prior to her acting career. In the latest episode of Ang Walang Kwentang Podcast where the actress was a guest, she shared how she grew up watching veteran broadcasters Karen Davila, Korina Sanchez, and Jessica Soho which somehow influenced her decision before entering college.

"Ako gusto kong maging journalist nung high school ako kasi undecided ako kung anong kukunin ko na course sa college," she said.

"Parang gusto ko yung ginagawa nila na nagpupunta sila sa kung saan-saan na lugar tapos nag iinterview sila ng mga tao na sobrang interesting—yung mga buhay, kung paano ginagawa to, kung ano processo ng ganyan," she added.

While she did dream of becoming a journalist, fate had other plans for Glaiza as she pursued an acting career.

"Sabi ko, sige na nga tuloy ko na nga tong pag aartista ko na parte pa rin naman ng media. Kumbaga, masscomm pa rin yung nadali," she said.

The Kapuso actress stars in the film 58th, an animated biographical drama directed by Carl Joseph Papa. She plays the role of Maria Reynafe Castillo, a daughter of the missing photojournalist, Reynaldo "Bebot" Momay, who is the 58th victim of the Maguindanao Massacre.

Glaiza admitted that she sometimes questions herself as to why she continues to accept roles such as these as she's also worried about her security. She previously starred in the 2018 film, Liway, which was based on a true story during the Martial Law era.

"Parang minsan kinukwestyon ko bakit ako napupunta sa ganito at bakit ako nahuhumaling sa ganitong klaseng proyekto? Kasi medyo natakot talaga ako— sinabi ko to kay Direk Carl nung pinalabas yung 58th — may imagination ako na baka mamaya may humarang sa akin sa airport," she admitted.

Despite this, the Kapuso actress maintained that it's her duty as an actress to use her talent to good use.

"Kumbaga, in power pa rin naman yung mga politicians na involved doon sa story ng 58th. Kahit yung Liway, nadoon sa YouTube ngayon, sino ba yung in power ngayon? Eh wala, parte yun siguro ng purpose ko bilang isang aktor at pagiging Katipunera ko," she said.

"Siguro kaya ako drawn sa mga ganun kasi nasa lahi namin ang lumaban," she ended. (MNS)

Hontiveros: Free speech no shield for lies vs Quiboloy witnesses

MANILA, Nov 11 (Mabuhay) -- Senator Risa Hontiveros on Tuesday said freedom of speech and press freedom must not be used to justify the deliberate spread of false allegations against witnesses in the Senate investigation into the alleged sexual abuse and human trafficking activities of religious leader Apollo Quiboloy.

Hontiveros made the statement after the Department of Justice (DOJ) reversed its earlier dismissal of cyber libel complaints against six personalities accused of spreading false information targeting the Senate, its staff and witnesses.

"Sinabi natin dati pa: hindi dapat palampasin ang mapanganib na kasinungalingan laban sa mga tumestigong biktima ng pang-aabuso ni Apollo Quiboloy (We have said before that dangerous lies against victims of Apollo Quiboloy's abuse who testified must not be tolerated)," she said.

In its Oct. 29 resolution, the DOJ recommended the indictment of lawyer Ferdinand Topacio, Byron Cristobal (Banat By), Jeffrey Celiz, Krizette Chu, Jose Sonza (Jay Sonza) and Alex Destor (Tio Moreno).

The decision overturned the DOJ's earlier dismissal of the complaints against the six respondents for insufficient evidence, following the separate indictment of former Senate witness Michael Maurillo.

Hontiveros stressed that legitimate criticism of public officials must be distinguished from what she described as systematic disinformation intended to discredit witnesses and undermine congressional investigations.

"We will always defend and support free speech and the press. Pero iba ito sa sistematiko at sadyang pagpapakalat ng fake news laban sa Senado, sa aming staff, at sa matatapang na testigong nagbigay ng testimonya sa imbestigasyon laban sa malawakang sexual abuse at human trafficking (But this is different from the systematic and deliberate spread of fake news against the Senate, our staff, and the courageous witnesses who testified in the investigation into widespread sexual abuse and human trafficking)," she said.

The complaints stemmed from a viral video in June 2025 in which Maurillo accused Hontiveros of paying him PHP1 million to fabricate testimony against Quiboloy.

Hontiveros denied the allegation and filed cyber libel complaints against Maurillo and six others in July 2025, maintaining that the accusations also endangered witnesses who had come forward during the Senate inquiry.

The DOJ's latest resolution directs the filing of charges against the six respondents, although the recommendation does not constitute a finding of guilt.

"Ngayon, mananagot na sila sa ilalim ng batas (Now, they will be held accountable under the law)," Hontiveros said. (MNS)

Marian Rivera excited for upcoming film 'Remember' with Dingdong Dantes



MANILA, Oct 22 (Mabuhay) -- Marian Rivera cannot wait for audiences to watch her upcoming movie "Remember," which also stars her husband, Dingdong Dantes.

"I'm really excited for them to watch it because we want to give or share with the audience that, in this day and age, what we need is unconditional love," the Kapuso Primetime Queen said as she shared her excitement about the film.

The actress also revealed that her family has been reacting emotionally to the film's teaser.

"Even with the teaser, they said they were already getting goosebumps, especially Zia, because, of course, she's the older one and can analyze everything more," she said.

"Remember" is top-billed by Marian and Dingdong. The film follows an estranged couple who reunite for the sake of their daughter as she gradually loses her memory.

It is directed by acclaimed filmmaker Mae Cruz Alviar, who is also the director behind DongYan's box-office hit movie "Rewind" in 2023.

Earlier, Star Cinema released the teaser of the film, which featured scenic views of Quebec, Canada.

"Remember" will premiere in cinemas worldwide on November 11.

Aside from "Remember," Marian is also gearing up for a teleserye comeback in the upcoming Prime Video series "Behind Closed Doors."

She will play the role of a journalist who is also the mistress of the president of the Philippines.

According to the Kapuso star, she had to study her character for the series.

"I also need to study the character because she isn't just a typical reporter. She is a reporter with depth who is going through a lot—and not just regarding what she reports, but in her own life as well," she said. (MNS)

Brazil's Lula to meet Marcos, attend ASEAN summit during historic PH visit

MANILA, Nov 11 (Mabuhay) -- Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva will make the first state visit by a sitting Brazilian president to the Philippines on Nov. 14, meeting with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to strengthen bilateral ties and attending the 49th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits.

The visit coincides with the 80th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Brazil, established on July 4, 1946.

Lula, who was reelected two weeks ago, will attend the ASEAN leaders' summit on Nov. 15 as Guest of the Chair.

The Philippines will host the regional gathering from Nov. 15 to 17, bringing together Southeast Asian leaders and dialogue partners, including United States President Donald Trump.

Marcos invited Lula to join the summit plenary as part of efforts to expand ASEAN's engagement with partners outside the region.

Lula's participation will mark his second consecutive attendance at an ASEAN leaders' summit, following his appearance at the 2025 meeting in Malaysia.

Brazil, Latin America's largest country and economy, is currently an ASEAN Sectoral Dialogue Partner and is seeking to upgrade its status to Dialogue Partner, a higher level of engagement with the regional bloc.

During their bilateral meeting, Marcos and Lula are expected to discuss cooperation in multilateral forums and among Global South countries, as well as ways to expand ties in trade and investment, agriculture, energy, science and technology, defense, and technical cooperation. (MNS)

Yeng Constantino to bring 'Biyaheng Bente' concert to Canada, US next year



MANILA, Oct 19 (Mabuhay) -- OPM hitmaker Yeng Constantino is bringing her "Biyaheng Bente" anniversary concert to the US once again, as well as to Canada from February to March next year.

Constantino shared the announcement to her fans in a social media post over the weekend.

"It's going to be a celebration of 20 years of music, memories, and unforgettable hits with Yeng Constantino!," part of the caption read.

The US and Canada 2027 tour will once again be directed by John Prats.

Constantino successfully concluded her recent 4-city concert in the US when she brought her "Biyaheng Bente" concert to her fans in Chicago, Oakland, Stafford, and Beverly Hills.

She is set to return to the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City on November 17 and 18 for the Day 3 and Day 4 of "Biyaheng Bente."

Known for hits like "Chinito," "Ikaw" and "Hawak Kamay," Constantino started her entertainment career after winning ABS-CBN's talent show "Pinoy Dream Academy" in 2006. She released her debut single "Salamat" a year later.

Last May, Constantino released her latest single "Isa, Dalawa, Tatlo, Cha," which is available on digital streaming platforms, while its music video has been uploaded on her official YouTube channel. (MNS)



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BEFORE ROBERT MICHAEL COSBY USMC DIED, DONATED $500.00 TO JOY FOUNDATION

WRITTEN BY KIKO AQUINO JR.

Robert Michael Cosby served with the United States Marine Corps Military Police. Born March 11, 1951, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Robert Lived a life marked by determination, service and deep personal strength. He earned his GED in High School and went on to complete an associate degree as well as training in HVAC. His motivation, courage and dedication as United States Marine Corps Military Police. His accomplishments that reflected his commitment to building a better life through hard work and perseverance. His hobbies are playing softball, going fishing and hunting. All those interests brought him to many meaningful moments and reflection for his love of activity, His outdoors activities and interest remembered with pride by those who love him.

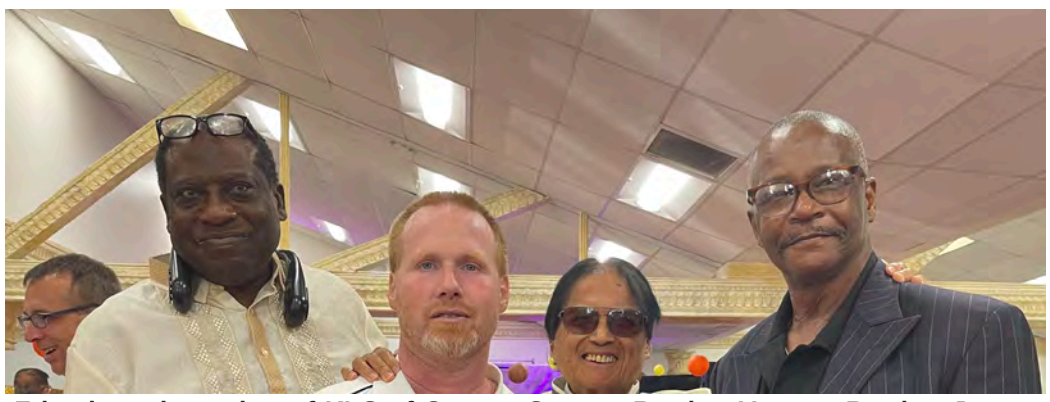
Robert is survived by his daughter Anitra Cosby-Lane. He has one grandchild and five great grandchildren who all carry forward his memory with love. He was preceded in death by his parents Robert A. Cosby and Patricia Lane Cosby. His grandparents Fred and Mary Lane and Mary Cosby. HIs siblings are Joan, Susie, Norman and Mark. Each of these family member ties formed part of the story of his life and legacy he leaves behind especially his beloved sister Ruth Cosby Taylor. Robert Michael Cosby will be remembered with affection, gratitude, respect, kindness, devotion to Joy Foundation and respected by all who had the privilege of knowing him especially his hometown buddies and KLC of Orange County friends.



Private First Class, Robert Michael Cosby, United States Marine Corps Boot Camp picture.



Sister LMP, Sister Jacky, Sister Analy, Sister Agnes, Sister Hannah, Sister Terry, Brother Jeremy, Brother FPJ II, Sister Evangeline, Dr. Patao, Sister Lorena, Sister Guererro, Sister Atria, Sister Ferrer, Sister Angeles, Sister Luzviminda, Sister Rani and Sister Annie. Sitting Alfredo Rodriguez candidate for Anaheim Mayor and sitting far right Brother Juanito.



Friends and member of KLC of Orange County, Brother Vernon, Brother Jeremy Perkins, Philippine Times of Southern Nevada International Newspaper Columnist Frank Paras Jr. and Grandmaster Sammie Sherman.



Chaplain Ruth Cosby Taylor and Robert Michael Cosby both holding Certificate of Recognition. Robert Michael Cosby received Certificate of Recognition while serving with the United States Marine Corps from Senator Tom Umburg.



Robert Dad, Robert Amos Cosby, Robert Mom, Denise Cosby and Robert Michael Cosby.



Niece Joy, Robert Cosby and daughter Anitra Cosby Lane.



Friends of Joy Foundation, KLC of Carson, KLC of North Hollywood and KLC of San Bernardino, KLC of West Covina, Brother Reymark, Brother JimRay, RAMA NEWS MAGAZINE Reporter Frank Paras Jr., Brother Rene, Brother Etchel, Sister Micosa, Bro. Mon and Sister Amor.

19 WORLD LEADERS CONFIRMED TO ATTEND ASEAN SUMMIT IN MANILA – DFA

MANILA, Nov 12 (Mabuhay) -- The Philippines will host at least 19 world and global institution leaders in the upcoming 49th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit and Related Summits this week.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) on Wednesday said the attendance underscores ASEAN's "unique convening power and continued role as a platform for dialogue and cooperation" with the wider international community.

The high-level engagements will commence on Nov. 15 with the summit opening ceremony at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), followed by the Plenary and Retreat Sessions, where ASEAN leaders will take stock of the Philippines' chairship achievements.

The ASEAN leaders will then discuss ways to strengthen ASEAN's collective capacity to address emerging regional and global challenges, including the situation in Myanmar.

The leaders will also have interface meetings with ASEAN Parliamentarians, the business community and the youth.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., who chairs the summit, will be joined by the leaders of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

Myanmar will be represented by the Director-General of the ASEAN Affairs Department of its Foreign Ministry.

The plenary will also feature remarks from Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and Brazil President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva.

The DFA said their participation highlights the value of ASEAN's engagement with key global partners in pushing for regional economic resilience and is well-aligned with the Philippines' chairship priorities, particularly under its Prosperity Corridors.

The Related Summits, or the Plus One Summits, will follow on Nov. 16 to 17, and will be co-chaired by the leaders of Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Korea, Russia, the United Nations and the United States.

New Zealand will be represented by its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, David Seymour, while Russia will be represented by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

Marcos will also convene the 29th ASEAN Plus Three Summit and the 21st East Asia Summit (EAS) on Nov. 17, the premier Leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on strategic, political and economic issues of common concern and interest in the region.

He will later hand over the ASEAN Chairship to Singapore.

The day will culminate with the ASEAN-United States Special Summit to be attended by U.S. President Donald Trump.

"As the Philippines brings together ASEAN Leaders and Dialogue Partners from across the region and the wider international community, the country looks forward to engagements that will reinforce the value of dialogue, deepen partnerships, and strengthen collective responses to shared challenges," the DFA said.

"The Philippines remains committed to advancing an ASEAN that is peaceful, resilient, and future-ready, with regional cooperation translating into meaningful benefits for its peoples," it added. (MNS)

LEA SALONGA RETURNS TO PH STAGE AS BERNARDA ALBA IN 'ANG TAHANAN NI BERNARDA ALBA'

MANILA, Oct 21 (Mabuhay) -- Lea Salonga is returning to the Philippine theater stage in the upcoming musical of "Ang Tahanan ni Bernarda Alba."



According to Theatre Group Asia (TGA), Lea will headline the Philippine staging of the production as Bernarda Alba, the strict and commanding matriarch of a household where she demands absolute obedience.

In the Filipino adaptation of Federico García Lorca's classic play, Lea will portray Bernarda Alba, the strict and commanding matriarch of a household where she demands absolute obedience.

"Sa tahanang ito, siya ang masusunod! At sinumang mangangahas na sumuway — siya mismo ang maniningil," TGA wrote in the caption.

According to Lea, playing Bernarda marks a striking new chapter in her career, with "Ang Tahanan ni Bernarda Alba" presenting a different kind of Lea Salonga.

"To be perfectly honest, I hadn't encountered this play before, which may work in my favor as I have no preconceived notions or strong opinions," she says in a statement.

"Despite the literal terror I feel in my soul, this is an absolutely important work to tackle. It fits our culture and is timely given the state of current events in the world," Lea adds.

"Ang Tahanan ni Bernarda Alba" is adapted by director-playwright Chay Yew and translated into Filipino by Guelan Valera Luarca.

It is set to run in February 2027 at the Power Mac Center Spotlight Blackbox Theater. Ticket selling is expected to begin in October.

The upcoming staging marks Lea's first theater act in the Philippines after making history as the first Filipina to receive a Hollywood Walk of Fame star.

Lea, known for her acclaimed performances on Broadway and as the singing voice of Disney's Princess Jasmine and Mulan, became the 2,855th star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and the first-ever Filipino to receive one. Lea received her star under the Live Performance category.

As a Disney legend, Lea was part of the 20th anniversary concert of Hong Kong Disneyland, where she performed iconic songs from the Disney franchise.

A constant collaborator of TGA, Lea headlined the production company's debut, "Request sa Radyo" in 2024 and then played The Witch in the sold-out production of "Into the Woods" back in 2025.

She was last seen in our shares as Madame Thénardier in "Les Misérables: The World Tour Spectacular" this January. (MNS)

A Moment of Eternal News



Sis Olive Manalo Karagdag

Check If You Are Genuinely A Christ's Disciple Before Making Anyone His Disciple

The Gospel

John 13:34-35 34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

By dictionary, the English word Disciple was derived from Latin Root (discipulus): The Greek term mathētai was translated into Latin as discipulus, meaning "learner" or "pupil," It derived from the verb discere ("to learn").

So everyone who studies and learns from Jesus Christ through His words can be called a disciple.

But according to Jesus Christ, His disciples have a category different from just learners. A higher level of mindset or condition should be attained to be called His Disciples. In Luke 9:23

He said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny (arnēsasthō /contradict) yourself and take up their cross daily and follow me." This is a very difficult requirement before anyone could become Christ's Disciple. To deny yourself means that you will live not according to your will or plans but according to the will and plans of GOD for you in the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Being already challenged to deny yourself, it does not end on that. You must love like Jesus loved everyone. John 13:34-35 requires anyone who wants to be His disciple to act on His love. It says, 34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

So, how Jesus loved us. First He denied his being GOD, and lived like a human being. Philippians 2:6-8 says, 6 Jesus, who, being in very nature[a] God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature[b] of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

Second, He died for us the sinners. Romans 5:6-8 says, 6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners. Christ died for us."

Now , before partaking in the mission to make everyone a disciple of Christ, we must deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and love the sinners by dying for them too, like how Jesus loved us.

That's why, the strict translation of Berean Literal Translation, Matthew 28:19-20 says, 19Therefore, having gone, disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things, as much as I commanded you□. And behold, I am with you□ all the days, until the consummation of the age."

In verse 19, 'having gone' which is 'poreuthentes' in Greek means 'die or depart'. In context, it means after you die in yourself, you can make anyone in all nations his disciple.

Saint Paul said in Galatians 5:20, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." That is how we must also die.

And this is how we must live to suffer for Christ. Paul proved that he is a true disciple of Christ by heeding to this calling. Paul left his former way of life in Judaism and took another path according to the will of Jesus Christ to suffer for His Name. (Acts 9:16)

In 1 Corinthians 9:19-22, Paul said, "19 Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some."

With Jesus and Saint Paul examples here, we could now check ourselves if we are true disciples of Christ. If our answer is No, then we have nothing to worry about. Jesus qualified the unqualified. He already asked the Father the Helper, the Holy Spirit to live in us so that we could be a true disciple. The truth is, we could not do anything apart from Him. (John 15:4-5) And nothing is impossible with GOD. AMEN

AMEN
Rev. 3:14
Missionary Ministry International

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- Revelation 3:14

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Diocese of Las Vegas



GUARDIAN ANGEL CATHEDRAL
302 Cathedral Way, Las Vegas NV 89109
SAT : Vigil 2:30pm, 4:00pm, 5:30pm
SUN: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am
MON-FRI: 8:00am, 12:10pm

SHRINE OF HOLY REDEEMER
55 E Reno Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89119
SAT: Vigil 4:00pm, 5:30pm
SUN: 8am, 9:30am, 11am, 12:30pm 4:30pm, 6:30pm(SP)
MON-SAT: 12:10pm

CHRIST THE KING
4925 S Torrey Pines Dr, LV, NV 89118
SAT: Vigil 4:00pm
SUN: 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am 1:30pm(SP) 3:30pm
MON-FRI: 8am

ST. JOSEPH HUSBAND OF MARY
7260 W. Sahara Ave, LV NV 89117
SAT: Vigil 4:30pm
SUN: 8am, 10am, 12pm, 2pm, 5:30pm
MON-SAT: 8am

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
2300 Sunridge Heights Pk, Henderson 89052
SAT: Vigil 4:00pm, 5:30pm
SUN: 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am 5:00pm Youth Ensemble
MON-SAT: 7:45am

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SAT: Vigil 4:00pm
SUN: 6:30am, 8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00pm 4:00pm, 6:00pm
MON-SAT: 8:00am

ST. ANTHONY of PADUA
6350 N. Fort Apache Rd, LV, NV 89149
SAT: Vigil 4pm, 7pm(SP)
SUN: 6:30am,8am,10am,12pm,2pm, 4pm
MON-SAT: 8:30am

HOLY FAMILY
4490 Mountain Vista St, LV NV 89121
SAT: Vigil 4pm
SUN: 6am(SP)8am,10am(SP)12pm 2pm(SP)5pm(SP)7pm
MON-SAT: 7:30am

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES
1111 Michael Way, LV NV 89108
SAT: Vigil 4pm, 7pm(SP)
SUN: 6:30am, 7:50am(SP)9:30am,11am 1pm, 5pm, 7pm(SP)
MON-FRI: 7:30am

ST. ANNE
1901 S. Maryland Prky, LV NV 89104
SAT: Vigil 4pm, 6pm(SP)
SUN: 6:30am(SP)8am, 10am(SP) 12pm, 2pm(SP)5pm, 7pm(SP)
MON-SAT: 7:30am

ST. BRIDGET
220 N. 14St, LV NV 89109
SAT: Vigil 5:00pm
SUN: 7am,8:30am(SP)10am(LATIN)12pm 1:30pm(SP) 5pm(TAG) 7pm(SP)
MON-FRI: 7:30am SAT: 9:00am

ST. JOAN Of ARC
315 S. Casino Center Blvd, LV NV 89101
SAT: Vigil 5:00pm
SUN: 8am, 9:15am(POL)10:30am, 12:30pm 3:30pm(SP) 5pm
MON-FRI: 12:15pm

ST. CHRISTOPHER
1849 N. Bruce St, NLV NV 89030
SAT: Vigil 4:30pm, 6:30pm(SP)
SUN: 6:30am(SP)8:30,10:30,12:30pm(SP) 2:30pm(SP)5:30pm(SP)7:30pm(SP)
MON-FRI: 8:30am

PRINCE Of PEACE
5485 E. Charleston Blvd, LV NV 89142
SAT: Vigil 4pm, 6:30pm(SP)
SUN: 6am(SP), 8am, 10am12pm, 2pm(SP) 5pm(Youth) 7pm(SP)
MON-FRI: 8:30am

ST. THOMAS MORE
130 N. Pecos Rd, LV NV 90074
SAT: Vigil 4:30pm
SUN: 8am, 10am, 12pm, 5:30pm(YOUTH)
MON-FRI: 8:30am

ST. VIATOR
2461 E. Flamingo Rd, LV NV 89121
SAT: Vigil 4pm
SUN: 8am, 10am(Youth)12pm, 5pm
MON-FRI: 6:45am 8:15am

ST. JOHN NEWMANN
2575 W. El Campo Grande Ave, NLV, 89031
SAT: Vigil 4pm
SUN: 8am, 10am, 12pm, 5pm
TUE-FRI: 8am

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Las Vegas, Nevada 89183

Sachzna Laparan admits past relationship with McCoy de Leon



MANILA, Nov 3 (Mabuhay) -- Social media personality and actress Sachzna Laparan admitted that she had a relationship with McCoy de Leon.

In a video, which is now circulating online taken from her guesting on "Banana Krew" hosted by DJ Jhaiho, Laparan revealed that she and de Leon became close while they were in college and reconnected after "Pinoy Big Brother."

Her revelation came as she is promoting her horror film "VHS," which also stars de Leon and Sarah Lahbati.

"Naging ex ko, ex ko siya," Laparan said.

"After ng PBB niya, nanligaw pa ulit siya sa akin, hindi naman nanligaw, nagkaroon kami ng parang connection ulit, pero hindi na talaga nag-work out. Wala na talaga," she added.

Asked by DJ Jhai Ho if de Leon's relationship with her and with Elisse Joson happened at the same time, Laparan said: "Ha! Baka hindi naman, baka naghiwalay sila or what, pero hindi ko talaga alam! Oh my God! Puwede ba, alisin niyo 'to, i-cut niyo ito. Pero after talaga ng 'PBB' niya, nag-usap talaga ulit kami. Pero after noon hindi talaga nag-work out ," she added.

It will be recalled that de Leon's love team with Joson started during "PBB" in 2016. After their love team McLisse turned real, they welcomed their first child in 2021.

In July 2025, both de Leon and Joson confirmed their breakup. (MNS)

Bea Binene, Wilbert Ross grateful to be a top loveteam



MANILA, Nov 5 (Mabuhay) -- Bea Binene and Wilbert Ross make up one of the hottest loveteams in the Philippines today, with their tandem, WilBea.

On "Fast Talk with Boy Abunda", Wilbert shared they feel grateful for all the blessings their loveteam has been receiving.

"From our first pairing, it really continued, and those blessings gave birth to other blessings to our personals," the actor said in a mix of Filipino and English.

Bea, for her part, noted that being in a loveteam comes with pressure.

"Maybe the expectations of everybody, the pressure is there, of course. But all in all, I'm just really very grateful because of the trust that we're getting, the love and the support that we're getting not just from our fans but from our management as well," she said.

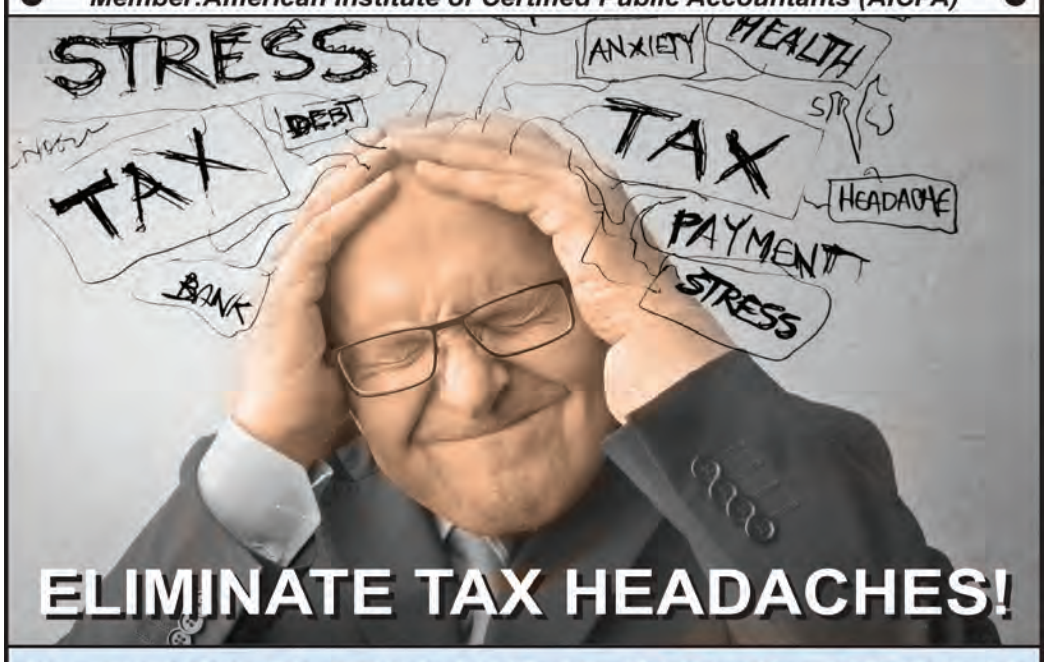
She added that they would not be a top loveteam if they were not given opportunities by their management with the "right projects, right timing, right vision."

Bea and Wilbert recently starred in the comedy horror film, "Pee Mak," which came out on October 6. It is their first movie together. (MNS)

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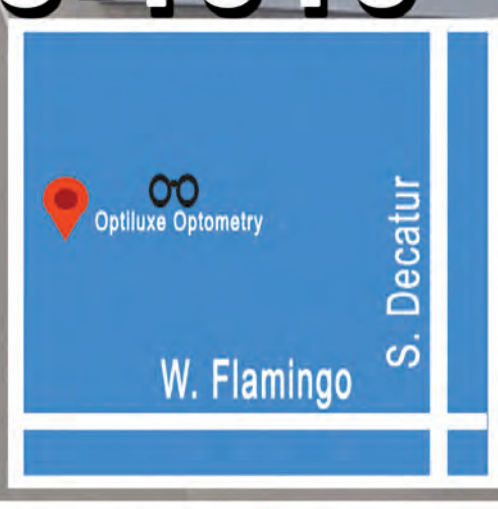
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According to Ah Xin of Shin Kwong Seafood Restaurant, Shin Kwong has been committed to offering freshly made Cantonese dim sum every day for many years, in addition to being suitable for gatherings and entertainment. Welcome to make a reservation.

Siu Mai, chicken feet, rice noodle rolls, Yu Sha Bao ... and other common dim sum.

The chef has introduced dishes including: Mangosteen Beef Balls, Spring Water Tofu, Shrimp and Chive Dumplings, Hong Kong Style Thousand-Layer Maji Cake, and Pork Floss.

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chamber matters

An update on business news, developments and events from The Filipino American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Nevada (FACCGN).

by: **JOEL ENRIQUEZ**, President

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THE POSTER BOY FOR THE LAS VEGAS FILIPINO SHORT FILM FESTIVAL *ponders his storytelling passion against a full list of the Las Vegas 4th Filipino Short Film Festival winners.*

THE LV FILM FESTIVAL EVENT FEATURE

FACCGN Celebrates Community, Creativity and Collaboration



ON OPENING DAY, *no shortage of pulchritude, beauty queens and theatrical Philippine costumes courtesy of Fil Am Civic Action Int'l. (FACAI).*

A CONTINUING JOURNEY:

Las Vegas Filipino Short Film Festival Celebrates Four Years of Storytelling, Identity and Cinema

From a growing community film gathering to a showcase of Filipino creativity and cinematic expression, the fourth edition of the Las Vegas Filipino Short Film Festival demonstrated how stories can bring cultures, generations and communities together.

The power of cinema lies not only in the stories projected on a screen but also in the conversations, connections and emotions they leave behind. That sentiment was evident throughout the recently concluded fourth Las Vegas Filipino Short Film Festival, which brought filmmakers, artists, guests, community leaders and movie enthusiasts together for a celebration of Filipino storytelling and creative expression.

Set against the backdrop of Filipino Town in Las Vegas, this year's festival marked another significant step in the event's continuing evolution. Over its four editions, the festival has steadily developed its identity as a platform for Filipino filmmakers, emerging talents and storytellers whose works explore the complexities of culture, identity, history and the human experience.

An Opening Day Filled with Anticipation

The festival opened with an atmosphere of excitement and anticipation as guests, participating filmmakers, special visitors and members of the Filipino American community gathered to celebrate the art of short filmmaking. The opening activities provided an opportunity for attendees to reconnect, meet the creative personalities behind the films and discover the diverse collection of cinematic works featured in the program.

One of the festival's distinguishing features was its effort to make the screenings more than a passive viewing experience. At the conclusion of each film block, audiences were given opportunities to participate in question-and-answer sessions with filmmakers, actors and other personalities associated with the productions.

These exchanges brought another dimension to the festival. Beyond the images and dialogue on screen, audiences gained insights into the creative decisions, inspirations and challenges behind each production.

One such moderator was Emmy award winning TV host and media strategist **Patranya Bhoolsuwan**, who moderated the Saturday's first screening block.

A Brand That Tells Its Own Story

Equally noteworthy was the festival's consistent and carefully developed visual identity. Its branding has become an integral part of the experience, reflecting a creative direction that connects the festival's four-year history through a recognizable visual narrative.

The graphic displays featuring past and present festival identities illustrated this evolution. At the center of the branding is the recurring image of a young boy fascinated by an improvised carton camera—a compelling metaphor for the beginnings of imagination, the discovery of storytelling and the journey toward becoming a filmmaker.

The message, **"The Journey Continues,"** serves as more than a promotional tagline. It encapsulates the festival's development from its initial edition to its present standing as a growing cultural and artistic platform.

The consistency of its visual language, from promotional materials to venue displays and stage presentations, demonstrated an understanding that a film festival is also a brand. Its identity must be recognizable, memorable and capable of building anticipation for succeeding editions.

Awards Night: Remembering 58 Lives

Perhaps the most emotionally compelling moment came during Awards Night, when the festival acknowledged the special screening of **58th,** a film that confronted one of the darkest chapters in Philippine history. Directed by **Carl Papa**, 58th revisits the 2009 Maguindanao Massacre, in which 58 people, including journalists and civilians, were brutally killed in an act of election-related violence. The film combines animation and actual graphic imagery to confront viewers with the devastating consequences of political violence, impunity and the abuse of power.

In a particularly meaningful presentation, two Muslim women, Sharifa Wahab and Farah Achesobn were invited to the stage to read the film's citation. Director **Carl Papa,** script writer **Aika Riz Ganhinhin** and animator **Joseph Anthony Brillantes** accepted the acknowledgment and thanked the festival organizers for giving them the opportunity to show their disturbingly truthful film.

The presentation established a solemn tone for an evening otherwise devoted to recognizing creativity and artistic achievement. It reminded everyone that filmmaking can serve purposes beyond entertainment: it can preserve memory, confront uncomfortable truths and give a voice to stories that must not be forgotten.

Another memorable screening was **Agapito,** directed by **Arvin Belarmino** and **Kyla Danelle Romero.** Set in a fading duckpin bowling alley in the Philippines, the film follows a makeshift family of pin setters preparing a song-and-dance number for a special visitor. Its **58TH, received much deserved** *acknowledgement for telling what we shouldn't forget. The film director, the scriptwriter and film animator flew from the Philippines to accept.*









OPENING DAY HIGHLIGHTS

The ribbon cutting was officiated by guests Assembly members Erica Mosca and Duy Nguyen, with FACAI President Ron Sumbang and adviser Bernie Benito. The red carpet led to a set reminiscent of an Ilustrado home during Spanish colonial times, a favorite photo op place for guests like Patranya Bhoolsuwan and festival board members.



The evening also celebrated the filmmakers and awardees whose works represented the breadth of talent showcased throughout the festival. A full list is included in this article.

Ultimately, the **4th Las Vegas Filipino Short Film Festival** was more than a succession of screenings and awards. It was a gathering of creative voices, cultural perspectives and shared experiences.

And as its branding so aptly declares, ***The Journey Continues*** - JRE

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Kalabasa Ka Ba?

THE SQUASH THAT GOT A BAD RAP. FROM KALABASA TO PUMPKIN: A VEGETABLE'S AMERICAN DREAM

Of all the vegetables in the Filipino kitchen, why must the humble kalabasa be synonymous with "bobo"? Ouch! In our school days, a failing grade earned you the dreaded label kalabasa. A zero was "bokya". Flunk an exam and you're "lagapak"! Bring home a report card full of red marks and you brought a "kalabasa award" too! Good grief! Quash that label. The Filipino vocabulary for academic failure could practically fill a vegetable stall.

Poor *kalabasa*. Nutritious, versatile, and unfairly accused of having no brains.

Scientifically, our familiar tropical squash is *Cucurbita maxima*, a member of the gourd family originating in the Americas. It found a happy home in Philippine soil, thriving from Luzon to Mindanao. Round, squat, elongated, dark green or mottled, *kalabasa* comes in many varieties, including locally bred varieties like *Suprema*. Its sprawling vines bear golden blossoms and fruits with sweet, orange flesh. Give it sunshine, water, and decent soil, and it produces generously. Unlike some people, it actually delivers.

And here's the delicious irony: *kalabasa* contains beta-carotene, which the body converts into vitamin A, along with vitamin C, fiber, and antioxidants. These nutrients support overall health, including normal brain function. No, eating *kalabasa* won't magically raise your IQ, but it certainly deserves a place in a brain-friendly diet. Imagine calling a nourishing vegetable a dunce. Now who's the kalabasa?

In Filipino kitchens, *kalabasa* is indispensable. There's *Ginataang Kalabasa at Sitaw*, luxuriating in coconut milk; *Pinakbet*, mingling with vegetables and *bagoong*; and *Dinengdeng*, where its sweetness enriches the broth.

My Lola made *Halayang Kalabasa*, patiently stirring squash with milk, sugar, and butter until thick and luscious. Think halayang ube, minus the purple aristocracy. Ube was the glamorous fiesta queen. *Kalabasa* was her hardworking provincial cousin, equally delicious but without the publicity department.

My mother's *Ukoy* remains my favorite. Fresh shrimp tangled with thin *kalabasa* strips, lightly battered and fried to crispy perfection. Add vinegar with garlic and chilies, and there goes my self-control. My mother could turn a supposedly "*bobo*" vegetable into an A-plus masterpiece. She was that good!



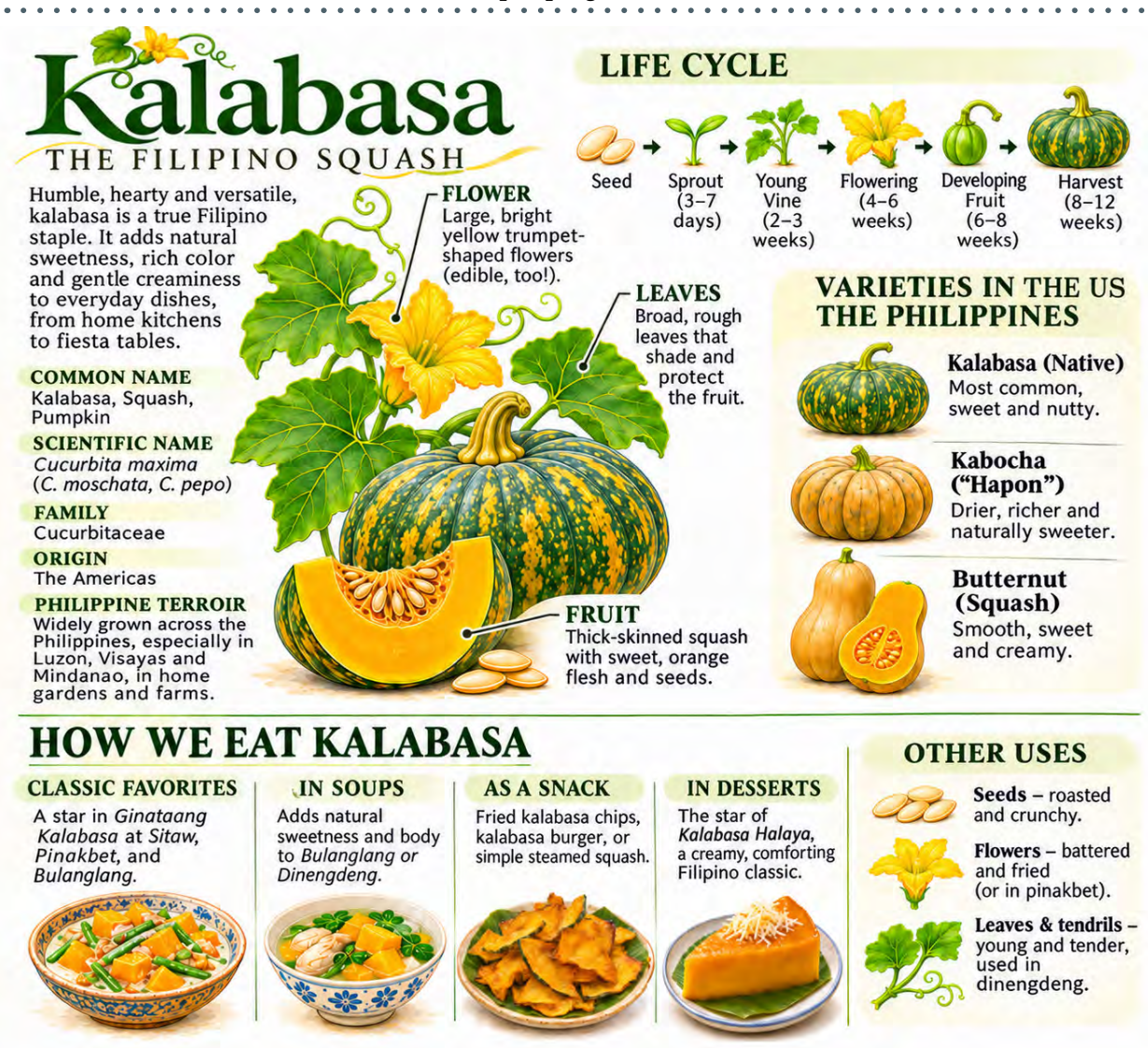
Then I moved to America, where *kalabasa* apparently underwent a spectacular image makeover.

Come Halloween, enormous orange pumpkins invade supermarkets, lawns, and front porches. Americans hollow them out, carve frightening faces, illuminate them, and call them **jack-o'-lanterns.**

Susmaryosep! Ang daming ginataang kalabasa niyan!

Back home, we cut squash to cook it. Here, they cut it to scare the neighbors! And what happens to the scooped-out flesh? Some becomes soup, pie, or compost, but plenty goes to waste. Sayang! My Lola, a Kapampangan kitchen diva, would have staged an intervention.

Then there's **Pumpkin Spice Latte**. Suddenly, pumpkin is a beverage, candle, fragrance, cookie, and autumn fashion statement. Ironically, pumpkin spice is mostly cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, and cloves. Pumpkin not necessarily included!



In the Philippines, call someone *kalabasa* and you risk an argument. In America, call something pumpkin spice and people happily pay six dollars.

What a rebranding triumph!

Technically, Halloween pumpkins are often *Cucurbita pepo*, botanical cousins of our *kalabasa*. One gets simmered in coconut milk; the other gets celebrity treatment on Instagram.

Same family, different PR agency.

But perhaps the real "*bokya*" is our habit of measuring intelligence by grades alone. Some people flunk exams yet excel in life. Others collect diplomas and impressive titles but remain hopelessly short on judgment, humility, or common sense.

A failing grade isn't a failed person. Neither is a fancy title proof of wisdom.

Kalabasa reminds us that worth isn't determined by labels, appearances, or report cards. Given the right conditions, even the most underestimated can flourish. And if a vegetable can nourish the very brain we accuse it of lacking, perhaps it's time we reconsider who's really deserving of the dunce cap.

And perhaps that's one delicious lesson from the diaspora. Whether it's pumpkin, squash, or *kalabasa*, the name changes, the marketing gets fancier, but the goodness remains. So eat it, savor it, and give this much-maligned vegetable its long-overdue respect. Rich in beta-carotene, fiber, and vitamins, it deserves a place on our plates, not on a dunce's report card. **After all, a little nourishment for the brain might do us more good than another expensive pumpkin-spiced indulgence!**

So wear that kalabasa label proudly. Be nourishing, adaptable, productive, and generous.

Better a kalabasa with substance than a pumpkin with nothing inside but a candle.

kalabasa • squash • kalabasa • squash • kalabasa • squash • kalabasa • squash • kalabasa • squash • kalabasa • squash • kalabasa • squash • kalabasa • squash • kalabasa • squash • kalabasa • squash • kalabasa •

FROM THE KITCHEN

Kalabasa in Three Delicious Ways

NOURISHING, VERSATILE, AND OH-SO-FILIPINO.

Ginataang Kalabasa at Sitaw

SQUASH IN COCONUT CREAM

A comforting Pinoy favorite—tender kalabasa and sitaw simmered in rich, creamy coconut milk.



INGREDIENTS

- 500 g kalabasa, peeled and cubed
- 200 g sitaw (yardlong beans), cut into 2-inch pieces
- 200 g shrimp, cleaned (optional)
- 1 can (400 ml) coconut milk
- 1 small onion, sliced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp bagoong alamang (or fish sauce)
- 1–2 pcs green chili
- Salt and pepper to taste

PROCEDURE

1. Sauté garlic and onion until fragrant.
2. Add shrimp and cook until pink.
3. Add kalabasa and a little water; simmer until tender.
4. Pour in coconut milk, add sitaw and bagoong alamang.
5. Simmer for 5 minutes, season with salt and pepper, and add green chili.

Kitchen wisdom: *For extra flavor, use fresh, mature kalabasa. Add shrimp or pork for a heartier version.*

Ukoy na Kalabasa

SQUASH-SHRIMP FRITTERS

A crispy, savory Filipino fritter made with shredded kalabasa, shrimp, and a hint of onion.



INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups kalabasa, peeled and shredded
- 200 g small shrimp (whole or shelled)
- 1 small onion, thinly sliced
- 2 stalks green onion, chopped
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- 1 egg
- ½ cup cold water (adjust as needed)
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Cooking oil for frying

PROCEDURE

1. In a bowl, combine kalabasa, shrimp, onion, and green onion.
2. Add flour, cornstarch, egg, salt, and pepper. Pour in cold water and mix until just combined.
3. Heat about ½ inch of oil in a pan over medium heat.
4. Scoop 2–3 tbsp of the mixture, flatten slightly, and fry until golden and crisp, about 2–3 minutes per side. Drain on paper towels and serve hot.

Kitchen wisdom: *Use cold water and avoid overmixing for a light, crispy ukoy.*

Kalabasa Halaya

CLASSIC SQUASH DESSERT

A rich and velvety kalabasa custard, delicately sweet and fragrant with coconut milk and a hint of vanilla.



INGREDIENTS

- 500 g kalabasa, peeled and cooked until tender
- 1 can (400 ml) coconut milk
- ¼ cup sugar (adjust to taste)
- ¼ cup condensed milk (optional, for creaminess)
- 1 tbsp butter or margarine
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Pinch of salt
- Toasted latik or crushed kasoy for topping

PROCEDURE

1. Mash the cooked kalabasa until smooth.
2. In a pan, combine kalabasa, coconut milk, sugar, condensed milk, butter, and salt.
3. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until thick and glossy (about 15–20 minutes).
4. Stir in vanilla, transfer to a greased mold or pan, and let cool.
5. Top with toasted latik or kasoy before serving.

Kitchen wisdom: *Stir slowly over low heat for a smooth, silky halaya that sets beautifully.*

Food safety note: Use fresh, firm kalabasa. Wash, peel, and cook thoroughly. Store leftovers in the refrigerator and consume within 3 days.

Senator-judges question missing proof of VP Sara's P2.14-M payouts

MANILA, Nov 12 (Mabuhay) -- Four senator-judges on Wednesday questioned the lack of documentary evidence establishing the basis for the PHP2.14 million received by Vice President Sara Duterte from GenCorp Industries, Inc. between 2022 and 2025, while challenging claims that she had no participation in the company's business operations.

During the 42nd day of Duterte's impeachment trial, GenCorp in-house counsel Suzette Balucanag-Punay admitted that she could not produce contracts or other verifiable records establishing the amount of Duterte's original investment, which supposedly justified the payments.

"I did not find any verifiable document. So, I cannot produce paper out of thin air. So, apologies if I cannot give a figure," Punay told the Senate impeachment court.

Senator-Judge Raffy Tulfo questioned how the PHP2.14 million could be considered a return of capital when the only amount identified in the incorporation documents of Davao Bounty Times Food Corp., where Duterte's investment reportedly originated, was PHP46,000.

Punay clarified that the amount appeared in the corporation's incorporation papers and did not necessarily represent Duterte's entire investment.

"So anong patunay ka meron na talagang return of capital 'yon at hindi yung dibidendo (So what proof do you have that it was really a return of capital and not dividends)?" Tulfo asked.

Senator-Judge Erwin Tulfo likewise questioned why Duterte received annual payments if these merely represented the return of her original investment.

"Kung return of capital, ma'am, bakit every year (If it was a return of capital, ma'am, why was it paid every year)?" he asked.

Punay said she could not explain the frequency of the payments because she was not part of GenCorp's accounting department.

Senator-Judge Risa Hontiveros also questioned the recurring monthly disbursements despite the company's failure to declare dividends.

"For four years, may monthly siya na natatanggap na pera. Parang kita o profits yan. So hindi lang soli ng kapital (For four years, she received money monthly. Those appear to be earnings or profits, so it's not merely a return of capital)," Hontiveros said.

She also raised constitutional concerns over Duterte's indirect financial interest in GenCorp, noting that the Vice President had declared a business interest in the company in her 2024 and 2025 Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth.

Senator-Judge Francis Pangilinan, meanwhile, challenged Punay's assertion that Duterte had no participation in GenCorp despite receiving financial benefits from the business.

"Is a beneficiary – is somebody who benefits from money, isn't that being a participant?" Pangilinan asked.

Punay acknowledged that Duterte received payments but maintained that she was neither a stockholder nor involved in GenCorp's management and operations.

She explained that Duterte's earlier investment in Davao Bounty was carried over to the Jollibee Times Square branch, which eventually came under GenCorp.

Punay also confirmed that the financial records she examined covered only 2022 to 2025, adding that she did not check whether Duterte received further payments in 2026 because the subpoena did not cover that year. (MNS)

Bernardo's ex-driver testifies on alleged deliveries to Estrada

MANILA, Nov 12 (Mabuhay) -- The former driver of ex-Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Usec. Roberto Bernardo on Wednesday testified that he delivered boxes to Sen. Jinggoy Estrada on four occasions from November 2024 to June 2025.

Francisco Dela Fuente gave the testimony during the Sandiganbayan Fifth Division's bail hearing in Estrada's plunder case over the alleged flood control kickback scheme.

Dela Fuente said he delivered 12 boxes to a building allegedly owned by Estrada in San Juan in November 2024. However, he said he did not see Estrada during the delivery because he was facing away from the building as the boxes were unloaded from the vehicle.

He also testified that he delivered three boxes each in December 2024 and February 2025, followed by 11 boxes in June 2025. He said all four deliveries were made at the same location upon Bernardo's instructions.

Dela Fuente said different personnel received the boxes during the deliveries. Although he could not identify them, he assumed they were working for Estrada.

During cross-examination, Estrada's lawyer Laurence Arroyo pointed out that Dela Fuente only mentioned the November 2024 delivery in his sworn statement dated Dec. 26, 2025, which he submitted to the Department of Justice as part of his application to become a state witness.

Arroyo asked why the three other deliveries were only included in Dela Fuente's judicial affidavit executed in October 2026.

Dela Fuente said he initially had reservations but was able to recall all four instances when investigators from the Office of the Ombudsman questioned him.

Upon being asked why he did not take photographs of the deliveries, Dela Fuente said he did not anticipate that the controversy would escalate and that he initially had no knowledge of the boxes' contents.

He said he only learned of the issue when the flood control controversy surfaced during a Senate Blue Ribbon Committee hearing.

"Di ko naman po kasi akalain na magkakaroon ng ganito eh," Dela Fuente said.

Dela Fuente also took the witness stand during the bail hearing of former Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., where he testified delivering boxes to Estrada's ancestral home, known as the "White House," in 2025.

Former DPWH Bulacan First District Engineering Office district engineer Henry Alcantara is scheduled to testify on Friday.(MNS)

Comelec: 36K apply as voters on 1st day of sign-up drive

MANILA, Nov 12 (Mabuhay) -- Over 36,000 individuals have filed their applications across the country during Tuesday's resumption of voter registration for the 2028 national and local elections.

Based on the data released by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) on Wednesday, a total of 36,124 applications for voter registration have been filed across the country.

Calabarzon has so far recorded the highest number of applicants, with 8,161 followed by the National Capital Region with 6,741.

Central Luzon and Central Visayas have also recorded a significant number of applicants with 4,456 and 2,132, respectively.

A total of 336 applications were filed via the Register Anywhere Program (RAP).

The poll body's data also showed that a total of 11,601 applied for registration while 3,141 applied for reactivation of their registration records.

A total of 12,255 individuals are looking to transfer their registrations from another city/municipality, while 1,929 applied for transfer within the same city/municipality.

The nationwide voter registration period runs until July 30, 2027.

The poll body added that the nine-month voter registration period will be the final registration window before the 2028 presidential elections.

Comelec chairperson George Erwin Garcia, meanwhile, touted the success of the opening of the voter registration drive.

"A very successful first day. The number of people who lined up and showed such patience is truly remarkable," he said in a phone interview Wednesday..(MNS)





19 WORLD LEADERS CONFIRMED TO ATTEND ASEAN SUMMIT IN MANILA – DFA

MANILA, Nov 12 (Mabuhay) -- The Philippines will host at least 19 world and global institution leaders in the upcoming 49th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit and Related Summits this week.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) on Wednesday said the attendance underscores ASEAN's "unique convening power and continued role as a platform for dialogue and cooperation" with the wider international community.

The high-level engagements will commence on Nov. 15 with the summit opening ceremony at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), followed by the Plenary and Retreat Sessions, where ASEAN leaders will take stock of the Philippines' chairship achievements.

The ASEAN leaders will then discuss ways to strengthen ASEAN's collective capacity to address emerging regional and global challenges, including the situation in Myanmar.

The leaders will also have interface meetings with ASEAN Parliamentarians, the business community and the youth.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., who chairs the summit, will be joined by the leaders of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

Myanmar will be represented by the Director-General of the ASEAN Affairs Department of its Foreign Ministry.

The plenary will also feature remarks from Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and Brazil President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva.

The DFA said their participation highlights the value of ASEAN's engagement with key global partners in pushing for regional economic resilience and is well-aligned with the Philippines' chairship priorities, particularly under its Prosperity Corridors.

The Related Summits, or the Plus One Summits, will follow on Nov. 16 to 17, and will be co-chaired by the leaders of Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Korea, Russia, the United Nations and the United States.

New Zealand will be represented by its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, David Seymour, while Russia will be represented by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

Marcos will also convene the 29th ASEAN Plus Three Summit and the 21st East Asia Summit (EAS) on Nov. 17, the premier Leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on strategic, political and economic issues of common concern and interest in the region.

He will later hand over the ASEAN Chairship to Singapore.

The day will culminate with the ASEAN-United States Special Summit to be attended by U.S. President Donald Trump.

"As the Philippines brings together ASEAN Leaders and Dialogue Partners from across the region and the wider international community, the country looks forward to engagements that will reinforce the value of dialogue, deepen partnerships, and strengthen collective responses to shared challenges," the DFA said.

"The Philippines remains committed to advancing an ASEAN that is peaceful, resilient, and future-ready, with regional cooperation translating into meaningful benefits for its peoples," it added. (MNS)

SARA DUTERTE'S DEFENSE TEAM DROPS MOST BANK WITNESSES IN IMPEACHMENT TRIAL

MANILA, Nov 12 (Mabuhay) -- The defense team in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte has dropped most of its bank representative witnesses, retaining only a representative from the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), in a bid to shorten the proceedings, spokesperson Michael Poa said.

Poa said the defense decided against calling the other bank representatives to avoid wasting the time of the Senate impeachment court and the witnesses, noting that testimonies on the authentication of bank records were already on record.

"We don't think that there's a need to, siguro, waste the time of the court… and waste the time also of the bank representatives sa pagpapatawag sa kanila tomorrow. Binawasan na natin, iniwan na lang natin yung sa BPI representative," Poa said.

"We dropped, basically, the bank representatives," he added.

Poa said dropping the witnesses would help abbreviate the proceedings. The defense also dropped a barangay captain from its witness list.

The spokesperson, however, did not disclose the identities of the remaining defense witnesses.

Earlier in the day at the trial, some senator-judges raised concerns about the lack of details in the testimony of GenCorp Industries and Metro City Chow Foods in-house lawyer Suzette Balucanag-Punay.

Asked about how the defense planned to address these gaps, Poa said that there will be other witnesses to be presented who could answer questions about Duterte's Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth (SALN).

"I don't think there's a hierarchy of gaps or anything like that but with the questions of the senator-judges, for example, 'Why is it in the SALN', 'Why do the SEC [Securities and Exchange Commission] documents reflect otherwise', those are the issues we will address with future witnesses," Poa said in a mix of English and Filipino. (MNS)

DINGDONG DANTES SAYS HE WANTS HIS WIFE MARIAN RIVERA TO BE HIS PARTNER AT THE HYBRID GAMES



MANILA, Oct 30 (Mabuhay) -- With the 2026 Hybrid Games just a few weeks away, actor Dingdong Dantes says that even though he is one of the head organizers, there is a chance he will also be competing in one of the race categories, but only if his wife Marian Rivera will partner up with him.

The actor, who stars with his wife in the upcoming film Remember, talked to the press during the Bench/Active and Aktor PH contract signing held earlier this month in Makati City along with Piolo Pascual and Bench founder Ben Chan. During the presscon, Dingdong admitted that there is a bigger likelihood of Piolo joining the competition at this point in time.

"Si PJ has always been at the front and center of all these mga public affairs activities especially itong mga games na ito. So dun sa management side, talagang hands on talaga si PJ dito. Ako, depende pa, kasi sa category ng partners eh na puwede kang magteam up with another member. It could be your friend, your best friend, spouse, co-actors. So I'm trying to convince my wife to partner up with me (laughs). Sabi ko, 'Okay lang yan. Kahit ako na yun.' At saka kasi mabilis siyang tumakbo eh."

Although the format of the games may look physically challenging, the Aktor PH founder explained that everything in the Hybrid Games is actually rooted in functional training.

"Sometimes yung ganitong mga games, they can seem intimidating because of the movements. Pero ang katotohanan niyan ay these are functional movements na minix ng running. So it's very, very easy to learn. Mahalaga talaga na sinusuportahan natin yung beginners. May category for beginners at nandiyan yung support ng mga experts para turuan sila kung paano ba talaga yung movement, kung paano siya ginagawa. Para ma-simulate nila yung mangyayari. Ang totoong hope namin dun ay sana yun ang maging simula ng kanilang fitness journey dahil sa event na ito," he explained.

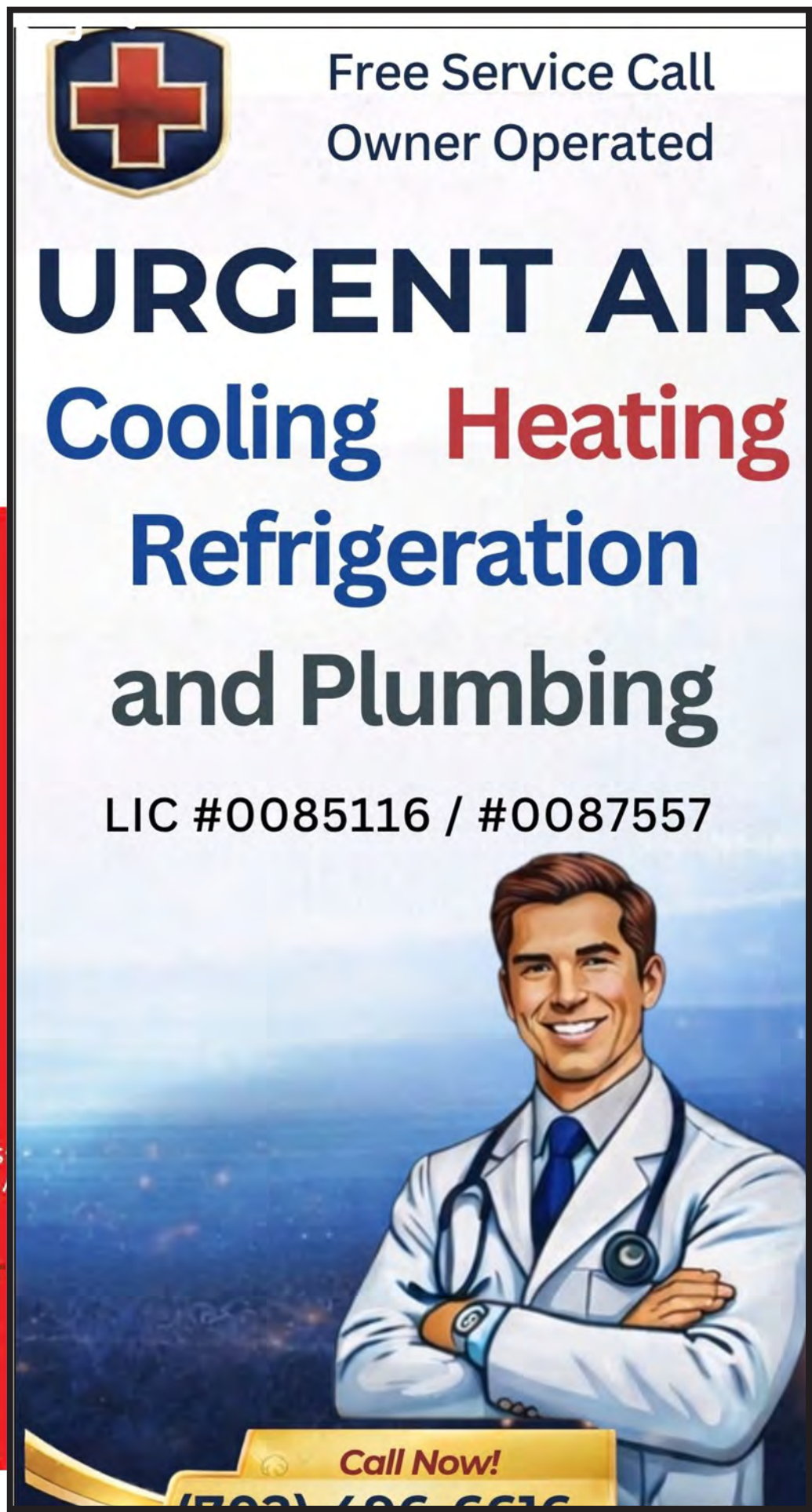
During the Hybrid Games presscon, Dingdong also put the spotlight on Piolo, who is currently serving as their group's Public Affairs director and an inspiring example of an active and fit artist.

"While the welfare and wellness of our members is always at the front and center of our programs, si Piolo has always been that advocate for this program. Bilang siya yung director ng aming Public Affairs, siya rin po talaga yung idolo ng industriya pagdating sa health and wellness. Sure ako dito, across all generations, from our generation even to the younger generation, we all look up to Piolo dahil siya talaga yung halimbawa na kahit gaano ka ka-busy, kapag binigyan mo talaga ng oras at dedication at disiplina ang kalusugan ay kayang-kaya yan. That's why it's such a fitting opportunity for him to be at the front and center. And the whole Aktor community is behind Piolo in this event. We're just looking forward to all the other members who will be joining," he said.

The Bench Activ x Aktor PH Hybrid Games is happening on November 8 at Space at One Ayala. Dingdong shared that they are currently exploring the option of making the event accessible for spectators online.

"We are exploring a livestreaming component to the games para maging accessible din siya sa public. But for the first day, merong spectator pass. I think sold out na rin yung part na yun. It started with 300 participants to 1,200. So we can just imagine maybe the frequency of these games in the coming years and also the magnitude of how big the community will become. Pangarap lang namin ito dati and we all know how difficult it is to mount something this big and important. And it's really very personal because I recall almost 20 years, mga 18 years ago, eh yun yung panahon na naging isa akong parte ng Bench family. And I will always be grateful to Bench. That's why I'm so happy that right now, we are doing something equally as meaningful," he said. (MNS)





Michelle Dee, Sanya Lopez share about challenging, surreal 'Red Crown' experience

MANILA, Oct 24 (Mabuhay) -- Michelle Dee and Sanya Lopez's acting skills were tested during the production of "Red Crown."



Sanya admitted that she was nervous during their scenes.

"I was nervous, because I don't know if what I was doing was right," the actress said in Filipino. "Good thing we have real beauty queens here, so if there are questions before the scene starts, they are there to guide us. So it really helps that we have those who really have experience in pageants."

Michelle added that being on "Red Crown" is a surreal experience because she has lived through some of the scenes that were being shot.

"I'm sure a lot of the other cast members have lived through it also, so like it's nice to watch it fully in a cinematic lens," she said in a mix of Filipino and English.

The film brings together an all-star cast of beauty queens and actresses, including Faith Da Silva, Ashley Ortega, AZ Martinez, Shuvee Etrata, and Ahtisa Manalo, among others.

"Red Crown" is directed by Dominic Zapata.

The film is set to premiere in cinemas nationwide on October 28. (MNS)

Sanya Lopez reveals how she met her foreigner boyfriend

MANILA, Oct 28 (Mabuhay) -- For the first time, Sanya Lopez has opened up about her love story with her non-showbiz foreigner boyfriend.



In an interview on "Chika Cart," the Sparkle star revealed that they first met in Boracay through a mutual friend.

"At the time, my back was really hurting because I was having a back problem. We had a mutual friend, which was how we met," Sanya said.

She said her boyfriend would visit her at home whenever he could and when she had no work.

"After that, he started visiting me at home. He would come from Cavite or Subic to visit me every day whenever he could and when I didn't have work," she said. "He would always bring flowers, too."

Sanya clarified that her boyfriend is not a therapist but is a foreigner who is half-Filipino.

"He is very patient and has a lot of love to give," she said.

Sanya first revealed in February that she is in a relationship. She also shared that he had given her a promise ring.

She said that they have chosen to keep their relationship private and that he isn't used to the public life that comes with being a celebrity.

In August, she was surprised by her boyfriend with a large bouquet of roses for her birthday. (MNS)

Andrea Brillantes speaks up on rumored rift with Bea Borres

MANILA, Nov 2 (Mabuhay) -- Andrea Brillantes has addressed rumors of a rift between her and close friend Bea Borres.



In an interview with Boy Abunda, Andrea explained why Bea blocked her on social media and said that they had already spoken privately about the matter.

"I think it all started with my comment sa isang TikTok [video]. And I kind of underestimated the kind of attention that would get," Andrea said.

While she chose not to go into further detail about their private conversation, Andrea made it clear that her affection for Bea and the latter's daughter, Victoria Hope, remains unchanged.

"Bea and I already had a private conversation about this and I'll always have love for Bea and for Pea. Pero I think that's all I can say for now," she said. "Ang importante nakapag-usap naman na po kami."

The comment that Andrea referred to came after Bea began featuring her former boyfriend, Meray Yamada, in her vlogs starting in September.

Meray, who is the father of Bea's daughter, appeared alongside the actress in several videos.

A netizen later shared edited clips of Bea and Meray, which prompted excitement over the possibility of the former couple getting back together.

Andrea joined the discussion through a comment indicating that she was not among those getting excited over their renewed interactions.

"Lahat kayo kinikilig, pwes ako hindi," Andrea maintained. "Ma-uninterested na nga lahat ng ganitong content sa fyp (for you page) ko."

When the video's creator replied, "ay ayun award," Andrea clarified that her remark was not meant as an insult toward the person who made the edit.

"No shade to the editor or anyone really. Idk (I don't know) bye," she wrote.

Although the comments have since been deleted, screenshots of the exchange circulated online and fueled further speculation about the status of Andrea and Bea's friendship.

Bea later addressed the matter herself in a vlog with Benedict Cua, where she openly admitted that she had blocked Andrea on social media.

"Ni-block ko si Blythe," she said.

Benedict then asked whether the decision was connected to Andrea's apparent disapproval of her renewed interactions with Meray.

"Oo, alam ko na eh," Bea answered.

The celebrity mom then explained that she planned to unblock Andrea once she had saved enough from the income generated by her videos with Meray to purchase an asset.

Despite the move, however, Bea stressed that their friendship had not ended.

"Blocker ako. Pero kasi alam mo 'yun? Kapag sa friendship kasi, if you've reached a level na para na kayong magkakapatid, [kahit] mag-away kayo wala na kayong sorry [kasi] after five minutes okay na. Ganon 'yung level of friendship namin."

"We don't hate each other. Nagkaka-inisan lang. Kaya block na lang [kita]," she added. (MNS)

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