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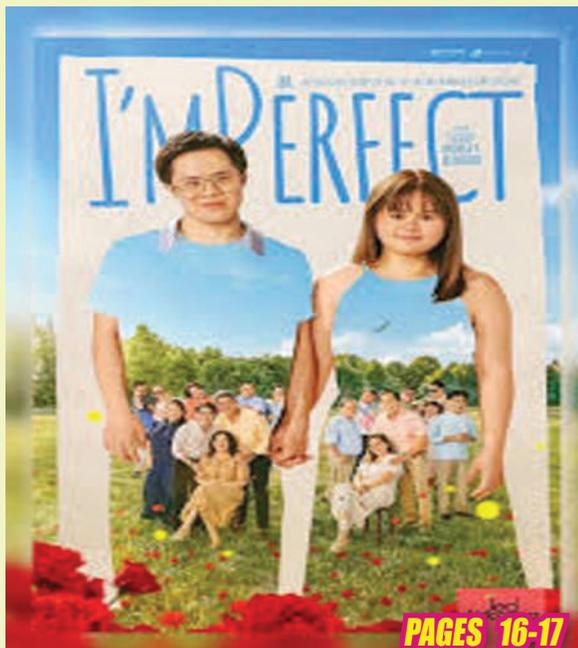


Holiday Greetings From Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin

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In a three-way contest, Sara Duterte wins 2028 presidency: analyst



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Plan ahead, take precautions to ensure road safety in winter conditions

With snow flurries in the forecast on the south coast of British Columbia, drivers are reminded to plan ahead and take appropriate precautions for travel in winter weather.

To stay aware of road conditions, check DriveBC before leaving, especially when snow or freezing temperatures are in the forecast. During inclement weather, drivers are advised to avoid travel, if possible. People who must travel are urged to use caution and only drive if their vehicles are winter-ready and properly equipped with winter tires (M+S or mountain snowflake). Drivers should also carry appropriate emergency supplies for all travellers in the vehicle.

At this time of year, weather conditions can change quickly. The Ministry of Transportation and Transit's contractors monitor weather closely during this time of year and proactively apply anti-icing brine to road surfaces to be prepared when freezing temperatures are in the forecast.

The Port Mann and Alex Fraser bridges are equipped with cable-collar systems that remove ice and snow from the bridge cables, ensuring vehicles and passengers remain safe when crossing. Advanced weather data collection ensures crews are prepared to activate these systems to remove snow in bad weather as quickly as possible.

When necessary, partial or full closures of certain bridges and roads may be

necessary to ensure driver safety. The ministry will update people as quickly as possible about any closures via DriveBC, and through other methods, such as social media, signage and traffic advisories to local media.

Drivers are reminded to give snowplows space to work safely this winter. Stay well back, never pass, and be patient. Operators are clearing the way to keep everyone safe on B.C. roads. Drivers can further support maintenance crews by moving over safely when a vehicle with an amber light approach. (news.gov.bc.ca)



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
VANCOUVER



MESSAGE



As we celebrate the joyful season of Christmas, I extend my warmest greetings and heartfelt wishes to the Filipino community in British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and across Canada.

Christmas is a time of joy, peace, and renewal—a moment to pause, reflect, and embrace the hope that the season brings. Amid the traditions we cherish, may we remember the true meaning of Christmas and give thanks for the friendships, memories, and blessings we have received.

The year 2025 brought both achievements and challenges for our *kababayan*. Despite these, the resilience and compassion of the Filipino community continued to shine. I express my heartfelt appreciation to our community leaders, organizations, and volunteers whose dedication continues to uplift the lives of our *kababayan*. May the spirit of *bayanihan* remain alive in each of us.

In the coming year, the Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver will remain committed to serving our community through consular services and Assistance-to-Nationals, ensuring timely support and protection for Filipinos in need. Alongside these services, the Consulate will continue to implement cultural programs and economic diplomacy initiatives that promote Filipino creativity, strengthen community ties, and expand opportunities for trade, investment, and tourism.

As we welcome 2026, may the message of Christmas inspire unity, kindness, and renewed hope. I wish you and your families a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with good health, peace, and happiness.

Maligayang Pasko at Manigong Bagong Taon sa inyong lahat!

GINA A. JAMORALIN
Consul General

25 December 2025
Vancouver, B.C.

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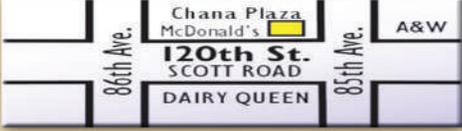
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New Surrey chatbot provides quick answers on waste collection

Surrey, B.C. – The City of Surrey is launching a new chatbot to provide residents and business owners with instant answers to questions about waste collection, recycling and cleanup programs.



Mayor Branda Locke of City of Surrey

The waste chatbot makes it easy to get information about the City's waste services, from what goes in each bin to booking free pick-ups for large items, including mattresses, or finding a Recycling and Waste Centre — no calls or emails needed.

“We’re excited to introduce the waste chatbot as a way to make information more accessible,” said Mayor Brenda Locke. “Available

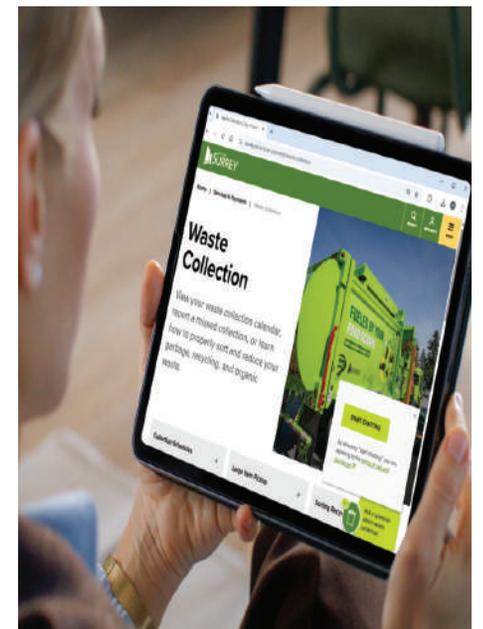
24/7, it makes it easier for residents to do the right thing when it comes to waste and recycling collection and disposal, supporting a cleaner, more sustainable Surrey.”

The waste chatbot builds on the City’s ongoing work to improve customer service through digital innovation.

Last year, the City released the Development Inquiry Assistant chatbot, which has been widely used by the public to find information on renovating, development and construction.

The waste chatbot can answer questions about collection days using information from the Sorting Guide and Collection Calendar, which is usually mailed out at the end of each year. Due to uncertainty around Canada Post strike notices, the 2026 waste collection calendars will not be mailed. The calendar booklet is available online and residents preferring a paper copy can pick one up at City Hall, the Operations Centre, recreation centres, and libraries.

For details on Surrey’s waste chatbot, cleanup programs or proper waste disposal options, visit surrey.ca/rethinkwaste.



UFCABC Sets the Standard for Transparency in Lapu-Lapu Funds, Community Calls on Filipino BC and Other Groups to Follow

By Reyfort Media Group

Vancouver, BC — In a time of profound need, the United Filipino Canadian Association in BC (UFCABC) has emerged as a pillar of leadership, integrity, and accountability through its community-driven fundraising efforts under the banner of #PinoyVancouverStrong.

Driven by an outpouring of generosity and unity, UFCABC successfully mobilized financial support to provide direct assistance to Filipino families affected by crisis, delivering both tangible relief and renewed hope.

Fundraising and Impact Distribution

As of the latest reporting period, UFCABC confirms the following:

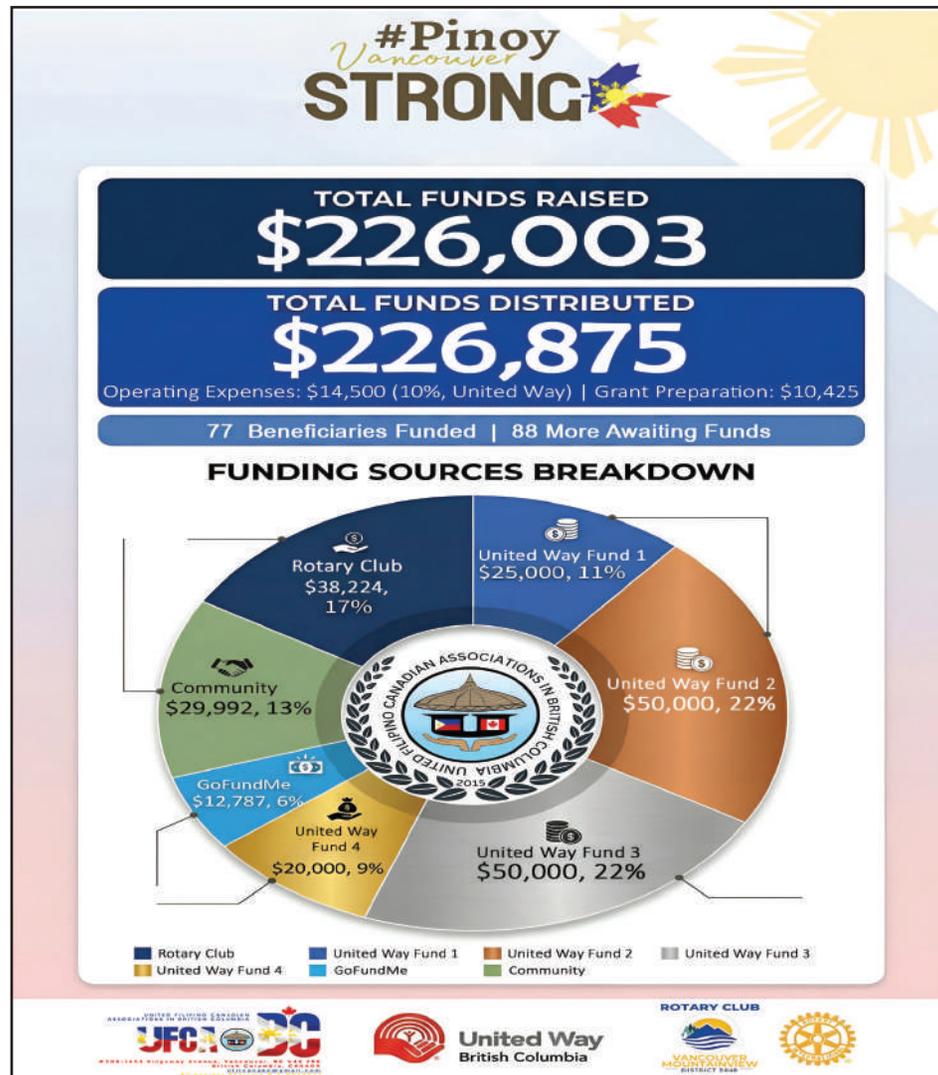
- Total Funds Raised: \$226,003
- Total Funds Distributed: \$226,875
- Families Supported: 77
- Families Awaiting Assistance: 88

Every dollar raised has been allocated toward community support, underscoring UFCABC's commitment to responsible stewardship and urgent response. These figures reflect not only generosity, but trust, trust earned through clear reporting and ethical leadership.

Sources of Community Support

UFCABC's fundraising efforts were strengthened by a broad coalition of partners and donors, including:

- Rotary Club: \$38,224 (17%)
- United Way Fund 1: \$25,000 (11%)
- Community Donations: \$29,992 (13%)
- United Way Fund 2: \$50,000 (22%)
- GoFundMe: \$12,787 (6%)
- United Way Fund 4: \$20,000 (9%)
- United Way Fund 3: \$50,000 (22%)



3: \$50,000 (22%)

This collaborative effort highlights the power of cross-sector partnerships and community solidarity in times of crisis.

Gratitude to Partners and Supporters

UFCABC extends its sincere appreciation to UFCABC member organizations, Rotary Club Mountain View, United Way British Columbia, Vancouver Police Department Victim Services, community donors, and GoFundMe supporters, as well as every individual who contributed, shared information, or advocated on behalf of affected families.

Because of this collective effort, 77 families have received meaningful assistance during a critical period in their lives.

A Commitment to Transparency and Accountability

Transparency, accountability, and respect for beneficiaries remain fundamental to

to extend support and ensure that no family is left behind.

Community Call for Accountability and Transparency

Through numerous public comments and discussions across Facebook and other social platforms, members of the Filipino community have expressed strong support for UFCABC, commending the organization for its leadership, transparency, and clear financial reporting in response to the Lapu-Lapu Block Party tragedy.

Community members point to UFCABC's open disclosure and measurable impact as a benchmark for responsible fundraising and ethical stewardship during times of crisis. As a result, there is a growing and unified call for the broader community to uphold the same standards of accountability.

The Filipino community is asking the public to follow UFCABC's example and is inviting and encouraging all organizations that conducted fundraising efforts, received donations, or accessed funds through United Way or other channels to adopt the same level of openness, by sharing financial accountability in a manner that fully respects the confidentiality, dignity, and safety of beneficiaries.

Community members emphasize that they are not seeking disclosure of personal or sensitive information, but rather clear, honest, and responsible reporting that strengthens public trust.

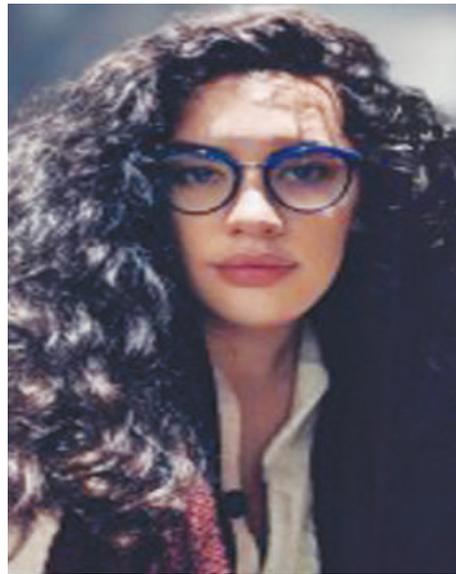
The community affirms that it deserves:

- Clarity without speculation
- Honesty without distortion
- Accountability without harm

Transparency and privacy are not opposing values. They are shared responsibilities that must be upheld together in order to maintain trust, integrity, and unity within the community.



Former Filipino BC Directors Challenge Board's Evasive Response, Warn Transparency Failure May Trigger Legal Action



RJ Aquino and Kristina Moser are the chairperson and executive director, respectively, of Filipino BC.

Vancouver, BC —Former directors and members of Filipino BC are denouncing what they describe as an evasive and inadequate response from the organization's Board of Directors to their initial demand for financial transparency, warning that continued non-disclosure may result in court action.

This legal action may also include potential claims against any current directors, including, but not limited to, Chair RJ Aquino and Executive Director Kristina Corpin-Moser.

In response to the Board's December 3, 2025 letter, the former directors state that Filipino BC failed to provide basic financial records, clear explanations, or lawful disclosure regarding funds raised for victims of the Lapu-Lapu Day Festival tragedy. Instead, they say the Board's response deflected responsibility, relied on third-party references, and avoided answering the core question: where the money went.

"The Board was given a clear opportunity to be

transparent. It chose not to be," the former directors said. "What we received was not disclosure — it was deflection."

The former directors also raised serious concerns about a follow-up letter provided by an accountant who does not appear to be a designated Chartered Professional Accountant and who addressed matters of legal interpretation rather than providing verifiable financial accounting.

Filipino BC has attempted to shift responsibility to organizations such as United Way BC. The former directors reject this position outright, noting that Filipino BC independently raised funds, paid its own employees and contractors, and therefore remains fully and solely accountable for its own financial activities under British Columbia law.

They further dispute Filipino BC's claim that certain individuals are not members in good standing, confirming that no memberships have been lawfully terminated

under the Societies Act or the society's bylaws.

According to the former directors, Filipino BC has failed to produce records it is legally required to maintain and disclose, including complete accounting records, board minutes, resolutions, financial statements, conflict-of-interest disclosures, remuneration details, and documentation showing how decisions were approved and funds were distributed.

The group is demanding immediate disclosure of all records related to:

- * Funds raised for Lapu-Lapu Day victims
- * All disbursements, recipients, salaries, fees, honoraria, and administrative costs
- * Board approvals, internal controls, and financial oversight mechanisms
- * Any undistributed funds and the timeline for their

release

"Transparency is not optional when public trust and victims' welfare are at stake," the former directors said. "Failure to disclose is a breach of duty."

The former directors warn that if Filipino BC does not provide the requested records, they are prepared to seek leave from the Supreme Court of British Columbia to commence a derivative action under section 103 of the Societies Act against Filipino BC and any directors who have failed to act honestly, in good faith, and in accordance with their legal obligations.

"This organization raised money in the name of tragedy," the statement concludes. "The community deserves the truth — not silence, misdirection, or half-answers."



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Anne Curtis admits being jealous of Singapore for fighting corruption: 'Paano na tayo Pilipinas?'

Kapamilya actress Anne Curtis admitted how jealous she is of the economy of Singapore and is hopeful that one day the Philippines will achieve something similar.

On her X (formerly Twitter) account, the It's Showtime host expressed how the Philippines has been robbed of the opportunity to reach its potential due to greed by the corrupt politicians.

Anne is one of the many celebrities that have been vocal about the ongoing anomalies in the government especially with the recent flood control scam.

"Random thought whilst in Singapore - NAKAKAINGGIT SILA. Upon reading, corruption USED to be widespread until they had [their] leader, Lee Kuan Yew, who had [a] zero tolerance policy for corruption," she wrote.

The Kapamilya star added how Singapore has developed beautifully over the past decades since they had a zero tolerance for corruption. She

cited the various innovations and infrastructure the South East Asian country is enjoying.

"Cut to this day, Singapore is thriving. A beautifully developed city, smooth roads, a gorgeous airport, proper public transportation, stunning infrastructure and yet I still see green around the city," she added.

While there may be corrupt politicians in Singapore, she noted that they are still punished immediately after being discovered—something she is hopeful that will happen to her own country as well.

"Paano na tayo Pilipinas? Ano na kaya mangyayari? I pray so hard we will all collectively vote for a leader who will want to fight corruption one day. Sana talaga. Sayang ... Pilipinas," she expressed.

Anne maintained that the Philippines have the resources but it is because of greed that the country is robbed from attaining its full potential. While she is hopeful that the



Philippines will stop corruption, she acknowledged that she won't experience it in her lifetime.

"Sana talaga one day. Maybe not in my lifetime but I pray for all the future Filipinos. But we have to stand up for that now.

Haaaaay. Naiiyak ako," she ended.

Fans of the actress expressed their sentiments in the reply section of her post. Most netizens agreed with her and are also hopeful that the country will achieve a zero tolerance for corruption someday. (D. Acierto/Push Team)

Bianca Gonzalez shares reminder about being compassionate towards service workers this holiday season: 'a little compassion goes a long way'

Pinoy Big Brother host Bianca Gonzalez offered a timely reminder on kindness and understanding as the holiday season brings heavier traffic, longer lines, and more pressure especially for those working in the service industry.

In a Facebook post on December 16, Bianca recounted an encounter with a delivery rider who was unfamiliar with their area. She shared how she noticed that the rider was not one of the usual names that accept their orders on a food delivery app, then began receiving messages about additional fees.

"A little patience goes a long way. Story time! The other day, I ordered from a favorite resto na lagi kong ino-orderan sa Grabfood. Nung nag-accept yung rider, I noticed na bagong pangalan—usually 'pag sa

bahay, there are several usual riders na naga-accept."

She shared that the rider later messaged about additional fees, something she had not encountered before on their usual deliveries, which she later sensed that the rider might simply not be familiar with the place.

"Maya-maya, nag-message si Kuya saying may village fee daw siyang babayaran. I've ordered from this place so many times and never ko pa na-encounter 'yun, so I replied, 'Okay Kuya, dagdag ko na lang mamaya.' After that, nag-message ulit siya saying magbabayad pa raw siya ng parking. Ramdam ko na na-hassle siya, and naisip ko rin na baka hindi siya taga-area namin. I replied that in our usual Grab orders, wala namang added parking fee and that may rider parking talaga sa

mall na 'yun."

When the rider arrived, Bianca said they did what they usually do and handed him a small bag of snacks. The moment shifted the tone of the encounter. "Bigla siyang naging very apologetic, sabi nga niya na umulan at matindi ang holiday traffic, at sabi niya na bago siya sa area namin and so hindi pa niya kabisado ang daanan at parkingan," she wrote. Despite being tired, the rider thanked them, ate one of the cookies right away, and greeted them a Merry Christmas before heading off.

Bianca shared that the experience reminded her how everyone is dealing with different challenges, especially during this holiday season: "We're all dealing with a LOT ngayong December, and a little compassion goes a long

way. Lalo na sa mga nasa service industry, riders, drivers, security, enforcers, everyone just trying to get through each day despite the crazy traffic and holiday rush," she wrote, adding that choosing kindness and compassion, especially when inconvenienced, can make a real difference.

"Totoo talaga na we never know what someone else is carrying, and choosing to be kinder is a big part of the meaning of this season. ☐ Especially in these crazy days leading up to Christmas, when something throws us off, let's take a deep breath and a moment before we respond. it can make or break someone else's and your day," she ended.

NEXT PAGE PLEASE...

BIANCA GONZALES CONTINEOUS...

Beyond sharing stories of everyday compassion with the community, Bianca has also been open about raising socially aware children. In an interview with Karmina Constantino on the KC After Hours podcast, she spoke about bringing her daughters Lucia and Carmen to the Trillion Peso March in September to help them understand social issues at a young age.

“They are ten and seven so we feel na naiintidhan na nila kahit papaano. We brought them to the rally. My husband (JC Intal) and I brought them to the rally and we really wanted to explain to them the reason why we were there because they saw the news. At that time, it was the flooding all around Metro Manila,” she said, adding, “I hope these little seeds that we plant, magbubunga siya eventually.”

In the same interview, Bianca reflected on being vocal about social issues and the challenges that come with it. “I think I am

the way I am because when I started sharing, di pa uso social media so parang feeling ko in terms of like projects or brands that would want to work with me, alam na nila na ganun ako dati pa,” she said.

She also spoke about enduring criticism for speaking up. “I think being willing to be open to bashing was a huge part of it kasi you can’t be game for the bashing if you decide to speak up eh, which is hard. Not easy at all, 2022 was the rurok. I think I still have trauma from 2022,” Bianca shared, explaining why she continues to use her platform to encourage others to stand up for what they believe is right.

(A.DE Guzman/Push Team)



BIANCA GONZALES

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Kylie Padilla opens up on breakup, current situation with ex Aljur Abrenica

MANILA, Philippines — Kapuso actress Kylie Padilla shared details about her breakup and current situation with former husband Aljur Abrenica.

In her guesting with “Your Honor” hosted by Chariz Solomon and Buboy Villar, Kylie made it clear she never cheated on Aljur.

“Your Honor, may gusto lang po akong sabihin at ilinaw. Hindi po talaga ako ang unang nag-cheat,” Kylie said. “May mga naguguluhan pa rin kasi, eh. May mga naguguluhan pa kaya gusto ko lang po talaga iklaro your Honor.”

Kylie also commended the good co-parenting setup with Aljur for their sons Alas and Axl, who spend 80% of their time with Kylie which also means covers that much of the financial costs.

“Actually for me rin, I ask my kids kung ano gusto nilang gawin,” Kylie explained.



Kylie Padilla, Aljur Abrenica at the 2019 ABS-CBN Ball Phistar.com / Erwin Cagadas Jr., file

“So, kapag nagsasabi na ‘I miss papa,’ eh di kahit wala pa sa plano, papadala ko na doon kasi nga I go by kung ano gusto nila,” Kylie added.

On their financial agreement with the kids, Kylie said they have montly discussion about divisions.

“Pero, nag tatanong din naman siya, half kami sa school fees ganyan. If ever may hospital fees, nago-offer naman siya so okay naman,” Kylie ended.

(J.M. Severo/Philstar)

“Like, binibigyan ko sila ng choice, ano ba gusto niyong gawin, do you want to do this? Gusto niyo ba sa tatay niyo?”

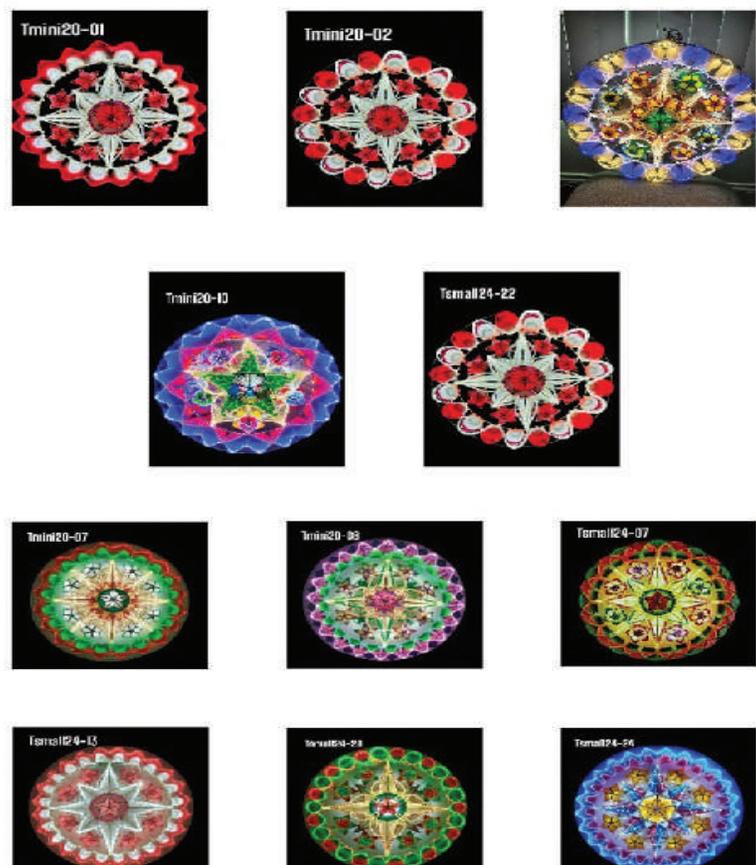
The actress said it was for her sons to be used to having a say, and it appears to be working since their relationship with Aljur is stable.

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Filipinos urged to be mindful of comments during family reunions ahead of Holidays

A social media post reminding the public to be more sensitive with their remarks toward relatives during family reunions has drawn attention from Filipinos as the holiday season approaches.

On December 9, a Reddit user shared a screenshot of a Facebook post from entertainment news website Philippine Entertainment Portal, which urged Filipinos to “stay mindful and hold back words that might hurt.”

PEP listed common remarks often made during holiday gatherings, especially during Christmas and New Year, such as “Tumaba ka,” “Bakit wala pa kayong anak?,” “Kailan ka mag-aasawa?,” “Dumami pimples mo,” and “Magkano sahod mo?”

“These are the words we often hear at family reunions and Christmas gatherings. Sometimes, the kindest thing we can do is stay mindful and hold back words that might hurt,” the post of PEP read. The post also included the hashtags “#HolidayKindness,” “#SpreadLove,” and “#PEPIspires.”

“This holiday season, let’s choose sensitivity and compassion so everyone can have a truly Merry and Bright Christmas,” it added.

It also included screenshots of comments made by “It’s Showtime” host Anne Curtis during the December 1 episode of the noontime show, where she told the audience: “If ever anything na natututunan natin dito, let’s all be a little bit sensitive, ‘di ba? If you have



A family celebrating Christmas dinner
(Wiroj Sidhisoradej via freepik)

nothing nice to say, just don’t say it at all.”

A Redditor shared PEP’s post on the “r/Philippines” community with the caption, “I will say this in a RELIGIOUS WAY, Hindi lpinanganak si Jesus Christ para tanungin ka ng mga ganitong mga bagay!”

The post has earned 179 upvotes and 35 comments, with others sharing their own experiences.

“Kaya minsan massrap isipin mag-‘backtoyou.’ Tita: Tumaba ka! Me: Kayo rin po! Tita: Wala ka pa rin BF? Me: Kayo pa rin ng asawa niyong babaero? Lol,” a Redditor wrote.

“Kaya ako ang lagi kong tanong is, ‘Ano ang pinagkaka abalahan mo?’ This is kind, generic, walang kinukwestiyon

na katayuan sa buhay, and just plainly interested with the other person. And then the conversation should flow from the answer,” another commented.

“It takes a generation to change. Recently, I had a reunion with fellow millennials, and marami samina never saw each other for a decade. May mga tumaba sa amin, especially after motherhood, pero, no comment at all. Wala rin nagtatanong sa mga single kung kailan sila magkaka-jowa. Mostly tanong sa career, travel, hobbies, family or kung ano ‘yung available information na posted na sa social media,” another Redditor shared.

“Dapat mga tanungan sa reunion — bakit niyo binenta ang lupa? Bakit masyado kayong greedy?”

Hahaha,” a different Reddit user commented.

“Yan kasi ‘di ko maintindihan, lalo sa mga matatanda. Pwede naman kasi manahimik kung walang masabi kesa pilitin mag-small talk tapos ganyan lang din, susko. Meron ako kilala sa relatives namin na walang ibang ginawa kundi pansinin ang weight ng mga tao. As in, parang lahat chine-check kung pumayat o tumaba,” another Redditor wrote.

Family reunions are a big deal for Filipinos, who value close-knit relationships and putting family first. During the Holidays, clans gather to celebrate Christmas and New Year, reconnect, and share festive meals.

Conversations often touch on personal topics like appearance, work, relationships, or family planning. While meant as casual chatter, these questions can feel intrusive or tactless, especially in large gatherings where everyone can weigh in with unsolicited advice.

Psychiatrist Kathryn Tan advised Filipinos that they can respond to such questions or comments with wit or humor to help ease potentially awkward moments during family gatherings.

“Witty comebacks would allow us to set the boundary, say our message, and at the same time, maintain that composure of being the ‘polite’ niece or nephew,” she said in an interview.

“Remember, it’s none of their business, so it can be triggering for a whole lot of people. It’s overly personal to ask anyone why they’re single, or comment about their body,” Tan added. (J. Malasig?Interaksyon)

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Championing Child-Friendly Content: GMA Network Programs and Personalities Win at 2025 Anak TV Seal Awards



GMA Network continues to uphold its position as a powerhouse of child-friendly television content by securing multiple wins at the 2025 Anak TV Seal Awards held on December 2 at The Peninsula Manila.

A total of 33 programs from GMA Network, including five GTV programs, and beloved Kapuso personalities earned recognition at this year's Anak TV Seal Awards.

Leading the Network's accolades in the Anak TV Seal Awards (Television) category were GMA Integrated News' flagship newscast "24 Oras" and "24 Oras Weekend."

Also recognized in the same category were GMA Public Affairs' top-rating program "Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho" for its Zipline to School episode, the country's longest-running morning show "Unang Hirit," investigative documentary series "Reporter's Notebook" for its story Upuan ni Ipiw; environment and wildlife show "Born to Be Wild," trivia show "Dami Mong Alam, Kuya Kim," and health and wellness program "Pinoy MD."

GMA Entertainment programs also triumphed in the television category at the 2025 Anak TV Seal Awards: the highly-acclaimed "Pulang Araw," top-rating sitcom "Pepito Manaloto: Tuloy Ang Kuwento," anthology series "Magpakailanman," inspiring GMA Afternoon Prime drama "Prinsesa ng City Jail," and musical variety program "All-Out Sundays."

Joining the list of Kapuso winners were educational programs "iBilib" and "Amazing Earth," children's favorite "Daig Kayo ng Lola Ko," reality talent show "The Clash" and "The Voice Kids," and fun-filled shows "TiktoClock" and "Family Feud."

Rounding up the winners for GMA in the television category were GMA Synergy's "NCAA Season 100 Opening Ceremony," GMA Regional TV's "Balitang Bisdak" and "One Western Visayas," and the blocktime program "Agripreneur."

GTV programs were also recognized at the 2025 Anak TV Seal Awards: "Balitanghali," "Biyaheng ni Drew," "Farm to Table," "Good News," and "Pinas

Sarap."

In addition, several GMA programs were also given the Makabata Awards for Television (Top 10 Favorite Programs): "Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho," "Family Feud," "I-Witness," "24 Oras," "iBilib," "AHA!" "Daig Kayo Ng Lola Ko," and "Amazing Earth."

Various Kapuso artists and personalities also won in other Anak TV categories.

Asia's Multimedia Star Alden Richards was inducted into the Anak TV Hall of Fame.

Pambansang Ginoo David Licaucó, "iBilib" host Chris Tiu, and Sparkle artists Marco Masa and Will Ashley emerged as winners in the Anak TV Makabata Star Television (male category), while Kapuso Primetime Princess Barbie Forteza, Global Endorser Gabbi Garcia, and Sparkle star Shaira Diaz won in the female category.

Alden Richards and Will Ashley were again recognized in the Net Makabata Star (male category), while Sparkle artists Mika Salamanca and Caprice Cayetano were included in the female category.

GMA Pinoy TV, the flagship international channel of GMA Network, won honors in the Online Anak TV Seal category for its projects and programs: "Pinoys at Sea," "Hanap ng Pusong Global Pinoys," and "Global Pinoy Unlimited."

Anak TV is an organization that promotes media literacy and advocates for child-friendly content. Through its annual awards, television programs that earn the distinction sport the Anak TV Seal while being aired, informing viewers that the content is child-friendly and appropriate for children and their families.

For more news and updates, visit www.GMANetwork.com.

GMA Network and Save the Children Philippines Renew Partnership to Advance Children's Rights

Marking the culmination of National Children's Month, GMA Network and Save the Children



Strengthening a shared mission for every child. Present at the partnership renewal: Save the Children CEO Atty. Alberto T. Muyot, Chief of People, Culture, and Organization Atty. Joycelyn Manuel, Kapuso Primetime Princess and Ambassador Barbie Forteza, GMA Senior Vice President for Talent Development & Management, Program Management, Human Resources, Legal, and Worldwide Division Atty. Annette Gozon-Valdes, and GMA VP for Corporate Affairs and Communications Angela Javier Cruz.



Kapuso Primetime Princess and Save the Children Ambassador Barbie Forteza engaged with young advocates in a child-led session.

Philippines renewed their partnership on November 24 to strengthen collaborative efforts promoting the rights, protection, and participation of Filipino children through responsible and inclusive media. The event, held at the GMA Network Center, brought together GMA Senior Vice President Atty. Annette Gozon-Valdes, Save the Children Philippines CEO Atty. Alberto Muyot, Kapuso Primetime Princess and Save the Children Ambassador Barbie Forteza, and child representatives from partner communities.

Atty. Annette Gozon-Valdes highlighted the importance of ensuring that children's perspectives are recognized in public discourse. "Ang kabataan, they are the hope of our nation, they are the hope of the world, and we need to really listen to their voice kasi they are very empowered," she said. "We at GMA, we are here to make your voice heard, papakinggan namin kayo at talagang gagawa kami ng paraan para marinig kayo ng buong bansa."

During the child-led engagement, Barbie Forteza delivered a message emphasizing the responsibility of adults and institutions to listen to children and act on their concerns. "Lahat ng boses natin, lahat 'yan nagmamatter, lahat 'yan

importante. And again, kayo na po ang aming future leaders, kaya most definitely, nagmamatter talaga ang boses ninyo," she said. "Lahat ng concerns ninyo dapat pinapakinggan naming matatanda, inohonor natin, nirerespeto natin, at isinasaksiyong naming matatanda; dahil sa inyo nakalaan ang future namin at future ng magiging mga pamilya namin."

The program included a Speakers' Bureau session led by Mike Rivera, Creative Consultant of GMA's Entertainment Group, and Mariz Umali, a Kapuso reporter and anchor. The session introduced children to principles of effective communication, safe self-expression, and the use of storytelling in advancing their rights, supporting children's participation as outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The day was capped with a guided tour of GMA Network's newsroom, studios, and broadcast facilities, where children saw how information is gathered, produced, and shared with the public. The visit created a learning space beyond the classroom—allowing them to observe how creativity, innovation, and reporting come together in responsible media production.

In a three-way contest, Sara Duterte wins 2028 presidency: analyst

By Carlito Pablo

Sara Duterte doesn't have to win a majority of votes become the next president of the Philippines in 2028.

All that needs to happen is for the two political blocs represented by the camp of current President Ferdinand "BBM" Marcos Jr. and the Opposition not to strike a strategic alliance.

This is how political analyst Antonio Contreras sees a potential outcome of the 2028 presidential contest.

Contreras is a professor at the University of the Philippines, and he writes a regular column for the Manila Times newspaper.

In a recent column, Contreras noted that there are "three major blocs heading into 2028: the Duterte bloc anchored on Sara; the Marcos bloc, which will field its own candidate since President Marcos is term-limited; and the Opposition bloc, an uneasy coalition of liberals, progressives and the divided Left".

"Here is the arithmetic many refuse to confront: if both the Marcos bloc and the Opposition put forward their own candidates, Sara Duterte can

win even with just 30 percent of the vote. She does not need a majority. She only needs her minority to remain cohesive while the other blocs tear each other apart."

Contreras's article is titled "The hate triangle that could elect a nightmare", and it was published on December 6, 2025.

Contreras suggested that a "mutual assured defeat becomes the most likely 2028 scenario" for Duterte's opponents.

"The Marcos bloc will field



Vice President Sara Duterte has been topping surveys among potential candidates in 2028 for president of the Philippines.

someone because they always do; they have machinery and muscle memory. The Opposition will field someone because they believe they must stand for their values and refuse absorption. And the Duterte bloc will field Sara because she remains their only anchor. With three substantial candidates, the vote splits, and the most united mi-

most "abandon political purism long enough to acknowledge that their internal fissures only empower their shared adversary". "Whether they admit it or not, Marcos loyalists, Liberal Progressives, Akbayan and Makabayan are united in one thing: they all distrust or outright despise Sara Duterte."

There is one "most important strategic task for anyone who genuinely wants to prevent a Sara Duterte presidency".

That is, "find or create a candidate acceptable to Marcos loyalists, Liberal Progressives, Akbayan and Makabayan. Someone not defined by the old Marcos-Anti-Marcos binary. Someone capable of bridging emotional divides maintained for far too long."

According to Contreras, this task is possible because Marcos is not eligible to run

for another term as president in 2028.

"This removes the single greatest emotional barrier to coalition-building. If BBM were still running, unity between Marcos loyalists and the Opposition would be unthinkable. But since he is not, the field is open in ways unseen in decades."

On December 11, 2025, the Manila Times published another column by Contreras titled "Why claims of 'Duterte 2.0' are analytically unsound".

"The future is not foretold. It is being contested in real time, by actors whose strategies, alliances and contradictions will continue to evolve. A Duterte return is possible, but it is not inevitable. To assume inevitability is to misunderstand the very nature of our politics, its volatility, its nonlinear pathways and its history of unexpected realignments," Contreras noted.

"The landscape today presents vulnerabilities for the administration, yes, but vulnerability is not automatically strength for the Dutertes.

The path ahead remains open, shaped not by prophecy but by the unfolding, un-

predictable dance of Philippine political life."

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COMMUNITY CORNER

BY CHRISTIAN CUNANAN & APPLE PLATA



Historama Christmas Party Marks Launch of "The Ten Commandments" Fundraising Event

The Historama Christmas Party, held on Friday, December 12, 2025, at Odessa in Burnaby, was formally opened by the Director and Producer of Philippine Historama, Mrs. Carmelita Salonga Tapia.

She warmly welcomed the Historama family with an inspiring message and officially launched the upcoming Historama's fundraiser - The

Philippines HISTORAMA Presents: The Ten Commandments Fundraising Event, scheduled for December 27, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at St. Patrick's Gymnasium in Vancouver.

Adding warmth to the festive atmosphere, guests enjoyed a sumptuous dinner as the Mapua Alumni of BC Choir serenaded attendees with

traditional Christmas songs. Proceeds from the caroling will benefit Bahay Kalinga in the Philippines.

The fundraiser event program will feature a tribute to Lu Lauron and Ching Colobong - "Believe that history tells the past and twisted history gives the laughs."

Featuring Creative works by

Great Artist Raymon Maliwat, and Dance-O-Rama to be led by Maestro de Baile Noel Trinidad, Historama's CARAMBACHEROS, and Historama's Divas. Musical performances will be provided by Ed & Salve Dayao and Friends, with DJ Jay Apoin.

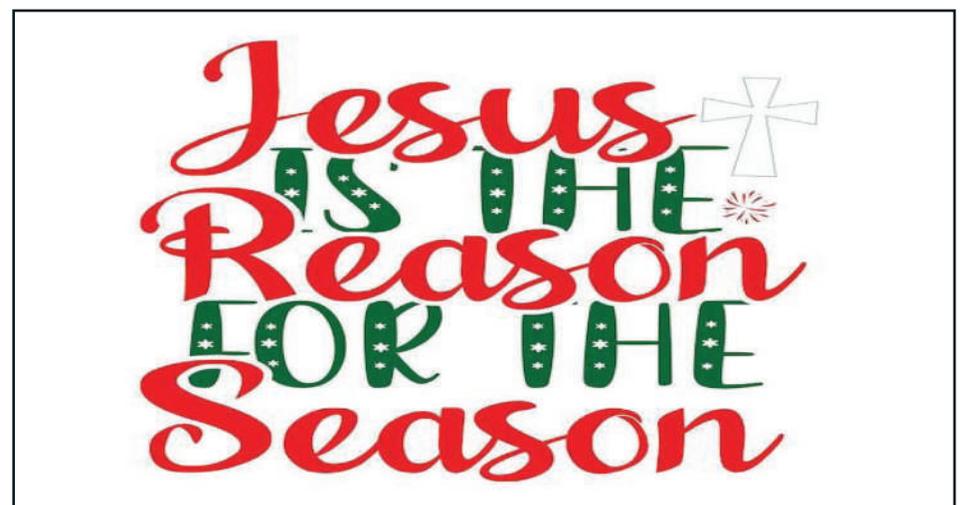
Proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit the 2026 HISTORAMA Stage Production.



PHILIPPINE HISTORAMA CHRISTMAS PARTY 2025



MAPUA ALUMNI OF BC CHOIR



Vice Ganda delivers best performance yet in Jun Lana's MMFF film

If you thought you already knew Vice Ganda, think again.

That was my immediate impression when award-winning director Jun Lana didn't hold back in praising the comedian and TV host when talking about their dynamic working relationship.

At a recent grand media conference held at Vice Comedy Club, Lana called Vice's latest performance "his best yet." He even joked that his own career as a director now seems tied to the star.

"Parang malinaw na sa akin na ang buhay ko ay nakatali na rin kay Meme bilang isang direktor. I looked forward to the next project kaya mas matagal yung proseso, mas matagal binusisisi, and gusto namin na higitan yung sa And The Breadwinner Is...." the director pointed

"Everybody in the production, when we were doing it, says that this is the best performance yet of Meme. The first few days pa lang talaga sinabi ko na kay Meme na mas confident siya ngayon."

Lana also acknowledged Vice's growth as an actor, pointing out his hands-on involvement in bringing their 2025 Metro Manila Film Festival entry to life.



Call Me Mother, an official entry to the 51st MMFF, hits cinemas on Dec. 25, and the buzz is already huge. Its trailer garnered 20 million views within 24 hours, with the hashtag #CallMeMotherFullTrailer trending nationwide shortly after its release on Dec. 2.

The film tells the story of two mothers: Twinkle (Vice), a former queen maker turned adoptive queer mother, and Mara (Nadine Lustre), Angelo's biological mom, who struggles with regret over the decision to give up her child to pursue her dreams.

Twinkle reaches out to Mara to finalize Angelo's adoption, but Mara demands a bargain—Twinkle must help her win the country's biggest beauty pageant. What follows is a touching exploration of love, sacrifice, and what it truly means to be a parent.

"When this movie explains na motherhood is beyond gender. It's beyond bearing a child, giving birth to a child. Mas malawak at mas malalim pa yung ibig sabihin ng pagiging nanay talaga," Vice said.

The cast is a star-studded mix of talent, including Klarisse De Guzman, Mika Salamanca, Brent Manalo, Esnyr Ranollo, River Joseph, Shuvee Etrata, Chanda Romero, Carmi Martin, Ces Quesada, John "Sweet" Lapus, MC Muah, Iyah Mina, Jennifer Sevilla, Robert Ortega, Tanya Gomez, and Divine Teta.

Call Me Mother is produced by Star Cinema,

The IdeaFirst Company, and Viva Films. (N. Wang/Manila Standard)

ABS-CBN programs to air on ALLTV beginning Jan. 2

ABS-CBN announced Wednesday, December 17 that the Kapamilya Channel will air on ALLTV beginning January 2, 2026 under a licensing agreement with Advanced Media Broadcasting System Inc. (AMBS), which owns and operates the free-to-air channel.

In a statement, ABS-CBN said: "Advanced Media Broadcasting System Inc. (AMBS), which owns and operates ALLTV, has obtained a license from ABS-CBN to air the Kapamilya Channel on ALLTV effective 2 January 2026."

ALLTV viewers will be able to watch ABS-CBN programs such as "FPJ's Batang Quiapo,"

"Roja," "What Lies Beneath," "It's Showtime," "ASAP" and "TV Patrol."

ABS-CBN added: "Prime ABS-CBN programs will continue to be available on A2Z, with 'It's Showtime' and 'Pinoy Big Brother Celebrity Collab 2.0' airing on GMA."

The network said the move followed TV5's decision to terminate its content agreement with ABS-CBN effective January 2, 2026. ABS-CBN said:

"ABS-CBN has settled its obligations with TV5/MediaQuest in accordance with each party's agreements. We thank Mr. Manny V. Pangilinan and TV5 for providing a home for some ABS-

CBN programs since 2021."

ABS-CBN also cited its ongoing partnership with AMBS, saying:

"AMBS has been a partner of ABS-CBN since 2024, carrying selected ABS-CBN programs, including iconic Kapamilya shows under the Jeepney TV brand, as well as 'It's Showtime' and 'TV Patrol'."

The network said it remains

committed to its audience, stating: "We remain committed to serving our audiences by bringing stories, news and entertainment that bring love, joy and hope to Filipino families. Maraming salamat, Kapamilya!"

In a separate statement released earlier, TV5 said it decided to end its content agreement with ABS-CBN due to financial considerations. (abs-cbn)



Billing was never an issue in 'Rekonek,' says Bela Padilla

Despite boasting a star-studded lineup, the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) 2025 entry 'Rekonek' avoided a potential billing controversy among its actors, as its cast is united by one guiding principle: the story comes first.

This was confirmed by Bela Padilla, who said she didn't mind her name being placed third behind Gerald Anderson and Carmina Villarroel in the official movie poster of 'Rekonek,' especially since Gerald is the co-producer.

"Ako naman po, alam ko naman anong lugar ko sa industriya. So, wala naman po sa akin. Hindi ko nga napansin. (As for me, I know my place in the industry. So, it's not mine. I didn't even notice)," Bela noted during a pocket mediacon for "Rekonek" held at Reality MM Studios in Makati City.

"I can't question that, eh," the actress-director pointed out when asked if the billing was important to her. "Because if I question that, that means I think I'm bigger than Miss Carmina or Sir Zoren or Miss Gloria, di ba? Which I don't."

Bela added that in the same vein, "I'm not going to argue my position with Andrea Brillantes since I know naman how many films I've done and what TV shows Andrea has done. So it's okay."

For his part, Reality MM Studios president Erik Matti admitted that casting is really a challenge when there are several big-name stars in a film.

"Yang casting ang isa sa mga pinaka mahirap na part with

so many actors involved, di ba? Ayaw naman namin ng in order of appearance, or alphabetical order. Parang cop-out so mahirap talaga. (Casting is one of the most challenging parts with so many actors involved, right? We don't want to do it in order of appearance or alphabetical order. It's like a cop-out, it's challenging)," he stated.

The hierarchy of names notwithstanding, Bela said she was so "pleasantly surprised" working with Andrea in "Rekonek", where they play sisters.

She also admitted that she is not aiming for any awards, but quipped that if MMFF will recognize 'Rekonek,' it should be for the "Best Ensemble Acting."

"Sakto lang po yung binigay ko dito. Binigay ko po kung ano lang yung nararapat. Pero, light lang naman po kasi yung character namin. Hindi naman kami umiyak ni Andrea. Sabi ko nga po sa inyo, tawa lang kami ng tawa ni Andrea dito. (I just gave what was appropriate for the role. My character was meant to be light anyway. Andrea and I didn't really cry. As I said, we were mostly laughing the whole time)," she narrated.

Aside from Gerald, Carmina, Andrea, and Bela, the "Rekonek" cast includes Zoren, Cassy, and Mavi Legaspi; Ms. Gloria Diaz, Charlie Dizon, Kokoy De Santos, Kelvin Miranda, Angel Guardian, Alexa Miro, and Raf Pineda.

The film marks Bela's return to the MMFF after her last festival entry, "Miracle in Cell No. 7" in



Bela Padilla plays the role of an overseas Filipino worker stranded on Christmas Day (Facebook)

2019. She describes her comeback as timely and meaningful.

"This is my MMFF era again," she said, smiling. "Masaya ako kapag MMFF kasi I don't really celebrate Christmas in real life. I like seeing people happy."

She added that the festive atmosphere, mall tours, and cinema visits are all part of what makes the season special for her. "I'm excited to see our film first, of course, and then watch the rest. Support local tayo," she said.

Producer Dondon Monteverde, CEO of Reality MM Studios, explained that "Rekonek" carries a heartwarming theme that will resonate strongly with Filipino audiences: the experience of being away from home during Christmas due to a worldwide internet outage.

He noted that the film grew from a simple concept: what happens when

travellers suddenly lose internet access, and flights are cancelled days before Christmas? From that idea, the filmmakers developed multiple characters, including an OFW (played by Bela) whose inability to return home adds drama to the situation.

"Filipinos are everywhere in the world," Monteverde added. "And during Christmas, not being able to go home, especially without the internet, is a big deal."

An official entry to the 2024 Metro Manila Film Festival, "Rekonek," directed by Jade Castro, opens in cinemas nationwide starting Dec. 25. (A. S. Jusay/mb.com.ph)

Janice de Belen, Tonton Gutierrez, Zaijian Jaranilla, Sylvia Sanchez, and Lorna Tolentino.

Both award-winning actresses, Sanchez and Tolentino also serve as producers under Nathan

NEXT PAGE PLEASE...

'I'm Perfect' celebrates love of young adults with Down Syndrome

While films have occasionally featured characters with disabilities, "I'm Perfect" is the first full-length Philippine movie to center on the lives, challenges, and triumphs of young adults with Down Syndrome.

By the time it screens this December at the Metro Manila Film Festival 2025, "I'm

Perfect" will make Philippine film history as the first love story to feature not just two, but 10 young adults with Down Syndrome.

Written and directed by multi-awarded director Sigrid Andrea P. Bernardo, the film revolves around Jessica (Anne Krystel Daphne Go) and Jiro (Earl Jonathan Amaba), in the lead

roles, supported by their friends who are also members of the Down Syndrome Society of the Philippines: Carl Jason Garcia, Richelle Joyce Primo Uy, Gio Jose Dicen, Angela Batallones, Javi Sarmiento, Bea Mendoza, Royce Gian Rivera, and Jonathan Tilos.

Completing this extraordinary cast is a powerhouse lineup of respected actors to support them: Joey Marquez,

Lorna Tolentino waives talent fee for 'I'mPerfect'

Award-winning actress Lorna Tolentino revealed during an emotional press conference for Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) 2025 entry "I'mPerfect" that she has decided not to get her talent fee as one of the artists in the film.

Co-producing the movie, Tolentino explained, "Matagal na po kaming nagsasama ni Sylvia [Sanchez] sa pagsilip [at] pagtingin ng mga pelikula. May mga pelikula kaming hindi natutuloy na kaming dalawa. Finally, natuloy ito."

Tolentino went on to say that the story and its impact on her spirit influenced her decision to invest in the film, which stars real-life young adults with Down Syndrome.

"Mayroon din naman po akong kaunting itinaya. 'Yung TF po — bilang part na rin ng investment.



Naniniwala po ako na may tusok sa puso ng lahat — 'yung istorya, 'yung experience with them," she told the press.

Adding that she has a family member with autism, she stated, "Alam ko po 'yung sinasabi ng lahat na nakakahiya [na maka-distract ng ibang tao kapag

nasa public places]. 'Yung experiences na ganyan."

The Grandslam Queen praised the young actors, calling them pure.

"'Yung experience ko with them, totoong-totoo, very pure, very being. Pagmamahal ang na-share nila sa amin. Hindi mo mararamdaman 'yung problema kapag kasama mo sila. Happiness at joy ang ibinigay nila," she said.

Moved by their acting's unpolished quality, she expressed, "May mararamdaman ka sa eksena na magic. 'Yung bigla mong mararamdaman 'yung emosyon nila na tumatama sa'yo. Siguro 'yun 'yung rawness. Wala 'yang mga technique, method na natututunan sa workshops. Ito talaga 'yung totoo. No-

acting piece talaga."

She added, "Dahil sa pureness na 'yun, lalong tumatama sa puso mo kapag kaeksena mo sila. Wala nga akong ibang ginawa sa pelikulang ito kundi umiyak nang umiyak. Nakita ko talaga kay direktor kung paano niya inalagaan ang mga bata."

Tolentino closed by thanking the cast and encouraging the moviegoers to watch "I'mPerfect." "Nagpapasalamat ako na naging parte ako ng pelikulang ito. Isa ito sa palagay ko na unang-una na magbibigay ng magandang tatak sa Nathan Studios," she concluded.

Directed by Sigrid Bernardo and executive produced by Sylvia Sanchez, "I'mPerfect" also stars Janice de Belen, Joey Marquez, Zaijian Jaranilla, Viveika Ravanes, and many more. (J. Mercado/abs-cbn)

'I'M PERFECT CONTINEOUS...



Studios.

NOT A DRY EYE AMONG THE CAST

The cast, along with Bernardo, became emotional during the film's media conference in Quezon City on December 14. Sanchez described the project as a triumph, particularly for the young adults, who have shown the world what they are capable of.

She added that the cast and crew had formed a close bond over the course of filming.

"Each day of filming became a family-like ritual, a warm get-together with food and conversations in between takes, and punctuated by dance performances by the gifted

cast," Sanchez said.

"The 'dances' had become a cherished routine: they did not just provide a dose of happy energy; they, along with constant "group hugs," became a way for everyone to collectively express their love for one another," she added.

On a personal note, Sanchez admitted that these 10 young adults became like angels sent by God to her and her family during a difficult time when the Ataydes were facing political backlash and challenges.

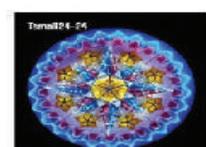
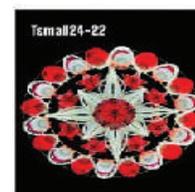
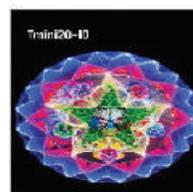
Moved to tears, both the gifted children and their parents found the project to be a beacon of hope — an affirmation of their right to exist, to live fully, and to love. (L. Garcia/ abs-cbn)

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AT THE MOVIES
By Robert
Waldman

Beast of War (PG) **

Running time: 1h 27m

Close Encounters !

Wars are tough. Well Go USA Entertainment shows how difficult combat can be in the dramatic *Beast of War*.

Original and intriguing with a deadly twist this dramatic thriller is now available on streaming services iced as well as on Blu-ray and DVD.

Made by Australians and shot down under *Beast of War* is all about giving your all in the war effort.

Set in 1942 we witness the tough love training meted

out by a hardened officer and his equally brutal second in command.

During this hard training men become men. Or so it's supposed to go.

One thing is certain: two soldiers boys have a complete dislike for one another out in the field and inside the barracks.

This tension comes into play big time as the war comes closer to home. Too close to comfort.

Apart from the action this film is all about survival. Left to fend for themselves the men must tackle adversity as well as a sea creature that adds more uncertainty into the mix.

Director Klah Roache-Turner also co-wrote this intense yarn and succeeds in pulling you in.

Be prepared for a ride into the unknown.

Though the shots at night are darkish the brutality of surviving the unknown is well played out and the film does keep you on edge - especially if you like swimming in the great outdoors.

For more reviews please visit my website moviereviewssite.com.



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Zsa Zsa Padilla returns Aliw Lifetime Achievement Award after 'embarrassing' handling of ceremony

Zsa Zsa Padilla took to social media to call out the Aliw Awards 2025, expressing deep disappointment over how her Lifetime Achievement Award recognition was handled during the awarding ceremony.

In a two-part Instagram post, Zsa Zsa said she was initially "elated" after being chosen as a Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, honoring her 42 years in the entertainment industry.

"I didn't prepare a written speech, thinking it would be better to speak from the heart," she said.

"After all, I had so much to be grateful for, having been in this industry for 42 years."

The veteran singer and actress said she intended to acknowledge the many people who helped shape her longstanding career, as well as her family, who were present during the awards night.

However, what followed left Zsa Zsa "shocked and deeply disappointed."

"We were handed our



awards and waited for a while, assuming we would be given the opportunity to say a few words," she recalled.

"Instead, a production staff member eventually signaled for us to step down," she added.

After the ceremony, Zsa Zsa said she ended up delivering her acceptance speech not onstage, but outside the venue when a vlogger asked her thoughts

about the award.

"Afterward, I felt like crying," she said. "I was still dumbfounded by how the awarding was handled."

"To be dismissed so abruptly after supposedly being 'honored' was shocking and embarrassing."

Zsa Zsa then called on the Aliw Awards to "do better."

"Honor people properly. Prepare video presentations explaining why recipients are being given Lifetime Achievement Awards," she suggested.

She also pointed out inconsistencies during the awards night, noting that some awardees were given the chance to deliver short speeches.

"What was missing was sincerity," she said. "Instead of feeling honored, I was left feeling small as I walked off that stage."

"For that reason, I am returning the award to you," she added. "I hope you understand this gesture and take it as an opportunity to learn how to honor your recipients with the respect they deserve."

Aside from Zsa Zsa, other recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award were Gary Valenciano, Jed Madela, and Franki Asinero.

GMA News Online has reached out to Aliw Awards Foundation, Inc. for comment, but has yet to receive a response as of writing. (H. J. Tunac/JCB, GMA Integrated News)

Angelica Panganiban says she and Ellen Adarna can be friends amid tangled showbiz relationships

Actress Angelica Panganiban said she sees no reason she and Ellen Adarna can't be friends in an interview with Karen Davila.

Angelica and Ellen once dated the same men: John Lloyd Cruz and Derek Ramsay, now Ellen's husband.

In the interview, Karen asked Angelica, "Hearing now what she (Ellen) has been going through with your own ex, what are you thinking about?" Angelica responded that she felt dismayed and somehow shocked.

Asked if she felt sadness, the actress said: "Hinahanap ko 'yung sadness. Noong una, hinahanap ko 'yung pake ko. 'May pake ba 'ko?' Wala naman ako pake pero 'yun nga parang may ano lang ako. 10 years yung gap namin ng ex ko. 'Talaga ba? Almost 50 na siya. Nagulat lang ako na, 'Ah, hindi pala kumalma.'"

Karen further asked if Angelica and Ellen could be friends, and the actress responded positively.

"Feeling ko. Marami kaming pag-uusapan... Huwag lang niya i-screenshot.. Huwag lang niya i-record... Hindi pa nga ako nai-invite sa group chat e!" Angelica quipped.

The actress also extended goodwill to Ellen amid her reported separation from husband Derek, saying she

wishes her well in her motherhood journey, as Ellen shares a son with John Lloyd and a daughter with Derek.

"Alam mo, I wish her well... Having two kids? Hirap no'n. And nakikita ko 'yung ibang stories niya na madadaan sa algorithm ko, mukha siyang okay na mom. 'Di ba, parang you wish her well. 'Di ba, go te, galingan mo diyan," Angelica said.

The comments come amid heightened public interest in Ellen's personal life after the former actress recently made headlines for sharing screenshots she calls "receipts" of her husband Derek's alleged infidelity, a revelation that has captured social media attention and even inspired a quirky online marketing trend.

Some brands earlier took cues from Ellen's viral posts, mimicking the format of her screenshots in their own promotional content, including promos from local eateries and mall holiday displays.

Ellen's allegations, first shared on November 17, revolve around messages she says date back to early in her relationship with Derek, just days after they became a couple in February 2021. She claimed she only learned of the purported infidelity three weeks since she released the expose, shortly after their recent wedding anniversary, and has publicly called out the actor's behavior while stopping short of naming the other woman



This composite photo shows Karen Davila's interview with Angelica Panganiban and a portrait of Ellen Adarna. (Quantum Films via Facebook; Ellen Adarna via Instagram)

involved on legal advice.

Meanwhile, Ellen saw Angelica's interview and took to Instagram to laugh off the actress' comment. She even joked about the group chat mentioned in the interview.

"Promise, masaya and nakakatawa ang group chat," Ellen wrote in an Instagram Story, tagging Angelica.

(Interakyon news With J. Liang and R.Adel)



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Manila archbishop restates Church is for everyone

Cardinal Jose Advincula opened the traditional Misa de Aguinaldo Mass at Manila Cathedral on Tuesday, Dec. 16, urging Catholics to embrace inclusion as Christmas preparations began.

In his homily, Advincula said Simbang Gabi is not reserved for the devout but welcomes everyone seeking faith, healing or a renewed relationship with God.

“Lahat kasali dito. Everyone has a place here,” Advincula said, repeating his message that the Church must remain open to all people during the Mass.

Misa de Aguinaldo is a nine-day series of dawn or evening Masses celebrated by Filipino Catholics worldwide, marking preparation for Christmas and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Cardinal Jose Advincula presides over the first day of Misa de Aguinaldo at Manila Cathedral on Dec. 16, 2025. (Manila Cathedral via CBCP)

The cardinal said the nine days reflect the nine months Mary carried Jesus, inviting the faithful to walk with her and prepare their hearts for Christ.

He welcomed first-time attendees, returning Catholics and those burdened by doubts or wounds, saying the Church exists not for the perfect but for all seekers.

“The Church is not meant only for those who feel worthy. It is meant for all who seek the Lord,” Advincula said.

He warned that selective acceptance and judgment create divisions in families, workplaces and parishes, fueling perceptions that the Church excludes ordinary or struggling Filipinos.

“Because of this, many Filipinos stop coming to church. Some think the Church is only for the perfect. Others stay away because they feel judged by those who attend Mass. This should disturb us,” he added.

The Manila archbishop urged the faithful to notice those ignored at school, work or parish life, and to respond with compassion, listening and concrete acts of welcome.

As Simbang Gabi continues, Advincula said the season challenges Catholics to widen their hearts, reflect God’s mercy and build communities that unite rather than divide.

“Let us become a Church that welcomes rather than excludes, that listens rather than judges, that reflects the mercy of Christ,” he said.

(CBCP News)

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Alex Eala wins SEA Games tennis gold, ends long drought for PH



Alex Eala wins SEA Games tennis gold, ends long drought for PH

MANILA, Philippines—Alex Eala capped a banner year wearing a Philippine jersey, winning the country's first Southeast Asian Games women's tennis singles gold in 26 years.

Eala stamped her class and outlasted home bet Mananchaya Sawangkaew, 6-1, 6-2, to rule the 33rd SEA Games and deliver the historic gold in front of Filipino fans cheering on Thursday at National Tennis Development Center in Nonthaburi, Thailand.

After dominating the opening set, Eala had to overcome a challenging second frame, where she complained about the calls of the linesman and found herself tied at 2-2 against Sawangkaew.

But the Team Philippines flag bearer displayed grace under pressure, winning four straight games.

Tied at 30 in eighth game, Eala scored off a strong backhand to

take the lead, followed by a fault from Sawangkaew to complete her historic campaign.

After clinching the win, Eala hugged her parents, ran around the court with the Philippine flag, and celebrated with the Philippine national tennis team. The 20-year-old player dominated right from the get-go with a 3-0 start before Sawangkaew stopped the bleeding. Eala got the better of the Thai in the last three games to draw the first blood.

Eala became the third Filipino to win a gold medal in women's tennis singles, joining an elite group of Pia Tamayo, who won in 1981 Manila games, and Maricris Fernandez in the 1999 Brunei edition.

Before Eala, the last tennis singles gold for Team Philippines was delivered by Cecil Mamiit in the men's division when he won the last of his 'three-peat' in 2009.

It was a great end to the year for the Filipino tennis ace, start with her dream semifinal run in the Miami Open, where she took down three Grand Slam champions to earn main draw berths in the French Open, Wimbledon, and US Open, where she earned her first win.

The Rafa Nadal Academy graduate also won her first Women's Tennis Association crown in the Guadalajara 125 Open in September and made a new career-high world ranking of No.50 last month.

Eala finished with a gold and a pair of bronze from the mixed doubles and team event in this year's SEA Games

She and Niño Alcantara fell to home bets Patcharin Cheapchandej and Pawit Sornlaksup in the mixed doubles semifinal, 7-5, 5-7, 7-10.

She also received a medal from the team event, where she was listed but did not see action, with Shaira Rivera, Alexa Milliam, Tennielle Madis, and Stefi Aludo. It was Eala's second SEA Games stint. She won three bronze medals in her debut at the 2021 Vietnam SEA Games.

SEA Games 2025: Full medal table of the 33rd Southeast Asian Games

Latest Update: Discover the medal tallies of all 11 Southeast Asian nations competing at the multi-sport event in Bangkok and Chonburi, Thailand.

From 9-20 December, Southeast Asian nations are celebrating sport at the 2025 SEA Games in Thailand.

Bangkok and Chonburi are the host regions for the 33rd edition of the multi-sport event, back to where the regional Games began in 1959.

A total of 13,657 athletes are set to compete across 50 medal sports, ranging from Olympic disciplines to traditional local sports.

The 10 participating nations are hosts Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Myanmar, Vietnam, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Brunei Darussalam, and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

On 10 December, Cambodia withdrew their delegation from the 2025 SEA Games due to "safety concerns".

- Thailand
- Indonesia
- Vietnam
- Singapore
- Malaysia
- Philippines
- Myanmar
- Lao People's Democratic

Republic
Brunei Darussalam

Democratic Republic of
Timor-Leste

Gold medals galore in different fronts

BANGKOK. — It was a triple joy for the triathletes, twice the thrill for the muay thai bets, and an extension of the country's reign in one of the esports tournaments.

Amid the oven-hot weather, the trio of Kira Ellis, Raven Alcosoba, and Kim Mangrobang shone the brightest, giving the Philippines an early gold in the triathlon women's team relay Wednesday at the Leam Mae Phim Beach in Rayong. The women's squad clocked

one hour, 10 minutes, and 14 seconds to stamp its mark in the 300-meter swim, 8K bike, and 2K run. Philippine Olympic Committee President Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino hailed the triathletes' triumphs and the esports gold in MLBB where the Pinoy proved too much for Malaysia with a 4-0 wipeout victory at the Chulalongkorn University

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SEA GAMES rom page 21



GOLDEN GIRLS: Triathletes Kira Ellis, Kim Mangrobang and Ravena Alcosoba proudly display their golden harvest. POC MEDIA POOL

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The Smart-backed Sibol squad was composed of Sanford Vinuya, Kiel Soriano, Karl Nepomuceno, Jaypee Dela Cruz, Alston Pabico and John Carlo Roma.

“Magandang araw ito ngayon. Isa sa pinaka-magandang araw natin,” Tolentino said.

“Malaki ang supporter natin, Smart, nandiyan kasi. Expected pero sa babaeng laban may laban kaunti pero dito expected,” added the hardworking POC chief.

The Triathlon Association of the Philippines’ gambit on fielding

Ellis in lieu of Erika Burgos at the last-minute worked wonders in the 10-nation biennial meet supported by the POC and the Philippine Sports Commission.

“It was a last-minute change in the schedule,” Ellis, 19, said. “I wasn’t supposed to race, but then we thought, if I start for the team and Raven finishes with the team, we really have a strong chance at getting gold. It worked out. We tried to strategize and get a gap for whoever and try to lead through the entire race.” (M. Jugado/Malaya)

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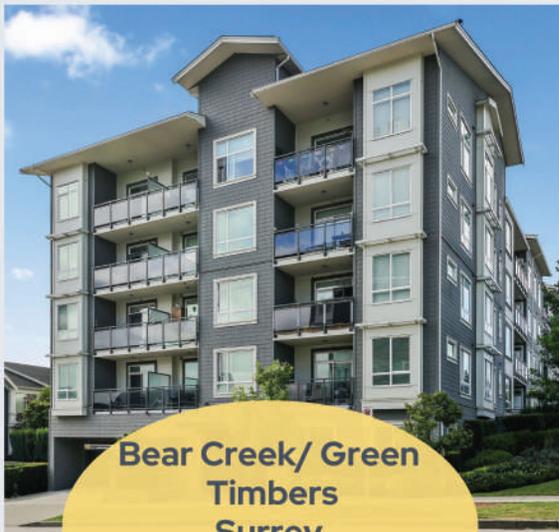
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