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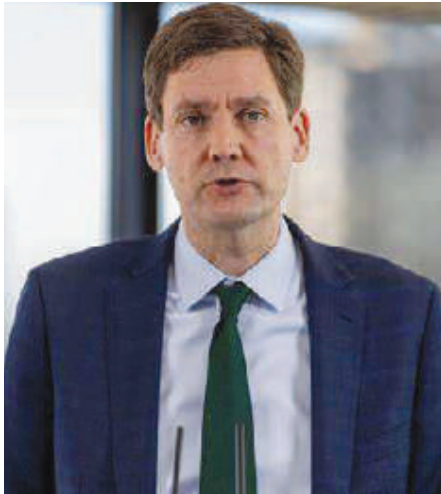
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# Adopting permanent daylight saving time

*‘Spring forward’ on March 8 will be the last time change, ending twice-yearly clock changes*



**BC Premier David Eby**

The Province of British Columbia is adopting permanent year-round daylight-saving time (DST) to improve people’s overall health, reduce disruptions for families, simplify scheduling and provide an extra hour of evening light during the winter months.

“Every parent knows that changing clocks twice a year causes a significant amount of chaos on already busy lives. British Columbians have been clear that seasonal time changes do not work for them,” said Premier David Eby. “This decision isn’t just about clocks. It’s about making life easier for families, reducing disruptions for businesses and supporting a stable, thriving economy. I am hopeful that our American neighbours will soon join us in ending disruptive time changes.”

B.C.’s transition to one year-round time zone will begin after the province “springs forward” on Sunday, March 8, 2026, when clocks move ahead by one hour. This will be the final time change in British Columbia. People and businesses will have eight months to prepare for Nov. 1, 2026, when clocks would usually be turned back, but now will remain the same. At that point, the transition to Pacific time, the name of B.C.’s new time zone, will be complete.

Pacific time will be set seven hours behind co-ordinated universal time (UTC-7), matching the current offset used during daylight saving time.

“We have heard the overwhelming majority of people in B.C. who want to end the back-and-forth of seasonal time changes,” said Niki

Sharma, Attorney General.

“This shift offers more stability, supports public well-being and reduces twice-yearly, unnecessary disruptions to the routines of parents, shift workers, small businesses, pet owners and so many more. I look forward to all of us enjoying an extra hour of sunlight after work and school for many winters to come.”

**Why permanent DST makes sense for B.C.**

In summer 2019, the Province conducted a public engagement on time observance that saw participation from a record 223,000 people, with 93% supporting adopting year-round DST. Similarly, across all industry groups and nearly all occupational groups, support for year-round DST observance was higher than 90%.

Evidence suggests there are many benefits to ending the seasonal time change, including:

- more consistency and fewer disruptions to sleep patterns, school schedules, and daily routines
- more usable light in the evenings in winter, allowing more leisure time, participation in outdoor activities and consumer activity
- reduced administrative burden for small businesses and service providers who may require less system reprogramming, schedule shifts and operational resets every spring and fall
- more consistency for planning across transportation and technology services

**How the change will be made**

The Interpretation Amendment Act, which is the legal framework that enables the Province to adopt permanent DST, became law in 2019. At the time, government chose not to bring it into force in order to co-ordinate timing with neighbouring U.S. states in the same time zone.

Recent actions from the U.S. have shifted how B.C. approaches decisions that merit alignment, including



on time zones. Making this change now reflects the current preferences and needs of British Columbians, and helps ensure the province is well-positioned to thrive, even when circumstances across the border evolve.

Regulation will bring the amendments into effect after Sunday, March 8, 2026.

Government will work closely with organizations, small businesses, and public-sector partners between March and November 2026 to ensure a smooth, well-co-ordinated transition to permanent DST.

**Locations that observe mountain time**

There are a small number of communities in eastern parts of British Columbia that observe some form of mountain time

instead of Pacific time.

Those regions will not be affected by these changes.

However, as a result of Pacific time no longer changing twice a year, many of these communities will be brought into greater alignment with the rest of British Columbia.

For example, Dawson Creek, which observes mountain standard time year-round, will be on the same time as most other places in British Columbia in the winter and summer months. Whereas places like Cranbrook that observe mountain time, but switch between standard and daylight times, will be aligned with the rest of the province during in the winter months, but will be one hour ahead in the summer. (news.gov.bc.ca)

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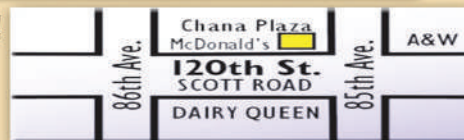
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## Petition calls on Filipino BC to cancel its Lapu-Lapu 2026 festival



An online petition is asking Filipino BC to pull the plug on its Lapu-Lapu 2026 festival in Vancouver.

The campaign comes as the group has announced plans to bring back the festival that was marred by tragedy in 2025.

The call also follows demands for Filipino BC to make a full accounting of the donations received in the aftermath of the tragic festival last year.

Eleven people died and many others were injured when a man rammed a car through the

crowd at the April 26, 2025 Lapu-Lapu festival.

“Postponing the festival is a sign of respect for those whose lives have been profoundly affected. It offers a much needed time for healing and reflection. By delaying the festivities, we not only acknowledge the pain and loss that members of our community feel, but also show solidarity with the actual victims as we work through the

collective grief and hardships left in the attack’s wake,” the petition reads.

The petition was started on February 26, 2026 by Roan Hidalgo.

“I was fortunate enough to

leave the event just minutes before the unexpected attack changed the course of our history. My cousin, however, was among those who witnessed the devastating events unfold and continues to grapple with the haunting memories. My own grief is a permanent part of me,” Hidalgo recalls in the petition.

“Survivors of the attack are still in the process of healing. Their wounds, both physical and emotional, remain fresh. Our shared trauma lingers. In light of this, a brave surviving victim of the horrific incident has stepped forward to call upon FilipinoBC to put a pause on hosting the Lapu Lapu Festival this year,” the petition notes.

**To read and sign the petition calling for the cancellation of Lapu0Lapu 2026:**

**Petition • Pause the FilipinoBC Lapu Lapu festival for 2026 - Canada • Change.org**

## Surrey hosts forum on gender-based violence to raise awareness on a growing crisis

*The City of Surrey welcomed front-line workers, community partners and subject matter experts yesterday for a forum on gender-based violence.*

**Surrey, B.C.** – The City of Surrey welcomed front-line workers, community partners and subject matter experts yesterday for a forum on gender-based violence. Held at City Hall, the event aimed to increase awareness, share data and support coordinated efforts to address what Mayor Brenda Locke called a growing public safety and public health crisis. The event marks a key milestone in elevating awareness and discourse around an important and urgent topic.

“Gender-based violence is not a private matter — it is a crisis affecting families and communities every day,” said Mayor Brenda Locke. “We are committed to providing a platform to keep the conversation going by working actively with our community partners, and by strengthening prevention efforts that protect women and gender-diverse people in our city.”

In her opening remarks, the mayor emphasized the scale of the issue, noting that a female is killed every 48 hours in Canada and that nearly half of women in B.C. have experienced some form of intimate partner violence. She also highlighted that Indigenous women are six times more likely to be killed than non-Indigenous women.

Speakers highlighted “made in Surrey” solutions, including advocacy for safety audits of public spaces and calls for standardized risk-assessment tools across police and health services. The City also recognized the essential work of front-line responders, forensic nurses and community organizations that support survivors and work tirelessly to eliminate gender-based violence.

Presenters also outlined ongoing challenges, including housing shortages and gaps in the legal system that can allow coercive control to continue after separation. Recent legislation, including the Protecting Victims Act (2025), was highlighted as a step forward.

“Preventing gender based violence requires every part of the system to work together — public safety, health, housing and community partners,” said Brian Edwards, General Manager of Public



*Group photo from left to right: Wendy Potter, Ending Violence Association of BC, Amy Fitzgerald, BC Society of Transition Houses, Councillor Pardeep Kooner, City of Surrey, Vera LeFranc, Network to Eliminate Violence in Relationships, Natalie Klaver, Surrey Police Service, Samantha Grey, Surrey Women's Centre, Mayor Brenda Locke, City of Surrey, Shana Slater, Shelter Movers, Sarah McIntosh, Surrey Vulnerable Women and Girls Working Group, Winston Sayson, KC, LLB, Councillor Rob Stutt, City of Surrey*

Safety for the City of Surrey. “This forum reinforces our shared commitment to early intervention, survivor centred supports, and building a coordinated response that keeps people safe.”

The event showcased the network of services available in Surrey, including the Surrey Women's Centre, Atira, Elizabeth Fry Society, Options, YMCA, Pacific Community Resources Society, DIVERSE City Community Resources

Society, Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA) and long-standing collaborations with organizations such as the Network to Eliminate Violence in Relationships (NEVR).

Speakers and panelists included leaders of Surrey-based and province-wide organizations that provide anti-violence and/or housing services, as well as relevant subject matter experts. (City of Surrey)

## Alden Richards honored as one of the Most Valuable Taxpayers for 2025



Alden Richards was honored as one of the country's Most Valuable Taxpayers for 2025 at the 2026 Tax Campaign Kick-off organized by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), which took place at the Jose Rizal Coliseum.

In his speech, Alden expressed gratitude for the recognition, emphasizing that the award goes beyond personal achievement.

“I'm deeply humbled and grateful po to be recognized as one of your most valuable taxpayers of 2025. This award is not just a personal achievement actually. It's a reminder po of our shared responsibility bilang mamamayan ng ating bansa,” Alden remarked in his speech during the event as seen in a video posted on Instagram. He added: “Naniniwala po ako that paying the right taxes is more than just a legal obligation. It's a commitment to nation-building.”

Alden also highlighted how tax contributions support essential government services

such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, and social programs that uplift communities across the Philippines.

“When we pay our taxes honestly and on time, we actively take part in shaping a better future for every Filipino,” he noted.

Recognizing the influence of public figures, Alden expressed hope that his recognition would inspire others to fulfill their tax obligations faithfully. “I hope that through this recognition, more individuals, especially those in the private sector and the entertainment industry, will be encouraged to fulfill their tax obligations faithfully and transparently,” he stated.

The actor added: “Being a responsible taxpayer is something

we should all take pride in. Dapat po nating ipagmalaki ang ating pagiging taxpayer.”

Aside from being an actor, Alden enrolled last year in an aviation school in Pampanga to become a pilot.

Despite his demanding showbiz schedule, Alden is confident he can balance it with aviation school through effective time management.

“There's no such thing as a busy schedule when you make time and you have time management. Time management is the key. Definitely this year for ground school and then tuluoy-tuloy na 'to. This will be a two-year course and after I graduate, I'm gonna be able to fly a commercial plane,” he highlighted in a past interview on 24 Oras. (Toff C./ Push Team)

# Anne Curtis' flight turns back to Milan amid Middle East tensions



which departed from Milan following her Fashion Week trip and was bound for Dubai, was instructed to turn back mid-air. "Next thing I knew, they announced we would be turning around and making our way back to Milan due to the airstrikes," she wrote.

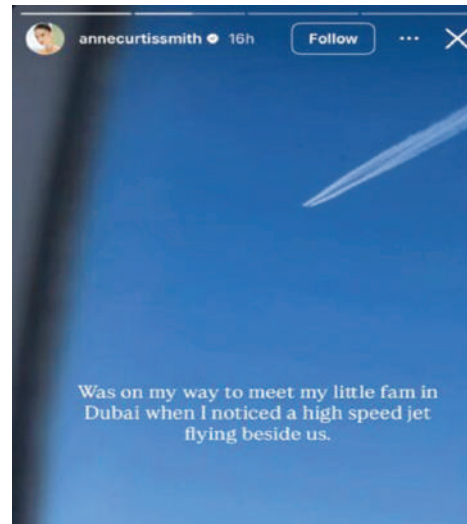
The actress later learned that flights to and from parts of the Middle East had been canceled as a safety precaution. She also urged Filipinos in the region to stay safe.

Actress and TV host Anne Curtis was among the passengers affected by flight disruptions when her plane had to return to Milan due to increasing tensions in the Middle East.

In a series of Instagram Stories, Anne shared videos taken from her window seat, showing fighter jets flying near the aircraft. She said the flight,

The disruption comes as tensions escalated in the region following reported airstrikes in Iran, including in the capital, Tehran, and nearby cities. The attacks, reportedly involving the United States and Israel, triggered retaliatory missile strikes targeting U.S. facilities in neighboring countries.

The situation has led to widespread flight cancellations



Screengrab from the video clips posted by actress-TV host Anne Curtis on her social media during their tense flight from Milan to Dubai on February 28, 2026 amid news that US and Israel launched massive air strikes against Iran, causing global flight disruptions and diversions. (Courtesy: Anne Curtis via Instagram)

and airspace restrictions, affecting travelers across multiple international routes as authorities prioritize passenger safety. Actress Anne Curtis is now reunited with her husband

Erwan Heussaff and their daughter Dahlia in Oman. This was confirmed by Curtis' mother Carmen through a Facebook post on Tuesday, March 3. (R. Deveza/ abs-cbn news) & A. Villanueva/Manila Standard)

# Ruby Ruiz stranded in Dubai amid Middle East airspace closures



her joy meeting fellow Filipinos in Dubai. "Masaya [akong] makilala ang mga kapwa Pilipino dito," she said.

Ruby recently starred in international projects, including the film *First Light*, which premiered at the Melbourne International Film Festival.

In the movie, Ruiz leads an all-Filipino cast and portrays a nun named Sister Yolanda.

"The role of sister Yolanda talks about the awakening at pagka mulat niya. Dito pinakita paano faith ay sinusubok paniwala ko sa Simbahan, Diyos, dahil sa nangayayare sa kapaligiran mo," she shared in a previous interview with ABS-CBN News. "Ito po ay maganda because it is about the awakening of a nun. Pagkamulat sa katotohanan ng buhay sa loob at labas ng kumbento," she added.

In 2025, she joined a cast seasoned actors in *Everybody Knows Every Juan*. It is a dark comedy, family drama film directed by Alessandra de Rossi.

In 2024, she also starred in the Prime Video mini-series titled *Expats* alongside Nicole Kidman, portraying the role of Essie in the show. The series

was filmed in Hong Kong.

"I didn't realize when I auditioned that it was a big production kasi lagi naman akong nag-audition saan-saan, whether local or international," she recalled in an interview with TFC's BRGY. Ruby said she only realized the magnitude of the project after receiving a call from series director Lulu Wang confirming she had secured the role and that she would be working with Nicole.

The actress also initially thought she would only have a minor

appearance in the series, but upon reading the script, she discovered that Essie played a crucial role throughout the story.

"When I read the script, ano pala siya from episode 1 to episode 6. Essie was part of the show, of all the episodes. And 'yung highlight na binigay sa OFWs really moved me. Sobrang nagpasalamat ako kay Lulu," she said. "Kasi sa research daw talaga nila, Filipinas are the number one being sought after ng mga expats para maging nannies or domestic helpers in Hong Kong." (Toff C. /push team)

Actress Ruby Ruiz has been stranded in Dubai as Middle East airspace closures disrupt flights following US-Israel attacks on Iran, triggering retaliatory strikes on US airbases across the GCC.

On her Instagram Stories, Ruby shared a glimpse of the situation at Dubai International Airport after the airspace shutdown left several travelers affected. The actress then revealed that she and her companions were safely transferred to a hotel amid the disruption. "I am soooo grateful to be with this bunch of kindhearted, caring, smart, shalaaaa dear friends. Feels so reassuring and still [finding] to be happy in this not so happy situation," she wrote. In another post, Ruby expressed

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## 'Disgusting!': Female celebs, advocates slam congressman for 'nag-init' comment



MANILA — Quezon City 4th District Representative Bong Suntay was urged by a fellow lawmaker to issue a public apology after his remarks on actress Anne Curtis, which some female lawmakers perceive as “offensive” and an “objectification of women”.

Quezon City Rep. Bong Suntay is facing backlash after recounting a story about actress Anne Curtis that many netizens and public figures described as inappropriate.

In a circulating video, Suntay shared an anecdote about seeing Curtis at a mall and spoke about his reaction at the time, including remarks about his “imagination” and whether he could be held liable for it.

He said, “Alam mo, minsan, nasa Shangri-La ako, nakita ko si Anne Curtis. Ang ganda-ganda pala niya. You know, may desire sa loob ko na nag-init talaga. Na-imagine ko na lang kung ano ang puwedeng

mangyari. Pero siyempre, hanggang imagination na lang ‘yun. Hindi naman siguro ako puwedeng kasuhan dahil kung anu-ano ‘yung na-imagine ko.”

The comments, which surfaced during Women’s Month, quickly drew criticism online, with several female celebrities and women’s rights advocates calling out the lawmaker over his statements.

Jasmine Curtis-Smith wrote, “Respectfully, Bong Suntay, what on earth? Bakit ganoon ang thinking? Happy National Women’s Month.”

She added, “Yung init ng ulo at dugo ko.. ang hirap matulog ha!”

Lotlot de Leon said, “OMG! And you’re supposed to be a STATESMAN!? To even speak about this out loud! Have you no decency at all!?!?”

Suntay ought to apologize,

according to Karen Davila.

“Without the consciousness, knowledge or decency of how women should be talked about. Please keep your sick thoughts to yourself. More than striking his comments off the record, he should apologize,” the broadcaster expressed.

Bianca Gonzalez tweeted, “Please let us not normalize this behavior. Disgusting, especially for a public servant. The fact that there is no remorse, no clue as to why what he said was offensive and inappropriate, and even commented in an interview that ‘she should take my remark as a compliment’ is what makes this disgusting comment even more disgusting.”

Amy Perez wrote, “Disgusting talaga!”

Meanwhile, the Gabriela party-list called on Suntay to issue a public apology, stating, “Ang pagbabahagi ng kanyang imahinasyon tungkol sa isang babae— anumang dahilan—ay tahasang pambabastos at pag-objectify sa kababaihan.”

The group added, “There is no place for sexism and objectification of women by public officials. We will continue to demand respect, uphold women’s dignity, and push for accountability.” Suntay’s remarks were also denounced by the House Committee on Women and Gender Equality.

“Hindi ito simpleng biro

o harmless na komento. Ang pagre-reduce sa isang babae bilang object of sexual imagination, lalo na sa opisyal na pagdinig, ay tahasang sexist at nakakahiya. Wala itong lugar sa anumang institusyong dapat nagtataguyod ng respeto at propesyonalismo,” they shared.

Known for her initiatives for women, Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte also criticized the congressman for his “casual display of objectification.”

Describing Suntay’s comment as inappropriate, Belmonte said, “As a former member of our City Council, he (Suntay) was part of the body that passed our Gender and Development Code. Moreover, he was the majority floor leader of the city council when we passed the Bawal Bastos Ordinance, which declares that lewd, malicious, and demeaning remarks and acts have no place in public life. Quezon City instituted this policy in 2016 — ahead of the national Safe Spaces Act.”

As of this date, Suntay initially doubled down on his comments, saying that Curtis should take it as a compliment. He later issued an apology but said he stood by his statements.

“I stand by that analogy that I made but if some people were offended, lalo na Women’s Month, I’m sorry for those who were offended but if you read the context talaga, there was nothing malicious in it,” Suntay said in an interview with DZMM.

(J. Mecado/abs-cbn News)

## 'Family Feud' marks 4th year with special celebrity episodes

GMA Network’s “Family Feud” marked its fourth anniversary on Monday with the start of a monthlong celebration featuring celebrities from television, social media, film, sports and the arts.

Hosted by Dingdong Dantes, the anniversary special brings together a wide range of guests for episodes airing throughout March.

Headlining the celebrity contestants are Vice Ganda, Jhong Hilario, Vhong Navarro, Darren Espanto, Ryan Bang, Cianne Domingo, Jackie Gonzaga and Amy Perez from “It’s Showtime.” Also part of the lineup are the SexBomb moms, the winners

of “PBB Celebrity Collab 2.0,” and Shuvee Etrata and Anthony Constantino with friends from the modeling industry.

Veteran actresses Hilda Koronel and Eugene Domingo are also featured, alongside Dina Bonnevie, Carmi Martin, Bembol Roco and Rez Cortez.

Social media personality Small Laude and her sons, PJ, Michael and Tim, also appear in one episode against members of Beks Battalion: Chad Kinis, MC Muah, Lassy and Beki Velo.

The show will likewise feature a

SEE NEXT PAGE...



It’s Showtime’ hosts cross over to GMA Network to head the celebrity lineup of the game show’s fourth anniversary: (Clockwise from top left) Darren Espanto, Ryan Bang, Vice Ganda and Jackie Gonzaga



# Jodi Sta. Maria, Anne Curtis, Paulo Avelino express concerns for Filipinos and call for peace as conflict in Middle East intensifies

Amid the intensifying conflict between US-Israel joint forces and Iran's Revolutionary Guards that have resulted in the death of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Filipino celebrities have voiced their concerns for their kababayans and used their platforms to call for prayers and peace.



Jodi Sta. Maria

Jodi Sta. Maria was among the first to react as the news broke, writing on X (formerly Twitter) on March 1 to stress that "no one truly wins" in war.

"In war, no one truly wins...it's always the people who are left living in fear, traumatised, and confused," she wrote, reflecting on the human cost of these conflicts.

She said that her thoughts and prayers were especially with Filipinos living and working in the Middle East, adding: "Thinking of everyone affected by the US-Israel-Iran conflict, especially our fellow Filipinos in the Middle East. Praying for safety, clarity, and peace for all.

Meanwhile, Anne Curtis shared a more immediate and personal encounter with the crisis. The It's Showtime host was on a flight bound for Dubai after attending the Milan Fashion Week 2026 in Italy when she witnessed high-speed jets flying near her plane, a moment she captured and shared on her Instagram Stories. As airstrikes continued, Anne later revealed that their flight was forced to turn back to Milan after all flights to the Middle East were

*Family Feud from last Page..*

matchup between the team of prima ballerina Lisa Macuja and the side led by basketball player Ricci Rivero.

A kiddie episode featuring young beauty queens is also part of the anniversary lineup.

As part of the celebration, "Family Feud" is expanding its "Guess More, Win More" promo. Viewers of GMA's afternoon and primetime blocks can join by answering questions shown during commercial breaks, with selected participants taking home

grounded. Along with the update, she expressed concern for families in the region and urged her fellow Filipinos to stay safe.

"Praying for all the families in the Middle East. Sa mga kababayan natin, ingat po. Stay safe everyone. Hoping things ease soon," she wrote in the caption.

The Alibi actor Paulo Avelino also took to X to address Filipinos in the Middle East and emphasized the importance of staying alert. He further reminded them to keep communication lines open with the Philippine embassy should the situation require assistance.

"To all my fellow Filipinos in the Middle East and nearby areas, I hope you and your families are safe. Please stay alert, avoid risky areas, and follow local advisories. Keep in touch with the Philippine embassy if needed. Stay safe always," he advised.

Netizens also wrote supportive

a share of P500,000 each week. Studio audiences are also set to get their own game this month. In addition to watching the live taping, attendees may receive cash prizes, gift packs, and other giveaways.

The network said the anniversary specials are its way of thanking loyal viewers who have helped make "Family Feud" a regular part of many Filipino households.

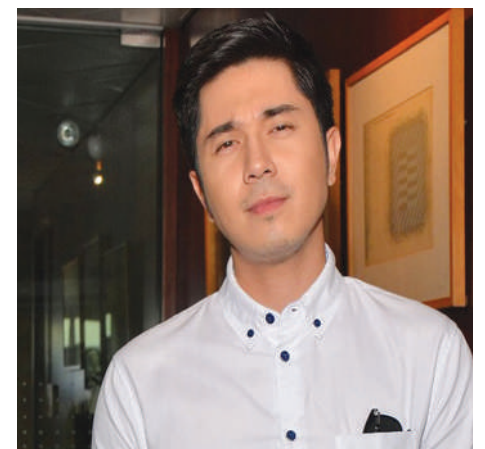
"Family Feud" airs Mondays to Fridays at 5:40 p.m. on GMA-7. Filipinos abroad can also watch the program on GMA Pinoy TV. (Manila Times/Entertainment)



Anne Curtis

messages online, expressing appreciation for the celebrities' concern, sharing that they are also joining them in the call for peace and prayers.

Their messages came in response to the conflict that continues to unfold following waves of US-Israel strikes targeting sites in Iran. The attacks prompted response from Iran, who in turn launched missiles and drones towards Israel and four Gulf Arab



Paulo Avelino

countries hosting US military bases: Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.

In addition to the death of Iran's supreme leader since 1989, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iranian state media also confirmed the deaths of members of his immediate family, including his daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter.

(A.De Guzman, Push Team)

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# Lella Ford, Caprice Cayetano win 'PBB Celebrity Collab Edition 2.0'

After four months inside the "Pinoy Big Brother" house,

**Lella Ford and Caprice Cayetano were named the Kapamilya and Kapuso Big Winners, respectively, of "Pinoy Big Brother: Celebrity Collab Edition 2.0" during the show's finale on Feb. 28.**

Ford emerged as the Kapamilya Big Winner after receiving 53.63 percent of the public vote. Cayetano, representing the Kapuso side, secured 61.78 percent of votes in her category. Each received a P1 million cash prize.

Ford, introduced on the show as the "Blooming Bunso ng Tacloban," thanked her supporters and family after the announcement.

Cayetano, dubbed the "Demure Daughter ng Quezon City," also expressed gratitude to those who backed her throughout the competition.

In an Instagram post following her win, Cayetano wrote "First of all, thank you so much to PBB for accepting me for who and what I am. Kuya, thank you for being a parent and a



**Caprice Cayetano**

friend who guided us every day."

She also addressed her fellow housemates, whom she called her "second family." "Thank you for the love and for everything we went through together. I love you all so much, and nothing will change," she said.

Cayetano also thanked GMA Network and Sparkle, as well as the executives and mentors who supported her.



**Lella Ford**

"Thank you for the trust and the opportunity you gave me. To my family and supporters, my heart is overflowing with love," Cayetano added.

Second placers Krystal Mejes (Kapamilya) and Heath Jornales (Kapuso) garnered 22.26 percent and 24.25 percent of votes, respectively. They each received P500,000.

Joaquin Arce (Kapamilya) placed third with 16.95 percent, while Ashley

Sarmiento (Kapuso) earned 8.47 percent. Both took home P300,000.

Miguel Vergara (Kapamilya) finished fourth with 7.16 percent, and Princess Aaliyah (Kapuso) received 5.50 percent. They each won P200,000.

The finale highlighted the continued collaboration between ABS-CBN and GMA Network, featuring performances from BGYO, Cloud 7, Fyang Smith, JM Ibarra and Kai Montinola from "Pinoy Big Brother Gen 11," Charlie Fleming from "Pinoy Big Brother Celebrity Collab Edition Season 1," and Kyle Echarri.

The Big Night was hosted by "Pinoy Big Brother" mainstays Luis Manzano, Bianca Gonzalez, Robi Domingo, Gabbi Garcia, Melai Cantiveros-Francisco, Alexa Ilacad and Mavy Legaspi.

Episodes and highlights of "Pinoy Big Brother: Celebrity Collab Edition 2.0" are available on the show's official YouTube channel and on iWant. (Manila Times Entertainment; Photos from ABS-CBN)

## Karla Estrada fires back at daughter Lella Ford's detractors

Actress and TV host Karla Estrada spoke out against online attacks targeting her daughter, Lella Ford, saying the situation has gone beyond criticism.

In a strongly worded post, Estrada condemned what she described as "below-the-belt" remarks directed at her child and warned that legal action may follow.

She revealed that the profiles of those posting harmful comments have already been forwarded to her cyber libel team.

"Nasasanay tayo na mag-bash lang nang hindi ninyo iniisip na naka-tiwangwang ang mga profile ninyo, kasama nga ang anak, mga magulang, at pamilya ninyo. Pinadala lang

sa akin ito ng cyber libel team. Hindi ninyo kailangang mag-lock ng profile nyo, mache-check din kasi lahat. Sige lang, mabastos lang kayo, may balik lahat," she wrote.

Estrada also cautioned netizens that hiding behind private or locked accounts would not shield them from being identified. (J. Valdez/ Manila Standard)

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**Karla Estrada warns online critics with legal actions targeting her daughter Lella Ford**

# PH-Japan film festival brings Vice Ganda, Jun Lana closer to overseas audience

*It was laughter, tears and heartfelt gratitude on the first day of the Philippines-Japan Film Festival as Vice Ganda and Jun Robles Lana met audiences following the screening of "Call Me Mother" and "About Us But Not About Us."*

For Vice Ganda, the moment marked a milestone.

"It was actually a wonderful experience. First time kong umatend ng film festival abroad," Vice said, visibly thrilled. "Ganap na ganap ako."

Although her previous film "Praybeyt Benjamin" was screened at the Busan International Film Festival, this was her first time personally attending an international festival.

She described the joy of watching Japanese and Filipino audiences respond similarly to how viewers in the Philippines did during the Christmas run of "Call Me Mother."

"Yung tawa nila, tapos 'yung iyak nila sa dulo, ganun din 'yung nakita at naramdaman ko dito. Ibig sabihin, nasapul namin 'yung goal namin," Vice said.

The comedy superstar also expressed hope that the film would find wider distribution across Japan, noting how surreal it felt to see Japanese subtitles running alongside English translations.

Lana echoed Vice's sentiments, praising the cinematic quality of Japanese theaters and admitting he was tempted to turnaround during the screening after hearing someone quietly sobbing behind him.

"Nakakatawa, nakakagulat na mag-share sila ng personal stories," he said, recalling a Japanese father who told him he was deeply moved by the film and gained a renewed appreciation for his wife after watching it.

Three Filipino entries were helmed by Lana, prompting Vice to jokingly dub the event a "Jun Robles Lana Film Festival."



Facebook/ABS-CBN Film Productions Inc. (Star Cinema)

Vice also pledged her full support for the director's new film "Sisa," saying she would back it wholeheartedly even joking about mounting a block screening if she could not attend the premiere.

"Of course, susuportahan ko si Direk," she said.

### Japanese benefactor

One of the most touching moments of the interview came when Vice shared the story of a Japanese woman who supported her education from grade school until her second year in college.

Vice revealed that a woman named Noriko Tokura sponsored her schooling through a Japanese-Filipino scholarship program for gifted students.

"Malaking bahagi ng kung anong laman ng utak ko ngayon eh dahil sa kanya," Vice said. "She sent me to school. Hindi ko siya na-meet ever. Through letters lang."

The two exchanged weekly letters, but Vice lost the correspondence over the years

due to fires and relocation. Despite attempts to trace her benefactor, Vice has yet to reconnect with her.

Vice also made an emotional public appeal, thanking Tokura.

"Thank you, thank you very much Ms. Noriko Tokura. For giving me education, for sending me to school. A big part of who I am right now, I owe it to you."

She added that she hopes one day to personally meet and thank the woman who helped shape her future.

### Success

Masumi Soga, CEO of Spanic Films LLC and representative of the Philippine Film Festival Executive Committee, described the event as a major success.

Soga revealed that she first became interested in Lana's work after watching one of his films at the Osaka Asian Film Festival, saying she "fell in love" with it and found its emotional core relatable to Japanese

audiences.

Screenings of "Call Me Mother" were sold out over two days, with a mix of Filipino and Japanese viewers filling theaters. The Philippine Embassy in Japan also supported the initiative, helping raise awareness.

Soga admitted one of the biggest challenges is encouraging Filipinos in Japan to watch films in Japanese theaters, where English subtitles are not commonly provided. Still, she considers the turnout a breakthrough.

"Already success in bringing Philippine audience, maybe many of them for the first time to see film in Japanese theater," she said.

As the festival continues, both Vice Ganda and Lana hope this marks the beginning of more international collaborations and screenings.

Vice even hinted that when she began working closely with Lana, the long-term dream was clear: "Hanggang Cannes [Film Festival]." (G. Krishnan/abs-cbn news)

## 'He looks ok': Vice Ganda checks on Punch the monkey in Japan

"It's Showtime" host Vice Ganda shared that he was able to personally see the condition of Punch, the viral baby monkey in Japan that has captured global attention.

Punch is a baby macaque monkey at Ichikawa City Zoo in Japan, who went viral for his heart-wrenching search for companionship after being abandoned by his mother.

Videos and photos of Punch being bullied by other monkeys and seeking comfort from an orangutan stuffed toy circulated widely, drawing sympathy online.

As of February 24, Punch's situation has reportedly improved, according to The Japan Times.

"More recent footage has offered signs of hope: other macaques grooming him, sitting beside him and even hugging him," it reported.

The zoo previously said it would appreciate it if the people "support Punch's efforts rather than feel sorry for him," noting that the baby monkey has shown "resilience and mental strength."

Vice, who is in Japan with his

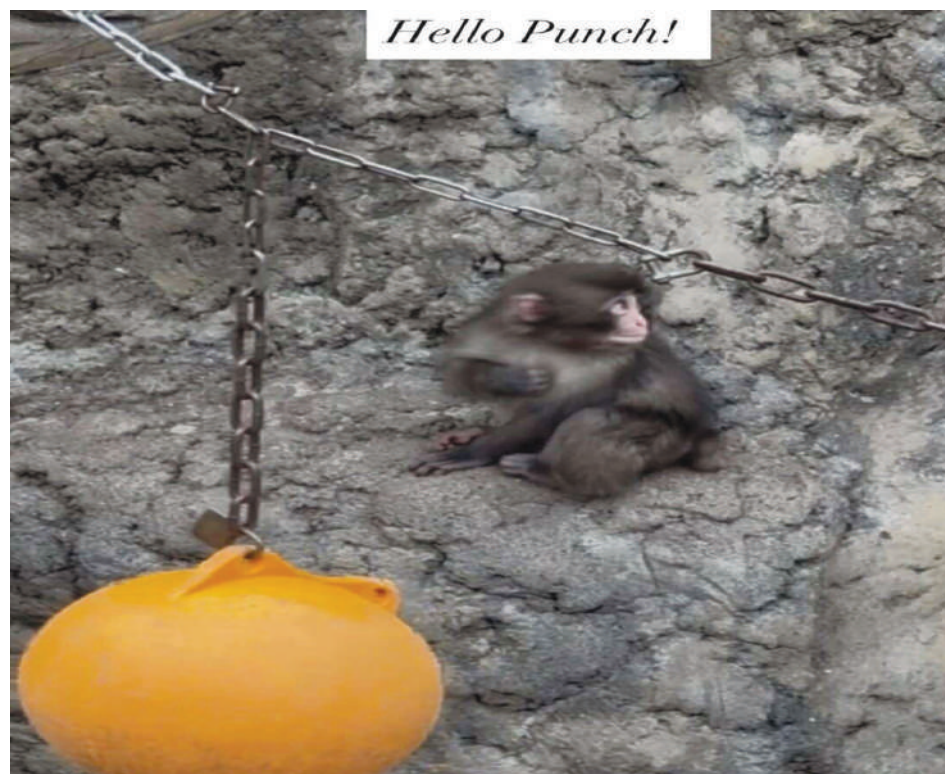


Vice Ganda in this photo posted on his Instagram on Feb. 5, 2026 (praybeytbenjamin via Instagram)

husband, Ion Perez, told his followers that he has personally seen the viral monkey.

"Success!!!! Nakita ko na si Punch!!! He looks ok. Niyayakap na siya ng malalaking jungoya. So happy!!!" Vice wrote on X (formerly Twitter) on Friday, February 27.

The post has earned 11,000 likes, 644 reposts and almost 80 replies.



Instagram Story of Vice Ganda featuring Punch the Monkey in Japan posted on Feb. 27, 2026 (praybeytbenjamin via Instagram)

Vice also shared a close-up picture of Punch on his Instagram Story, giving followers a firsthand look at the baby monkey.

"Hello, Punch!" he wrote.

Meanwhile, the incident has inspired some retailers to reference the viral story in their promotions.

Last week, I K E A Philippines posted a picture of a stuffed toy orangutan alongside a baby monkey, highlighting a product available in their store and nodding to Punch's viral story.

"Sometimes the best kind of comfort doesn't say a word. Hang in there, Panchi-kun!" the caption, accompanied by a hugging emoji, read. (abs-cbn)

## 'Batang Quiapo' directors reflect on 3-year journey



Batang Quiapo' directors. ABS-CBN News

After three years of gripping primetime television, the directors of "FPJ's Batang Quiapo" are looking back with pride, gratitude, and a deep sense of fulfillment as the action-drama series heads into its much-anticipated finale. For director Malu Sevilla, the journey has been nothing short of rewarding.

"It feels good. All the hard work has finally come to fruition. Lahat ng sinimulan namin has endured," she shared. "Kita namin kung gaano na-appreciate ng audience. 'Yung hirap ng buong team, nagpa-pay off. We're on a high. Sarap-sarap na feeling. And hindi madali. Hindi madali."

The show, which followed the massive seven-year run of "FPJ's Ang Probinsyano," carried with it towering expectations. Director Darnel Villaflor admitted the pressure was real.

"Mataas 'yung pressure kasi syempre coming from a seven-year streak ng 'Ang Probinsyano.' Ito ngayon three years naman," he said. "But every episode, we give it our best. The standard set by CCM Film Productions headed by Mr. Coco Martin is very high. Mine-maintain talaga 'yun."

Director Richard V. Somes likened the team's shared achievement to finding water in the desert "and suddenly nakakita kayo ng sobrang fresh na tubig sa gitna. Lahat kayo uminom doon."

"That's the feeling we achieved from production, staff, directors, and the great actors under the leadership of Direk Coco," he explained.

For Somes, the greater challenge wasn't just sustaining ratings it was raising the bar until the very end.

"From day one hanggang ending, kailangan consistent and even more intensified. I think na-deliver namin."

Much of the directors' reflections centered on the leadership and vision of series star, creator, and co-director Coco Martin, who plays Tanggol in the show.

Sevilla, who has worked with Martin for years, recalled seeing his potential early on.

"The first time I worked with him, sabi ko, itong artistang 'to, hindi lang siya artista. May vision siya," she said. "Every time we did scenes, nakikitaan ko na siya ng husay sa pag-develop ng karakter. True enough, he became a lead actor, then director, producer, and now creator. I witnessed his growth firsthand. I'm truly proud of him."

She described working with Martin as demanding but deeply fulfilling. "It's no walk in the park. But the fulfillment you get as an artist and co-creator iba. The professionalism, discipline, and immense talent

he brings to the table ibang klase talaga."

As "Batang Quiapo" builds toward its final chapters, the directors assured viewers that the ending will be both explosive and emotionally satisfying.

"The drama, the action, the intensity and giving the audience a new kind of experience in how scenes are mounted, how acting and action coincide. This is something fresh for Philippine TV in the next few weeks," he added.

Villaflor echoed the promise of a complete and well-rounded conclusion. "Expected na may pasabog, may barilan, maraming eksena. But assurance namin, hindi kayo mabibitin. Kumpletong experience sa ending. Makikita n'yo lahat ng magsasara all the plans, all of Tanggol's goals as bida. Ang tanong na lang: makukuha ba niya lahat?"

"It's about trusting the project and the right people beside you," Somes reflected.

(G. Krishnan/abs-cbn news)

# Rey Valera Reminisces with Vancouver on Valentine's Day

The ReyValera Valentine's Concert and Canada Tour at the Massey Theatre was an unforgettable evening of music, nostalgia, and Filipino pride, drawing an almost sold-out crowd eager to hear the Maestro's timeless hits. From the first note to the final encore, the audience sang along, filling the theatre with warmth and excitement.

The night opened with vibrant performances by Ed and Salve, followed by the dynamic Six Degrees of Silence Band, who energized the crowd and set the tone for an evening of world-class Original Pilipino Music (OPM). Their engaging set prepared the audience for the much-anticipated appearance of Rey Valera.

A highlight of the evening was the special guest performance by the renowned BC youth choir Himig Kabataan Cultural Society. The talented choristers joined Rey Valera in a moving rendition of "Malayo Pa ang Umaga," blending youthful harmonies with the Maestro's iconic voice. The collaboration drew enthusiastic applause and was one of the most memorable moments of the night.

Himig Kabataan further wowed the audience with beautifully arranged performances of "Umagang Kay Ganda," "Manila," and the beloved classic "Kahit Maputi na ang Buhok Ko," showcasing their vocal discipline, stage presence,

and deep appreciation for Filipino musical heritage.

Another group, Harana, sang some OPM songs that made the audience reminisce about their younger days.

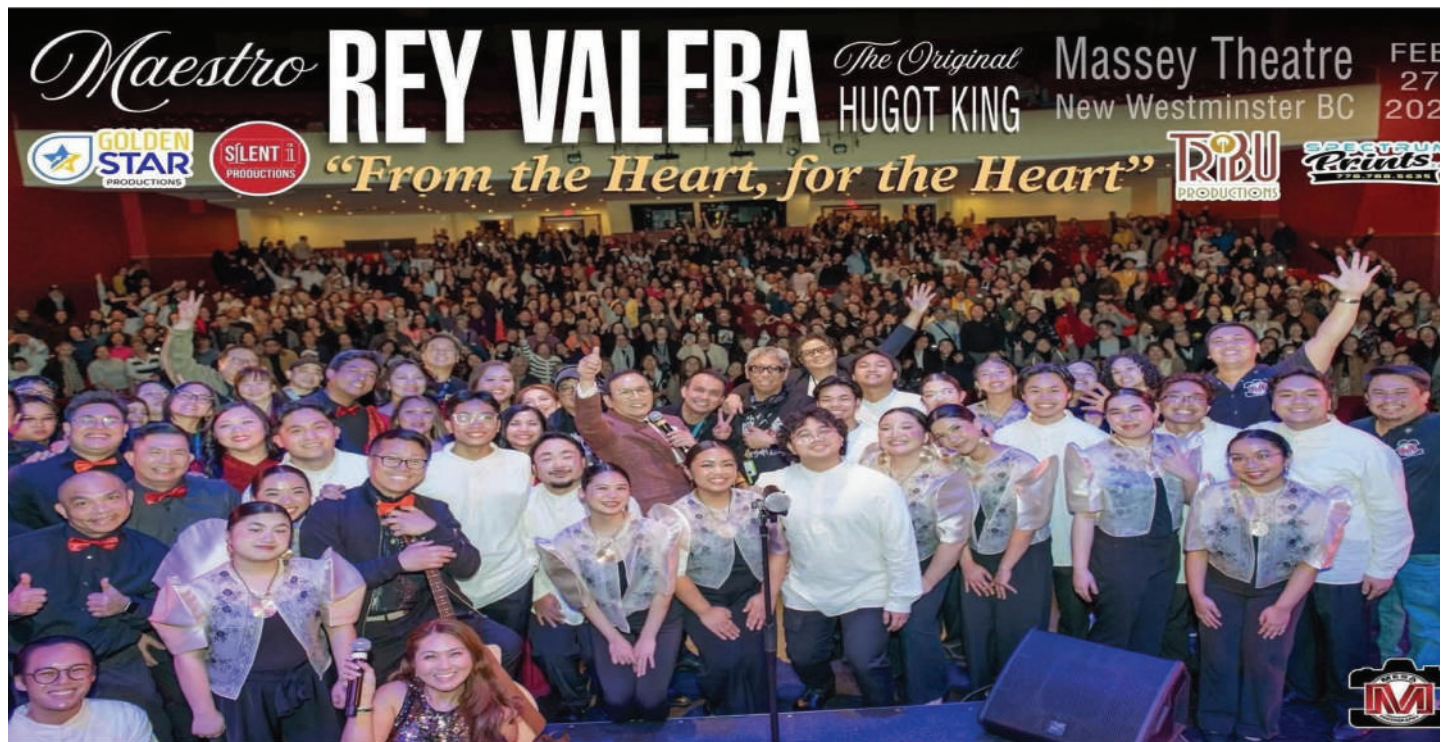
Rey Valera delighted fans with a parade of his greatest hits, each song met with cheers and heartfelt sing-alongs. True to his engaging style, he stepped down from the stage to connect directly with concertgoers, inviting audience participation and creating an intimate, joyful atmosphere despite the large venue.

Adding to the excitement was a raffle draw for Air Canada tickets, which brought extra anticipation

and celebration to an already electric evening.

The concert, put together by Tribu Productions, Golden Star, Silent I, Pinoy Cravings, Spectrum Prints, Ms. Filipiniana, Philippine Nurses Association in BC, and Germvengers Sanitation & Disinfection Services, with media sponsor ReyFort Media, GMA Pinoy TV and PCI News, was more than a performance—it was a celebration of music, community, and the enduring legacy of Rey Valera.

*(Photo Credit: AG Mendoza of 'Connect the Shots', official photographer from Toronto.)*



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**ICC continues probe on ex-Philippine president  
Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs**

By Carlito Pablo

Prosecutors with the International Criminal Court (ICC) are not yet done with their investigation into the war on drugs waged by former Philippine leader Rodrigo Duterte.

The probe continues even after the arrest of Duterte last year and the recent revelation of the names of at least eight of his alleged accomplices.

"The OTP is pursuing efforts to deliver justice to victims in the Philippines," the tribunal states in a guide released in February 2026, referring to the Office of the Prosecutor.

"This investigation focuses on crimes allegedly committed on the territory of the Philippines between 1 November 2011 and 16 March 2019 in the context of the so called 'war on drugs' campaign," the material notes.

On February 27 this year, an ICC pre-trial court concluded four days of hearing to confirm charges of crimes against humanity allegedly committed by Duterte as mayor of the southern Philippine city of Davao and later as president of the country.

Prosecutors have charged the former leader of three counts

of murder involving the deaths of 78 people.

"While conducting its investigation, the Office continues to pursue investigative activities and engage with relevant stakeholders," the ICC states in its guide.

People with information are welcome to share what they know.

"As part of its ongoing and active investigation, the OTP encourages individuals with relevant information to come forward. They can do so through the following se-

cure channel:  
<https://www.icc-cpi.int/philippines/witness-appeal>," the material states.

The ICC explains what's to be expected in a media release on February 27, 2026 after the pre-trial chamber wrapped up the confirmation of charges hearing.

According to the tribunal, the judges will start their deliberations and deliver a written decision within 60 days of the end of the confirmation proceedings.

The chamber may then:

Confirm the charges and commit Duterte to trial; or Decline to confirm the charges and stop the proceedings Duterte; or Adjourn the hearing and request the prosecutor to provide further evidence, to conduct further investigations or to amend any charge.

"The Defence and the Prosecutor cannot directly appeal this decision. However they can request authorisation from the Pre-Trial Chamber to appeal it," the media release notes.

The ICC is a permanent international tribunal based in The Hague, Netherlands.

Established by the Rome Statute, a treaty adopted in 1998 and entered into force in 2002, the ICC prosecutes individuals accused of the gravest crimes under international law. These include genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.



Judges with the ICC pre-trial chamber will decide whether Rodrigo Duterte will face trial for murder.

crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.

Duterte was arrested in Manila on March 11, 2025 and was surrendered the ICC the following day.

The ex-leader is being held at the ICC Detention Centre in Scheveningen, The Hague.

In a document dated February 13, 2026, ICC prosecutors named eight alleged co-perpetrators of Duterte in what they describe as a "Common Plan" to "neutralize" suspected criminals through murder.

They are former Philippine National Police (PNP) chief and now Senator Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa, former PNP National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) regional director Vicente Danao, former NCRPO regional director Camilo Cascolan, former PNP chief Oscar Albayalde,

Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go, former National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) director Dante Gierran, former Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) chief Isidro Lapeña, and former Department of Justice (DOJ) secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II.

The ICC states in its guide that the investigation into Duterte's drug war was

opened on September 15, 2021, when a pre-trial chamber granted the prosecution's request to open a probe.

"The ICC Office of the Prosecutor's investigation in relation to the situation in the Philippines continues," the February 2026 material notes.

The Philippine Star newspaper reported that while it may take up to 60 days from February 27, 2026 before the release of the decision from the confirmation hearings, there

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are a number of matters pending before the tribunal.

At the ICC appeals chamber composed of a different set of judges, the paper related that Duterte's defence team has two pending appeals.

One challenges the October 23, 2025 decision of the ICC pre-trial chamber that decided that the ICC has jurisdiction over alleged crimes against humanity committed in the Philippines from November 1, 2011 to March 17, 2019.

The other is an appeal by Duterte's lawyer regarding his continued detention at The Hague.

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## Vancouver Stop of Rey Valera Canada Tour 2026: A Successful Sold-Out Show of the Maestro and Original Pinoy Hugot King!

The Vancouver leg of the Rey Valera Canada Tour 2026 concluded successfully, bringing an unforgettable evening of timeless OPM classics to the community. The event was a resounding success, celebrating Original Pilipino Music and honoring the enduring legacy of Rey Valera's beloved hits.

Held at Massey Theatre on February 27, 2026, the concert was a sold-out show. Loyal and new fans of Rey Valera filled the venue, singing along to his classic hits and creating a warm and memorable atmosphere throughout the evening. Rey Valera also delighted the crowd with his lighthearted jokes and personal stories, adding humor and warmth that made the night even more lively and truly unforgettable.

After the concert, producers and friends gathered for an after-party at Pinoy Cravings - Edmonds St. Guests enjoyed a selection of Filipino favorite dishes as they celebrated the continued success of the tour. The evening also included a special celebration

for the birthday of one of the producers, adding a warm and personal touch to the festivities.

After the concert, producers and friends gathered for an after-party to celebrate the success of the event at Pinoy Cravings - Edmonds St. The restaurant warmly welcomed Rey Valera and his entourage. Some of the producers are also owners of the restaurants, including Audrey and Roy Lim, as well as Jienelyn and Joel Dimatatac. Also joined by Clifford Belgica, Goldenstar Supermarket, John Navoa, Rowena Pineda, Joel and Noi Castro. Guests Rey Fortaleza of Reyfort Media Group, Christian Cunanan, Jazel Matel, Salve Dayao, Raymon Maliwat of M3ASBC, Realtor Angel Garcia and aunt Catherine Garcia-Relucio from Pemberton, some loyal fans of Rey, friends and supporters in the community.

The tour continues with shows in Fort McMurray, Toronto and Grand Prairie, bringing the music of Maestro Rey Valera to more Filipino communities across Canada.



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## 'KimErald' as endgame? Kim Molina, Jerald Napoles' wedding reception draws laughs



Gerald Anderson and Kim Molina in this screengrab from a video posted by Kim on her Instagram on March 2, 2026 (kimsmolina via Instagram)

True to their comedic flair, actors Kim Molina and Jerald Napoles turned their wedding into a laugh-filled affair, with Filipinos joking that the long-time couple finally made the "KimErald" ship official.

The comic couple tied the knot after a 12-year romance in a beach wedding ceremony at a luxury resort in Panglao, Bohol, on Sunday, March 1.

The reception continued the humor, delighting guests with comedic twists and playful surprises.

It involved Kim appearing on stage with actor Gerald Anderson instead of her husband, a playful reference to the "KimErald" tandem.

"KimErald" refers to the love team of former "Pinoy Big



Comic couple Jerald Napoles and Kim Molina

Brother" housemates Kim Chiu and Gerald.

The pair, who dated each other after their "PBB" stint, were together for four years.

At the wedding, Molina was spotted jokingly showing affection toward Gerald.

The moment earned laughs from Filipinos, who joked that the "KimErald" tandem had become the endgame.

Jerald, Molina's husband, also joined the fun by having TV host and anchor Kim Atienza appear onstage with him.

"Nalito lang kasi kami..." Kim Molina joked in an Instagram post, adding winking face and a peace sign gesture.

The famous portmanteau of "KimErald" can also be applied to the couple, who share the same first names.

Molina's post has earned 502,000 likes and several comments from Filipinos who found the concept amusing.

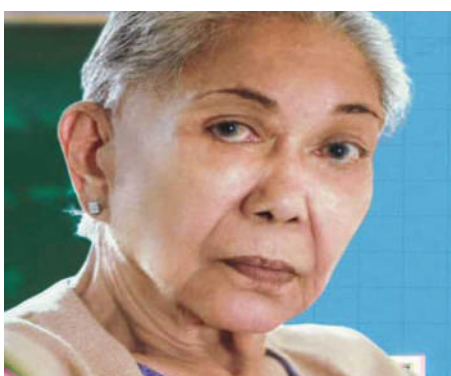
Jerald and Kim first met in the musical play "Rak of Aegis" in 2014. They began dating that year but only confirmed their relationship in 2019.

By 2024, the couple had gotten engaged at the PETA Theater Center, the same place where they first met.

Both are individually known for their comic roles onscreen and for their humorous, playful personalities in real life.

(J. Malasig/Interakyon)

## Odette Khan confined, family seeks help



Award-winning veteran actress and SPEEd Icon awardee Odette Khan is currently confined at the National

Kidney and Transplant Institute as she undergoes treatment for pneumonia, emphysema and edema, her family said.

In a recent social media post, her daughter Claudette Avelino-Tandoc disclosed that Khan has been bedridden and recently underwent a procedure to remove fluid from her right lung.

As of Feb. 27, the hospital bill had exceeded PhP211,000, excluding doctors' professional fees, medicines and caregiving

costs.

"We are running out of funds," Avelino-Tandoc wrote in her appeal, asking for financial assistance from those willing to help shoulder the expenses related to the actress' hospitalization.

Khan has had a career spanning more than five decades in local film and television and was recognized as a Society of Philippine Entertainment Editors (SPEEd) Icon awardee for her contributions to the industry last

year.

She is known for her contravida roles in television and film, but gained particular recognition for her portrayal of Justice Hernandez in "Bar Boys," earning multiple Best Supporting Actress awards, and for its sequel, "Bar Boys: After School," where she won Best Supporting Actress at the 51st Metro Manila Film Festival.

(Malaya Entertainment)

# Private video scandal engulfs Aaron Villaflor, Ron Angeles, Nikko Natividad, and Gil Cuerva



Filipino actors (l-r) Aaron Villaflor, Ron Angeles, Nikko Natividad, and Gil Cuerva

Social media was set abuzz as alleged private videos of Filipino actors Aaron Villaflor, Ron Angeles, Nikko Natividad, and Gil Cuerva began circulating online.

On various platforms, netizens shared photos of the actors and debated the authenticity of the alleged scandals.

Many social media users have struggled to find links or videos related to the alleged scandals, as most links have already been

removed.

One day after reports emerged on Feb. 28 regarding alleged videos being sold on social media, Nikko and Gil have remained silent. In contrast, Aaron has already addressed the scandal. Ron also posted a photo caption that many believe was his response to the controversy.

On March 1, Ron uploaded a shirtless photo on Facebook with the caption, "Relax lang kayo dyan. (Just relax there)."

On Feb. 28, in an article in Pep, Aaron said the video scandal was part of a smear campaign against him.

Aaron has challenged netizens to provide evidence of the alleged video scandal. However, he clarified that the only videos shown to him were scenes from his Vivamax movies.

"Sabi ko, 'Go! Ipakita ninyo sa akin. E lahat ng ipinakita nila, from my Vivamax projects. Ay naku, napakarami po ng smear campaign. It's part of the

political industry, so depende sa inyo on how you're gonna react. (I said, 'Go! Show me. Everything they showed was from my Vivamax projects. Oh my God! There are a lot of smear campaigns. It's part of the political industry, so it's up to you on how you're gonna react)," Aaron also said.

Questions remain as to whether the people in the videos are truly the actors or simply lookalikes.

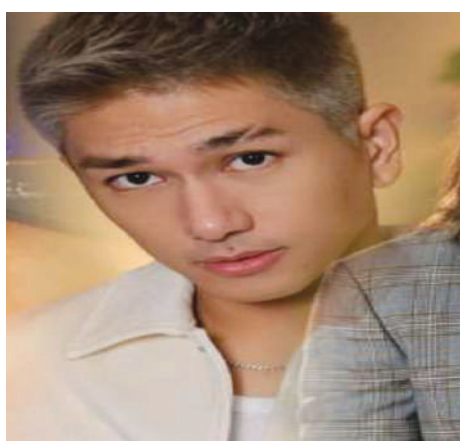
Aaron, 35, currently serves as a member of the Tarlac Provincial Board (2nd district) and stars in the upcoming action-thriller 'Pater Noster: Our Father.'

Ron, 27, is known for his roles in the series 'Pamilya Sagrado' and the film 'Fuccbois.'

Nikko, 33, recently appeared in the films 'Pagpag 24/7' and 'I Am Not Big Bird,' as well as the TV series 'Lolong: Bayani ng Bayan' and 'Incognito.'

Gil, 30, appeared in the Kapuso series 'Slay' in 2025. R. Requintina/ mb.com.ph)

## Celebrity video scandal sparks warning



Nikko Natividad

In the days following the sex video scandals involving actors Aaron Villaflor, Ron Angeles, Nikko Natividad, and Gil Cuervo, several concerned netizens cautioned others about the dangers of leaking private photos and videos.

Concerned netizens shared legal consequences on unauthorized sharing of private or nude photos/videos, which they said carry a penalty of 3 to 7 years imprisonment and fines between P100,000 and

P500,000, according to Nicolas and De Vega Law Offices.

"Spreading the nude photos or sex videos of another without his or her consent is punishable under Republic Act No. 9995, otherwise known as the Anti-Photo and Video Voyeurism Act of 2009.

"Under Sec. 3 of RA 9995, photo or voyeurism means the act of taking a photo or video coverage of a person or group of persons performing a sexual act or any similar activity or of capturing an image of the private area of a person or persons without the latter's consent, under circumstances in which such person/s has/have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

"It also includes the act of selling, copying, reproducing, broadcasting, sharing, showing or exhibiting the photo or video coverage or recordings of such sexual act or similar activity through VCD/DVD, internet, cellular phones and similar means or device without the written consent of the person/



s involved, notwithstanding that consent to record or take photo or video coverage of same was given by such persons," the law office explained.

### Nikko Natividad

Nikko, one of the four actors tagged in the alleged sex video scandal, shared a social media post days after the controversy erupted.

On Facebook on March 2, Nikko uploaded a dancing video with the caption, "Galawgaw." Could this be his reaction to the alleged sex video scandal?

### Some comments from his fans:

"The unbothered deeper king"

"Ganyan siya ka galing gumalaw."

"Bff anong reaction nung asawa mo?"

"Literal na ginalawgaw mo idol"

"Ikaw talaga pamato namin beh. Galing mo." (R. Requintina/ mb.com.ph)

## Boy Abunda open to conversation with Alvin Aragon



Composite photo of Boy Abunda and Alvin Aragon. ABS-CBN / released, Alvin Aragon via Instagram

MANILA, Philippines — Boy Abunda revealed that he is willing to engage in an open conversation with Alvin Aragon.

In a recent interview with the media including Philstar.com, Boy said he wants his next conversation with the controversial former actor to be off-cam.

“Does it have to happen

immediately? Probably not. Mas maganda if may personal kami conversation off-cam. Pero if just for the sake of the show, I’ll be honest, kung kapanahunan ng ‘The Buzz,’ go. Andoon na kami harap-harap. But ngayon hindi,” Boy said.

“Alvin has a certain vulnerability. Beneath the angst and voice, he has a story. He is coming from somewhere. I don’t want to

romanticize but may dahilan,” he added.

The seasoned host noted how the controversial former actor’s possible next guesting in “Fast Talk” should go. Boy stressed that he wants Alvin’s next appearance to be noted with mutual respect.

“Dapat may rules of engagement. Dapat mag-galangan tayo,” he said.

‘I wanted peace’

Boy said that he intentionally put away religion and LGBTQ topics during Alvin and Izzy’s past guesting, aired last February 10 on GMA-7.

“They raised a point, let’s go to the point kay Izzy when Sofia announced she was going into drag. Naging public ata reaction nila na hindi tama. I am not sure. Sabi ko, ayoko pumunta doon,” he recalled.

Sofia is Izzy’s trans child from a previous relationship before she married Alvin.

“I decided to just make it fun. They are coming from a space of faith. I did not ask about Sofia. I wanted peace. Hindi dahil takot ako. I wanted fun... I did not want to engage in a debate related to faith. Walang panalo doon. I especially did not want to engage in faith surrounding LGBT, hindi tayo magkikita,” he added.

Boy respects Alvin’s opinions but does not believe that the actor should impose his beliefs on other people.

“Kasalanan ba ng isang magulang yakapin ang kanyang anak na LGBT with love and respect? ‘Yung parenting style mo, huwag mo impose sa amin,” he said.

“When you named people you are imposing your faith on us. Ayoko. ‘Wag mo impose. Kung iyan ang paniniwala mo, sobra ang galang ko. But the moment you impose who you are and your faith — you are crossing a very dangerous line,” he added. (J.M. Severo/ Philstar)

## Boy Abunda shares Kris Aquino’s latest health condition

MANILA, Philippines — TV host Boy Abunda revealed that his longtime friend Kris Aquino is looking healthier these days.

In an interview with the media on the set of “Fast Talk With Boy Abunda,” Boy said he attended Kris’ birthday celebration last Valentine’s Day.

“A lot stronger. Hindi napag-usapan weight niya. But I saw her before at 82 pounds. There was a time she messaged her weight has gone up to 114,” Boy said.

“I hope she really gets better. Anything important in her life, she makes sure I am in the loop. Nag-uusap kami. Lalo na kay Bimb. Praying that she gets better,” he added.

Boy said that Bimby continues to be his mother’s hands-on caregiver.

“Bumigay ako noong nakita ko si Kris sa America when

they were there. Bumigay ako when Bimby was in total control. Kinakarga ang nanay, Nililipat. ‘Is it ready for mom?’ — he was in control. I am proud of the boy and how Kris raised the boy,” he said.

Boy also shared how Kris’ oldest son Josh supports her. “Si Josh naman, I was told he began the day leading the prayer and ending it with another prayer,” he said.

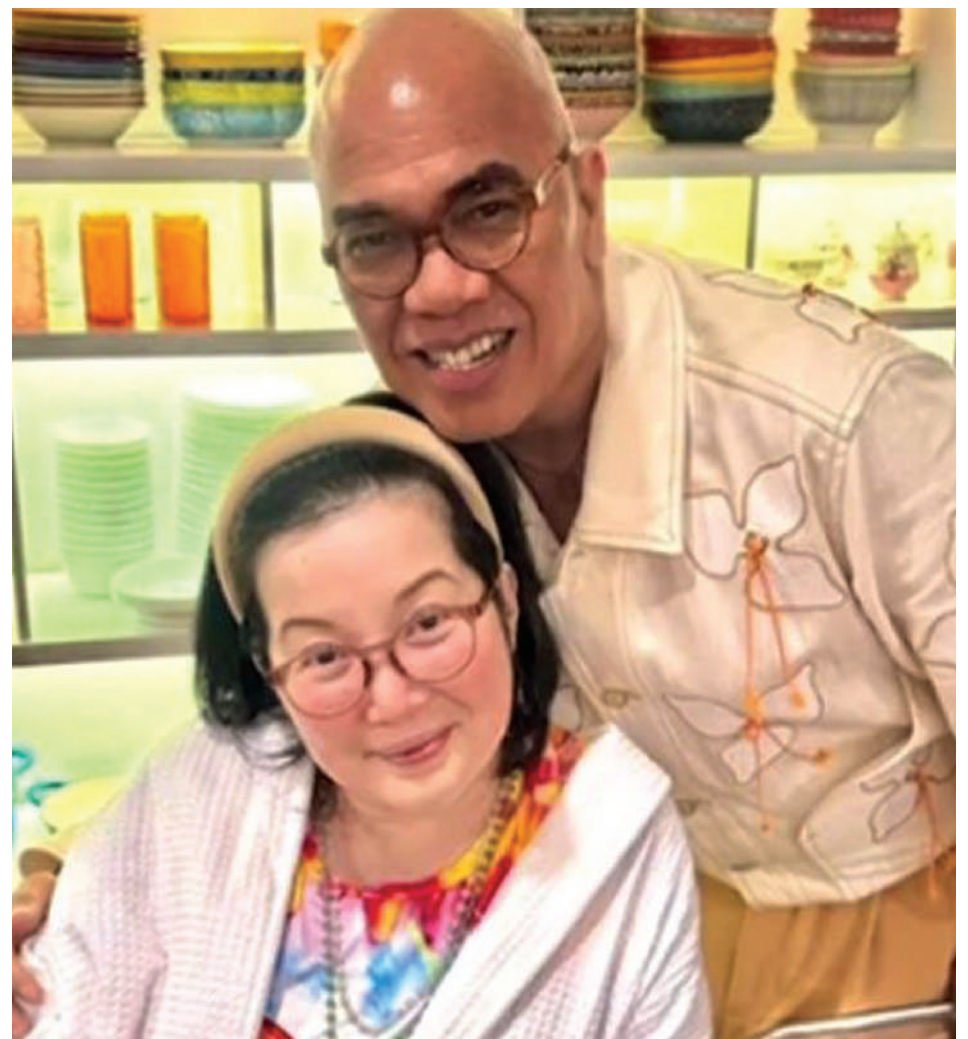
He also said that he is open to working again with Kris.

“Walakamiformalconversation about possible podcast. I am open if my contract allows. I look forward to doing materials with her,” he said. (J.M. Severo/Philstar)

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# Pope Leo XIV urges diplomacy amid Iran tensions



Pope Leo XIV leads the Angelus from the window of the Apostolic Palace overlooking St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, March 1, 2026. (Vatican Media)

Pope Leo XIV voiced concern on Sunday about developments in the Middle East and Iran, urging the parties involved to stop what he called a "spiral of violence" before it becomes an "irreparable abyss."

"Stability and peace are not built with mutual threats, nor with weapons, which sow destruction, pain, and death, but only through a reasonable, authentic, and responsible dialogue," the pope said March 1. He appealed for

diplomacy to "recover its role" and for the common good of peoples who long for peaceful coexistence "founded on justice."

The pontiff added: "Let us continue to pray for peace."

Leo also appealed for peace in the conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan, calling for an urgent return to dialogue.

He asked Catholics to pray that concord may prevail in conflicts around the world, saying: "Only peace, a gift of God, can heal the wounds between peoples."

The pope also said he was close to the people of Brazil's state of Minas Gerais following severe flooding, offering prayers for victims, families who have lost their homes, and those engaged in rescue operations.

Earlier, before reciting the Angelus, the pope reflected on

Sunday's Gospel account of the Transfiguration, describing Christ as the living wisdom who fulfills the Law and the Prophets.

He said the Transfiguration anticipates the light of Easter—death and resurrection, darkness and new light—shining, he said, upon bodies "scourged by violence," "crucified by suffering," and "abandoned in misery."

Pope Leo said the Lord "transfigures the wounds of history," illuminating minds and hearts with a surprising revelation of salvation.

He added that grasping this mystery requires time: time of silence to listen to the Word, and time of conversion to savor the Lord's companionship.

(A. Ambrogetti, EWTN News via CBCP News)

## Stand out



ACTRESS and fashion icon Heart Evangelista has solidified her status as a global fashion icon as she landed among Lefty's Top 10 Key Voices for the January 2026 Paris Menswear Fashion Week.

Heart breached a heavily male-dominated influencer landscape, posting a 5.4% engagement rate that generated \$3.34 million in Earned Media Value (EMV).

With her in the Top 10 were K-pop idols Mingyu (Seventeen), The8 (Seventeen), and Hyunjin (Stray Kids); Thai actor and singer Nattawat Jirochtikul (Fourth); and other talents and brand ambassadors in the Asia-Pacific region.

The only other female in the list was Chilean-Mexican singer Mon Laferte, who performed and appeared at the Willy Chavarria show.

During the Menswear Fashion Week Fall-Winter 2026 last month, Heart attended high-value shows of Amiri, Sacai, Patou, Hermes, LGN Louis Gabriel Nouchi and Kenzo.

Observers note that Heart's strong media impact, especially being the only Filipino representative in the

latest Lefty ranking, proves she continues to drive significant luxury fashion value in the Asia-Pacific region.

Lefty is the influencer marketing platform for leading luxury and lifestyle brands. It identifies the right influencers from a broad number of qualified online profiles, using advanced systems to obtain deep understanding of influencers' demographics, audience, and profile statistics.

Through Lefty's Industry Reports, brands are able to uncover unparalleled insights into the ever-evolving worlds of fashion, beauty, and lifestyle.

The last time Heart Evangelista entered Lefty's Top 10 was in June 2025 Paris fashion week. Meanwhile, no Filipino representative ranked in the Lefty report for the Paris fashion week September 2025 — when Heart was notably absent in any fashion show during that period.

Meanwhile, fans of Heart can keep up with their idol — on and off the runway — by catching "Heart World" Season 2, set to premiere on March 7. "Heart World," directed by Rico Gutierrez, airs every Saturday at 9:30 pm on GMA. (Malaya Entertainment)

**AT THE MOVIES**  
By Robert Waldman

Running time: 1h 39m  
*Spaced Out!*

I They say space is the final frontier. See what happens when some debris turns deadly in Cold Storage. Just like the title suggests something cold and unusual is stored in a Facility and left largely unknown . Over time strange things develop in this offbeat offering from Route 504 PR now drawing crowds to Cineplex Cinemas and Lionsgate Theatres around BC.

People with good memories will likely recall the accident that befell the Space Lab back in the 1970s. Little do the scientists know that some of that highly secret debris reached Earth. That's where our story picks up and takes off as something green and wicked latches on to some of that space junk - creating havoc years later.

When bad things happen In the remote and desolate Australian outback in modern times who ya gonna call ? No not ghostbusters but an illustrious team of techies sent down to try to solve the dilemma. Bad news travels fast so when a sticky slime appears to be at the root of the problem one by one humans seem to be on the chopping block as hunting season arrives.

**Cold Storage**  
**(14A) \*\***

Take it all in with a large grain of salt. Cold Storage is a Wickedly fiendish smorgasbord of fun and high level camp in the extreme.

it's so bad it's good as two out to lunch workers played effectively by Joe Keery and Georgina Campbell must root out the contagious extraterritorial biological virus before it spreads outside a warehouse full of all sorts of dangers emanating from a room or two . Director Johnny Campbell serves up lots of laughs in this Liam Neeson (Taken) headliner which somehow manages to keep straight faces on all the actors.

For more reviews please visit my website [moviereviewssite.com](http://moviereviewssite.com)..



**In Cold Light**  
**(14A) \*\***

Running time: 1h 36m.  
*Spellbound!*

Going to jail is no picnic. Getting out can also lead to problems. See the toll a stint behind bars takes on a jailed felon in the gritty In Cold Light. Not to dare be confused with the classic In Cold Blood this tale looks at a criminal trying to possibly make amends . Perhaps. Looks like you cant trust anyone which is what this hard luck lass learns first hand in a new drama from Elevation Pictures now taking hold at Cineplex Cinemas and Lionsgate Theatres across B.C.

Set mostly at a rural rodeo circuit somewhere in Small town U.S.A trouble seems to follow Ava Bly Wherever she goes. Cast as the downtrodden girl is Maika Monroe who does a good job sleepwalking her way into and out of turmoil. Her portrayal as a newly released felon on edge comes full circle when she is accused of a crime. So the rest of the film is about her trying to stay alive and find out who a mysterious killer is. The problem is that we've seen this story time and time again. And here there is really nothing new that unfolds.

Shot in Alberta at the Ponoka Stampede In Cold Light nicely captures the essence and vibe of The Whole rodeo spirit. You really feel the grit of these modern day cowboys immersed

in this fabled western culture and the cast does a a great job expressing this enthusiasm and capturing the essence of the lifestyle. Weighing heavily against this rough and tough and "honest" way of making a living is the quick draw lure of fast money which drugs so often thrust onto unsuspecting youth.

Director Maxime Giroux presents a realistic tale of small town corruption and how it can eat away at families - and lives.

For more reviews please visit my website [moviereviewssite.com](http://moviereviewssite.com).



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**SPORTS**

# Pacquiao's son Eman stops Indonesian rival



*Manny Pacquiao with Son Eman Bacosa Pacquiao*

**TAGBILARAN, Philippines** — Eman Bacosa Pacquiao was mobbed by adoring fans during the official weigh-in of “Kumong

Bol-anon 24” at the BQ Mall here and then later in the event’s final press conference at the Bohol Provincial Capitol last Friday.

On fight night, the Boholanos came in droves and cheered loudly as the son of the legendary Manny Pacquiao made his way to the ring until the end of the abbreviated match.

The sizable crowd further went wild when Pacquiao’s fellow GMA-7 Sparkle artist Jillian Ward showed up at ringside to support the promising lightweight contender in his scheduled eight-round duel against Reynold Kundimang of Indonesia.

Inspired and motivated, the 22-year-old Pacquiao did not let down those who rooted for him.

He floored the Indon visitor five times en route to a smashing fourth-round technical knockout (TKO) victory in a well-applauded match of the slam-bang card bankrolled by PMI Bohol Boxing

Promotions at the Bohol Cultural Center.

“Una sa lahat, gusto ko magpasalamat sa Panginoon na binigyan niya ako nang lakas sa laban na ‘to,” said Pacquiao, moments after stretching his record to 8-1-1 now spiked with five knockouts. “Nagpapasalamat ako sa suporta at pagmamahal ninyong lahat.”

Pressed to answer an intriguing question from the ring announcer during the post-fight interview,

Pacquiao gamely admitted that aside from the welcoming arms of the Boholanos, the presence of Ward whom he had a crush with before entering showbiz gave him extra courage to perform remarkably well. (M. Villaruel/Philstar)

## Alex Eala through to Indian Wells Round of 64 with first-round bye

Alex Eala is set to return to the hard courts as she officially begins her campaign at the Indian Wells Open.

The world No. 32 Filipina tennis standout has secured a first-round bye, advancing directly to the Round of 64. She now awaits the winner between Dayana Yastremska of Ukraine and Zhang Shuai of China for her opening match in the tournament.

Eala is seeking redemption following her quarterfinal exit at the Dubai Tennis Championships, where she fell against world no. 4 Coco Gauff of USA with a 6-0,

6-2 loss. The 20-year-old Eala is among the biggest stars set to compete at the Indian Wells Open, headlined by top seed and world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka. Also featured in the stacked WTA 1000 draw are Maya Joint, Naomi Osaka, Victoria Mboko, Emma Raducanu, and Coco Gauff, all vying for the prestigious title.

Should Eala advance past her Round of 64 opponent, she is poised for a potential rematch with Gauff, who—like her—also received a first-round bye in the tournament. (B. Micaller with JMB, GMA Integrated News)



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### 'Sharon culture is real': Tote bag referencing Pinoy's party leftover tradition goes viral

A tote bag caught attention for its design, humorously referencing Filipinos' habit of packing leftover food from gatherings.

A Reddit user shared a photo on Monday, March 2, showing the tote with the words, "FILIPINO PARTY LEFTOVERS — HANDLE WITH CARE."

"Received this at a Filipino party in the UK. Sharon culture is real," the Redditor wrote in the "r/Philippines" community. UK refers to the United Kingdom.

The post has received 1,200 upvotes, 20 comments, and one award, with several online users saying they want the same tote bag.

"Ang cute," a Redditor wrote. "LARO HAHAAAA," another Redditor commented. "Cute tote!!!" a different Pinoy wrote.

The "Sharon" culture refers to the Filipino tradition of taking

home leftover food from parties and gatherings to avoid food waste. People usually pack these in plastic containers, especially when they expect leftovers.

The term "Sharon" is a nod to Megastar Sharon Cuneta, whose 1994 hit, "Bituing Walang Ningning" includes the lyrics, "Balutin mo ako ng hiwaga ng iyong pagmamahal."

The line "Balutin mo ako" became a meme referencing the Filipino habit of taking home leftovers from parties and buffets.

Sharon previously reminded Filipinos to wait until everyone has finished eating before packing their food.

In 2023, she also joined the fun, posting a video of herself putting food into a container, playfully acknowledging the memes mentioning her. (J. Malasig/ Interaksyon)



Picture of a tote bag as posted on the Reddit community "r/Philippines" by user glenfuerte on March 2, 2026 (glenfuerte via Reddit)

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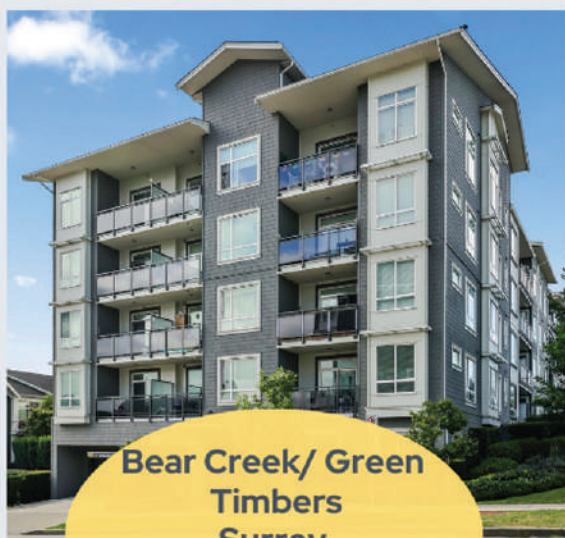
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