



# Philippine **ASIAN** News **Today**

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## Community Dinner of Remembrance Brings Together Families and Supporters in Honor of Lapu-Lapu Festival Tragedy Victims **P. 6**



Blake Richards, M.P. for Airdrie-Cochrane, flew in from Calgary on behalf of the Parliament of Canada and the Conservative Party of Canada to present this recognition to United Filipino Canadians Associations in British Columbia (UFCABC), Cebuano Society of Canada/Lapu-Lapu Society of British Columbia, Diversity Inclusion Support Group of BC, Seniors Intercultural Society of BC. It honours their unwavering service, dedication, and compassion in supporting the Filipino community, and their meaningful efforts in remembering the victims and uplifting the survivors of the April 26, 2025 Lapu-Lapu Festival tragedy.



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# Community Stands in Solidarity at Memorial Mass Honoring Victims of Lapu-Lapu Festival Tragedy

By Janice Lozano

Vancouver, BC, April 10, 2026, With heavy hearts and unwavering unity, the community gathered at St Andrew's Parish for a Commemoration Memorial Mass marking one year since the tragic events at the Lapu-Lapu Festival on April 26, 2025.



With Conservative Party Leader Pierre Poilievre



With BC Premier David Eby and MLA Mble Elmore

The Mass was a deeply emotional and sacred moment of remembrance for the 11 innocent lives lost, as well as for the many individuals who continue to endure the lasting physical, emotional, and psychological effects of the attack. Families of the victims, survivors, and community members gathered inside the church, many carrying grief that has not faded with time, but has instead become part of their daily lives.

and reflections acknowledged not only the lives lost, but also the ongoing struggles faced by victims and their loved ones. For many families, the past year has been marked by profound loss, unanswered questions, and the difficult journey of healing. Survivors continue to navigate recovery, while families carry the weight of absence, empty seats at tables, missed milestones, and the quiet, enduring pain of loss.

message resonated: they are not alone.

Leaders, speakers, and community representatives emphasized that the victims and their families remain surrounded by a network of care, compassion, and unwavering support. The presence of the broader community served as a visible and heartfelt reminder that their grief is shared, their stories are honored, and their loved ones will never be forgotten.

The service was attended by key leaders, including Premier David Eby, Vancouver Mayor Ken, members of Vancouver City Council, Pierre Poilievre, Leader of the Official Opposition of Canada, Conservative Party, and Philippine Consul General Gina A Jamoralin. Standing alongside the victims' families, they reinforced a collective commitment, not only to remembrance, but to continued

SEE NEXT PAGE ..

Throughout the service, prayers

Yet amid this sorrow, a powerful



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COMMUNITY MASS FROM PAGE 2

support, healing, and unity.

In their presence and in their words, leaders affirmed that the city of Vancouver stands with the victims, and that the Filipino-Canadian community is embraced and supported by the entire province and nation. The tragedy may have shaken the community, but it also revealed its strength, its capacity to come together, to lift one another, and to move forward with compassion and resilience.

As candles flickered and prayers filled the church, the names and memories of those lost were held with reverence. Tears were shared, embraces exchanged, and a collective promise echoed quietly but powerfully: that their lives will continue to be remembered, and that their families will continue to be supported.

In unity and in faith, the Memorial Mass became more than a commemoration, it became a testament to enduring love, shared grief, and a community that refuses to let anyone walk through loss alone.



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# HEARTS for SMILES

By Ghee Salcedo

**Caring Hearts Dentistry Society** dental and humanitarian mission brings smiles to Lipa City Community by giving free dental services. The outreach program uplift thousands through a Rotary-led collaboration undertaking.

With hearts united in service, the Caring Hearts Dentistry Society (CHDS), in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Richmond Sunrise, the Rotary Club of Lipa, Philippine Air Force Civil Military Operations Group and Armed Forces of the Philippines Health Service Command (AFPHSC) led by Dr. Eisen M. Perdido successfully conducted a three-day Dental Mission from January 26 to 28, 2026 at Lipa Academy of Sports, Cultural and Arts, bringing renewed smiles and hope to underserved communities.

The mission delivered essential dental services including free oral tooth extractions and restorative treatments and oral prophylaxis to thousands of beneficiaries.

A total of two thousand two hundred eleven (2,211) dental treatment procedures has been made during the three-day activity.

CHDS, in partnership with Rotary clubs, delivers free treatment,



promotes prevention, and underscores the link between oral and overall health in underserved communities

The program also highlighted the importance of early intervention and prevention. By fostering strong oral health habits among children, the mission aimed to set the foundation for lifelong wellness. Through oral health education, disease prevention strategies, and the application of Minimal Intervention Dentistry, the team worked to reduce the prevalence of dental caries, particularly in early childhood.

Equally emphasized was the connection between oral health and mental well-being. CHDS believes that “a happy mouth

contributes to a happy mind,” underscoring the role of dental care in boosting self-esteem and enhancing quality of life across all ages, especially in underserved populations.

Beyond clinical services, the mission extended compassion in meaningful ways. Caring Hearts Dentistry Society organized a feeding program and distributed gifts to two hundred (200) street children such as hygiene kits, stuff toys, various school supplies, assorted beverages and Jollibee meals, creating moments of joy and reminding them that they are valued and cared for. A Jollibee Mascot added delight and fun in the event.

Through projects like this, the

Caring Hearts Dentistry Society continues to inspire lasting change, advocating for the essential role of oral health in achieving a better quality of life. As the mission concludes, its impact endures in every smile restored and every life uplifted. Service is Love in Action indeed.

**Caring Hearts Dentistry Society (CHDS) Dental Mission 2026 is headed by Dr. Danny Salcedo with Dr. Gloria Samosa, Dr. Francisca Valdes, Elena Agala, Ghee Salcedo, Mayor Leonila P. Montero (PP RC Panglao), Dr. Mihye Kim-Ide, Dr. Roderic T. Fulgencio, Dr. Kazandra C. Satairapan, Dr. Diego H. Montañano, Dr. Kyle Dominick P. Licudan, Dr. Christian Sky P. Mendoza, Dr. Irvin Jay F. Tan, Dr. Kevin Rex A. Padilla, Dr. Cliyd Roderick Jr. A. Torres, Dr. Marinel P. Angeles, Dr. Nathalia L. Delloso, Dr. Ma. Winslin Rishei D. Angeles, Dr. Leanne Joyce C. Lindres, Dr. Bien Collen P. Bagaoisan, Col./ Dr. Eisen Perdido, Dr. Renz Marion E. Pasagui, Dr. Mark C. Sabandal, Dr. Arrienne Elise E. Ilustre, Dr. Kat Oabel, Dr. Nicole T. Abarro, SSG Glen Casuga PN(M), Toto Cabelleja, DH Monica Rumble, Inja Kim, Nao Ide, Peachy Magistrado, Ellen Diona, Ariel Samosa, Minerva Tolentino, Cherry Hernandez and Anna Liza Vilorias Rosales.**





# B.C. convenes task force on impacts of Iran war

A cross-government task force will monitor the impacts of the Iran war and help prepare British Columbia for these potential global impacts.

As the war in Iran continues, British Columbia is bracing for medium- and long-term impacts to supply chains in industries, such as health care, agriculture, energy and transportation.

“While the war in Iran is the driving force for recent price shocks, we have a responsibility to do what we can to prepare



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BC Premier David Eby

and protect people in B.C.,” said Premier David Eby.

“On top of the recent fuel-price spikes, we know that there are weeks of supply-chain disruptions that haven’t even made it to our shores yet. That’s why we’re bringing the right people around one table to stay ahead of disruptions, support people and businesses, and make sure we’re ready to respond as this situation evolves.”

The internal government task force will begin meeting this

week and scale up resources and planning as needed.

“We know British Columbians are already feeling the impacts at the gas pump,” said Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Jobs and Economic Growth.

“The impacts could include medical supplies, fertilizer and beyond, so it is crucial we are as prepared as possible.”

The Premier is also calling on federal and provincial governments across Canada to co-ordinate responses to ensure the best outcomes for British Columbians and Canadians.

“By working together, we can weather any future storms,” Premier Eby said.

**Meanwhile, Premier David Eby has issued the following statement celebrating Vaisakhi:**

“Throughout British Columbia, streets will fill with colour, music and community spirit as Sikh families and friends gather to celebrate Vaisakhi.

“Vaisakhi marks a defining moment in Sikh history – the founding of the Khalsa in 1699 – and remains one of the most sacred and joyous days in the Sikh calendar.

“British Columbia is home to one of the largest Sikh communities outside India, and our province proudly hosts some of the most vibrant Vaisakhi celebrations in the world.

“As we also mark Sikh Heritage Month, we recognize and celebrate the many ways Sikh British Columbians have helped shape our province in business, public service, the arts and community leadership.

“To everyone celebrating, I extend my warmest wishes for a joyful and meaningful Vaisakhi.

**“Vaisakhi Diyan Lakh Lakh Vadhaiyan!”**  
(news.gov.bc.ca)

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## Community Dinner of Remembrance Brings Together Families and Supporters in Honor of Lapu-Lapu Festival Tragedy Victims

By Janice Lozano

**Vancouver, BC — April 13, 2026** — The Community Dinner of Remembrance, held on April 12, 2026 at Fraserview Banquet Hall, brought together families, survivors, community members, and supporters in a deeply moving evening of remembrance, solidarity, and healing.

The gathering commemorated the victims of the April 26, 2025 Lapu-Lapu Festival tragedy and created a sacred space for reflection, unity, and continued support for those still living with the impact of that heartbreaking day.

Throughout the evening, attendees honored the 11 innocent lives lost, while also recognizing the ongoing emotional and physical struggles faced by survivors and grieving families. More than a memorial, the dinner became a powerful expression of community, one that stood firmly beside those carrying unimaginable loss. Organizers emphasized that the past year has been especially difficult, as grief continues to shape the daily lives of many families. The event acknowledged that remembrance can be both healing and deeply painful. Despite this, families showed extraordinary courage in attending, allowing the community to stand with them, support them, and walk alongside them in their journey toward healing.

A particularly powerful message came from Warren Flandez, whose words resonated deeply with everyone in the room. He reminded attendees that the evening symbolized something far greater than politics or future events. It was not about another festival, it was about the victims who need support now. He called on the community to recognize

its shared responsibility, emphasizing that as human beings and as Vancouverites, it is our duty to uplift and help those most affected, especially those who continue to struggle. One of the most emotional highlights of the evening came when Alejandro Samper took the stage. Speaking about his family's legacy, he shared the inspiration behind the Samper Caicedo Legacy Foundation, an initiative dedicated to supporting victims and advocating for accountability. His words were heartfelt, raw, and deeply moving. As he honored the lives lost by reading each of their names aloud, the room fell into a profound silence, followed by tears across the audience. The tribute concluded with a standing ovation and thunderous applause, a powerful moment that reflected both grief and collective strength.

Vanessa Hill also addressed the audience with gratitude and vulnerability, thanking everyone who has donated and supported the families through this incredibly difficult time. She shared an update on AJ Sico's recovery journey, shedding light on the ongoing challenges he faces. In a heartfelt appeal, she encouraged continued support, including contributions to a GoFundMe campaign aimed at securing specialized medical treatment in the United States to aid in his recovery.

Blane Redlac took the stage to speak about his beloved Jendhel May Sico, sharing the deep personal loss that continues to shape his life. He spoke about his journey of grief, including his commitment to run across Canada in her honor, an act of remembrance, love, and purpose as he continues to search for meaning and direction in the aftermath of tragedy. He also spoke candidly about accountability and expressed

concern regarding Filipino BC hosting another festival this year, voicing that for many victims and families, such plans feel deeply painful and premature—a sentiment that resonated with many in attendance.

The evening also took time to acknowledge the many individuals and groups who played critical roles in supporting victims and families in the immediate aftermath and beyond. Special recognition was given to the Vancouver Police Department, victim services teams, first responders, nurses, and a few organizations whose compassion, care, and tireless efforts helped aid those affected during the most difficult moments. Their service and dedication remain deeply appreciated by the community.

In a heartfelt moment of gratitude, victims and families also expressed their sincere thanks to Mable Elmore for her leadership, as well as to the organizers who have continued to stand with them and advocate on their behalf. Their unwavering

support and commitment during such a difficult time have not gone unnoticed, and were deeply appreciated by those most affected.

The evening was filled with warmth, compassion, and generosity. Through shared meals, heartfelt conversations, and moments of reflection, the gathering reaffirmed the strength found in unity. All proceeds from the fundraiser will be directly given to the victims and families affected by the tragedy, ensuring that ongoing care, support, and assistance continue as they navigate long-term recovery.

Organizers expressed deep gratitude to all who attended and contributed, noting that the overwhelming turnout reflected the enduring spirit of compassion within the community. They also extended heartfelt appreciation to the victims' families, whose presence was a profound act of courage and trust.

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COMMUNITY DINNER  
FROM PAGE 6

In a powerful message from the organizers, they shared:

“We can’t even begin to imagine the depth of the pain and grief that comes with remembering that day—the weight of it all. It is something no one should ever have to carry, yet you have all continued to face it with so much strength.

Please know that we are here for you, always. Hindi po kayo nag-iisa. We stand with you in remembrance, in grief, and in healing. We will continue to honor your loved ones, to listen, to support in any way we can, and to walk beside you through every step of this journey.

Maraming salamat din po for your courage and for allowing us to be there with you. Your strength inspires us to keep showing up, to keep remembering—not just now, but in the days, months, and years after. Hindi po ito matatapos sa isang araw lang. Tuloy-tuloy po ang aming suporta, pakikiisa, at panalangin.

Kasama niyo po kami, palagi.”

“What an incredible and deeply moving evening it was,” organizers also reflected. “The outpouring of love, support, and unity was truly powerful. Surrounded by community, we honored memories, shared stories, and held space for reflection and healing. It reminded us of the strength we carry together, even through the most difficult times.”

As the evening came to a close, one message remained clear: remembrance is not confined to a single day or event, it is an ongoing commitment. The support raised and the connections strengthened during this gathering will continue to uplift families and survivors in the days, months, and years ahead.

The Community Dinner of Remembrance stood as a testament to unity, compassion, and enduring love—honoring the lives lost while strengthening a community that continues to heal together.

Together, we remember. Together, we heal. Together, we stand in solidarity.



...w/ MLA Mable Elmore, Mayor Ken Sim, ABC Councillors and Indo Pacific Foundation of Canada Board of Directors



# Man who lost entire family in Lapu-Lapu attack presses Filipino BC about donation

April 14, 2026

Filipino BC  
Via Email

Dear RJ Aquino (Chairperson), Board of Directors and Staff of Filipino BC,

Subject: Questions Regarding the Kapwa Strong Fund and Use of Tragedy-Related Donations

I am writing as someone who suffered a terrible loss in the Lapu-Lapu Day festival you organized on April 26, 2025.

Nothing will ever bring back my dad Daniel, mom Glitza Maria, and sister Glitza Daniela, whose lives were taken on that day.

I note that the public supported fundraising efforts following the tragedy with the shared understanding that donations would provide timely and direct support to victims and their families.

Many donors, including individuals, small businesses, and community groups, gave to the Kapwa Strong Fund and also directly to Filipino BC during a time of grief and urgency. The common understanding was that these funds would go directly to victims.

I also note that a number of questions previously raised by former directors, community members, and affected individuals regarding funds related to the Lapu-Lapu tragedy remain unanswered. Responses to date appear to avoid direct and complete answers to straightforward questions. This has created a growing sense within the community that concerns are being deflected rather than addressed. This undermines trust, especially given the sensitive and emotional context in which these funds were raised.

I raise and reiterate these concerns because the issue is not only financial. It is about trust. Many are asking whether funds given in a moment of crisis were used in the way people believed they would be used.

I am also aware that Filipino BC plans to host a Lapu-Lapu Day event on April 19, 2026. Given the serious and unresolved concerns outlined above and by other community members, I respectfully question whether it is appropriate for this event to proceed at this time. For many victims and families who are still grieving and recovering, such an event opens wounds rather than healing. On their behalf, I ask you to pause the event this year out of respect to survivors and victims’ families.

There is also growing concern that, without clear answers about how past funds were used, future events may be seen as opportunities to collect further donations and sponsorships without the level of transparency that the community now expects. This creates a perception that the pain of victims and the goodwill of the community may be used in ways that do not fully align with their original intent.

In these circumstances, I respectfully urge Filipino BC to reconsider proceeding with the April 19 event until full transparency has been provided and community concerns have been meaningfully addressed.

Sincerely,

Alejandro Samper  
info@sampercaicedolegacy.com  
778-231-0567



Alejandro Samper says it is not appropriate for Filipino BC to bring back the Lapu-Lapu festival which the group plans to hold on April 19, 2026 at the Italian Cultural Centre in Vancouver.



## Snippet of Stories

Joe Larano Jr.

# The Welder's Quiet Journey

Leo Peralta was not new to leaving.

At thirty-two, his life had been shaped by departures and uncertain returns. He came from Agoo, La Union, where the sea was both livelihood and escape. Like many men in his town, he became a seaman, carrying with him quiet strength and a willingness to endure.

It was on the ship where Leo first learned the basics of welding. What began as a simple task of repairing cracks and joining metal parts slowly became something he found interest in.

He liked the focus it required, the steady hand, the way broken pieces could become whole again. When he finally left the sea, one of the first things he did was to take formal training in welding.

He did not waste time. In the 1980s, Leo worked in an industrial processing zone in Bataan, where he gained experience and became a specialist welder. The work was not easy, but Leo had long accepted that nothing worth keeping ever is. He stayed consistent, quiet, and reliable. Then came an opportunity that would change his life.

A recruitment was held to hire skilled welders from the Philippines for a tunneling project in Vancouver. Leo applied, not expecting much, but he was accepted. It was another departure, another risk, but one he was willing to take.

In Vancouver, Leo proved himself. During his first year, he learned new techniques and performed well. His discipline earned him respect. It was also during this time that he met Lucie, a widowed store clerk



working near their site. Their connection was simple at first. Short conversations, shared smiles, small moments. But slowly, it grew into something deeper. Leo found comfort in her presence, and Lucie saw in him a steady kind of strength. They did not rush, but they understood each other.

When Leo's contract ended, he had to return to the Philippines. Leaving Lucie was not easy, but they both held on to what they had started. The following year, Lucie came to visit, and in a quiet ceremony, they got married.

Time tested them again. Years passed before they were finally reunited in Vancouver as husband and wife. Leo searched for work and found a job as a welder in an automotive shop. It was simpler than his previous work, but it allowed him to provide and to be present.

They built a life together. In time, they were blessed with three daughters. Their home became a place of laughter, learning, and shared dreams. For Leo, it was the kind of life he once only imagined.

But life shifted once more.

One evening, a fire broke out in the automotive shop caused by an electrical fault. Leo was inside. Without hesitation, he helped his coworkers get out safely. But in doing so, he was caught in the fire longer than he should have been. He survived, but his hands were injured.

It was not the kind of injury that ended everything, but it changed enough. The precision he once had was no longer the same. Welding, the skill he had built his life on, became difficult. For a time, Leo felt lost. The silence returned, heavier than before. But this time, he was not alone. Lucie stood by him. His daughters gave him reason to keep moving forward.

Slowly, Leo found a new path. He began sharing his knowledge, teaching basic welding to young trainees. What he could no longer do the same way, he passed on with purpose.

Years later, Leo would sit outside their home, watching his daughters grow, listening to the quiet life they built together. He had left many times in his life. But somehow, through all the distance, the work, the struggles, and the unexpected turns—he found his way back. Not to a place. But to a life that finally stayed.

(Contact: [jblarano@gmail.com](mailto:jblarano@gmail.com))

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- **Provincial Nominee Programs (PNP)** Provinces and territories can nominate individuals who meet local labor market needs, such as the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program (AAIP).
- **Family Sponsorship:** Citizens or permanent residents can sponsor spouses, partners, children, parents, or grandparents.
- **Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP):** Allows

- international graduates to gain Canadian work experience, facilitating a transition to permanent residence through Express Entry or PNP.
- **Atlantic Immigration Program (AIP):** An employer-driven program designed to attract skilled immigrants to Atlantic Canada.
- **Temporary Resident to Permanent Resident (TR to PR) Pathway:** Special, often temporary, pathways for temporary workers and international graduates with Canadian experience.

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- required.
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- **Job Offer:** Many programs (like PNPs) require a valid job offer from a Canadian employer

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*The Tall Order  
By Mon Datol*

## US at Iran bigong tapusin giyera; Supreme Court inisnab TRO ni VP Sara; Kamara tuloy hearing ng impeachment ni VP Duterte; 'Mary Grace Piattos', ITR ni Sara sinubpoena na ng Kamara; Chiz Escudero, Martin Romualdez kakasuhan na ng plunder; Libreng legal aid ng IBP sa senior citizens; PBBM magbibigay ng P200k sa bawat barangay sa bansa; Asan na si Bato?

Amerika at Iran hindi nagkasundo para tapusin giyera nila dahil ayon kay US VP JD Vance ay wala silang nakuhang commitment mula sa Tehran kaugnay sa nuclear issue kahit pa sinabi niyang ibinigay niya ang "best and final offer." Haaa??? Talaga nga kayang...

**Di-takot ang Iran ke Trump? Ayaw ni Uncle Donald yan!**

\*\*\*\*\*

Sinabi ni Vance nitong Linggo sa ikalawang araw ng usapan ay wala silang nakikitang "fundamental commitment" mula sa Iran na hindi sila gagawa ng nuclear weapon sa kasalukuyan at sa hinaharap na panahon kaya't bigo silang makabuo ng kasunduan sa ginanap na peace talk sa Pakistan, ayon sa ulat ng Agence France-Presse .

**Paano na Strait of Hormuz? Pinagu-usapan pa ani Iran.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Nabigo si VP Sara Duterte na makakuha ng Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) sa Supreme Court para pigilan ang House Committee on Justice ng Kamarasaimpeachmenthearing laban sa kanya na uumpisahan Abril 14 at posibleng matatapos sa Mayo ang nasabing pandinig. So, ngayon ay...

**Alam na ni VP Duterte na hindi 'Sara's Court' ang SC.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Bagama't hindi papinagbibigyan ang mga petisyon na inihain nina Atty. Israelito P. Torreon at iba pa, gayundin ni VP Sara laban sa komite at sa Kamara de Representantes, inatasan ng SC nitong Abril 8 ang mga respondent na magsumite ng kanilang komento sa loob lang ng 10 araw mula sa pagtanggap ng abiso. At dahil dito ay...

**Ipinatuloy ni Speaker Bojie Dy 'kaso ni Sara sa Kongreso.'**

\*\*\*\*\*

At dahil tuloy na 'hearing', ipinakuha ng House Committee on Justice ang mga dokumento na isinumite ni VP Sara upang patunayan ang pagbabayad ng confidential fund kay "Mary

Grace Piattos" at iba pang kuwestyunable umanong personalidad, kaya't malapit ng...

**Magka-alaman kung 'tao o' meryenda ang Piattos.'**

\*\*\*\*\*

Bukod sa 'documentary evidence' ng pagbabayad kay "Piattos", kasama sa ipinakuha na rin ng komite ang ebidensiya ng pagbabayad kina "Milky Secuya", "Kokoy Villamin" at "Irene Tan", kasama rin mga 'resibo' ng ibinayad kina...

**'Marian Rivera at Chel Diokno' na milyones din tinanggap.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Ipinakuha rin ng komite ang kopya ng mga tseke at voucher para sa mga transaksyon mula Disyembre 2022 hanggang Hulyo 2023 gayundin ang mga liquidation report at sworn certification ng mga accountable officer para sa confidential funds, na ayon sa rekord ay umabot sa ...

**P612.5 milyon 'confidential fund' nagastos ni VP Duterte.**

\*\*\*\*\*

At kabilang nga rito ang P125-Milyon na naubos sa loob lamang ng 11 araw noong Disyembre 2022 na hanggang sa kasalukuyan ay hindi maipaliwanag ni VP Sara kung papaano at kung...

**Sino-sino 'naghati' sa milyong pera ni Juan. Nagngdragon!**

\*\*\*\*\*

Kinumpirma ni Ombudsman Boying Remulla na nakahanda na ang kasong 'plunder' laban kina Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez at Sen. Chiz Escudero kaugnay ng umano'y anomalya sa pambansang budget at flood control projects at posibleng ihain ang kaso sa buwan ng Mayo.

**Agad-agad na, bakit hihintayin pa Mayo, Sir Boying?!?!'**

\*\*\*\*\*

Hindi lang umano sina

Romualdez at Escudero, isama na natin sina Villanueva at Jinggoy, ang maaaring masampahan ng kaso. Posible ring madamay ang iba pang politiko, mambabatas at ilang opisyal ng ehekutibo. Ayon yon ke Omb. Boying Remulla na...

**Bising-bisi sa pagbusisi sa ebidensiya kontra malaking isda.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Ang dami ngang nagtatanong sakín kung bakít hanggang ngayon ay wala pa kahit anong balita hinggil kay Sen. Joel Villanueva na isinangkot din ni Bulacan DPWH 1st District Engineering Office Asst. Engr. Brice Hernandez sa kasong 'flood control scam' at tumipak ng milyon-milyong kickbacks.

**Di ko laam. 'Nagdarasal' pa ako, eh. Teka, Y nga ba Ka Boying?**

\*\*\*\*\*

Pumirmasaisang memorandum of agreement (MOA) sina Senior Citizen's Partylist Cong. Rodolfo "Ompong" Ordues at IBP National President Allan Panalong, para sa pagbibigay ng libreng legal assistance sa lahat ng senior citizens sa bansa.

**Ayos, Cong. Ompong. Mabuhay ka!**

\*\*\*\*\*

Nakasaad sa kasunduan na libreng magbibigay ng payong-legal ang mga abogado ng IBP sa buong bansa sa lahat ng senior citizens 60-yrs-old pataas, samantalang ang nabanggit na party-list naman ay tutulong sa pag-aasikaso para sa case referrals.

**Daming mahirap na seniors 'need legal help' talaga, Cong.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Ibinalita ni Pangulong Bongbong Marcos kahapon, Abril 7, ang paglulunsad ng programang "Bawat Barangay Makinabang Program" na magbibigay ng P200,000 sa bawat barangay - P100,000 maaaring gamitin para sa educational assistance, at P100,000 naman para sa piling capital outlay projects para sa ikauunlad ng bawat

barangay.

Laking tulong ni PBBM sa lahat ng barangay sa buong bansa.

\*\*\*\*\*

Bukod sa pera, magbibigay pa rin ang programa ni PBBM ng mga suplay na magagamit sa paglilingkod sa mga kabarangay sa buong bansa gaya ng patrol vehicle, printer, computer, at solar street lamp.

**Mga Kap, pam-barangay po pera ni Juan ha, di pam-bulsa.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Wala pa rin sa Senado si Sen. Bato dela Rosa at wala pa ring aksiyon ang Senate Committee on Ethics and Privileges sa patuloy na pag-absent ni Bato simula pa nuong Nobiyembre 11, 2025.

**Ano, Tito Sen, hahayaan na lang ba ito at kukunsintihin si Bato?**

\*\*\*\*\*

Hindi na makatwiran at hindi parehas ang patuloy na pag-absent ni Sen. Bato dela Rosa na patuloy ding tumatanggap ng P380,000 na suweldo buwan-buwan. Di ba dapat ay pantay-pantay ang polisiya ng lahat ng empleyado na...

**No work, no pay higit lalo sa gobyerno.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Dahil sa patuloy na pag-absent ni Bato, may 9 ng mga grupong nagsampa na ng mga reklamo laban sa kanya sa Senate Committee on Ethics and Privileges, pero, nanindigan si Committee chairman Sen. JV Ejercito na walang probisyon sa "no work, no pay" sa ilalim ng kasalukuyang rules of the Senate o maging sa kanyang komite.

**Nakngdragon, Sen. JV, kahit one-year absent, susuweldo pa rin si Bato? Grabe kayo sa Senado! Kakapal fez nyo!**

\*\*\*\*\*

SEE NEXT PAGE ....



**Ask Computer Dean**  
Tech help for everyday users

**Celebrating My 150th Tip of the Day!**

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ASKCOMPUTERDEAN

**“Is Your Data Safe? A Simple Guide to Cloud Backup in 2026”**

*Let me ask you a simple question: If your computer suddenly stopped working today... what would happen to your files?*

**Photos, documents, emails, business records — all gone in an instant?**

It happens more often than you think. Hard drives fail, laptops get stolen, and accidents happen. That’s why having a proper backup is no longer optional — it’s essential.

One of the easiest ways to protect your data today is through cloud backup services. These services store your files safely online, so even if something happens to your computer, your data is still secure.

Over the past few years, I’ve helped many individuals and families recover from data loss — and unfortunately, many had no backup at all. The good news is that there are now several excellent and affordable options available.

For everyday users, services like Google Drive and iCloud are very popular. They’re easy to use and work seamlessly across multiple devices. However, they are often more about storage and sharing than full system backup — and they

can fill up quickly with photos and emails.

If you’re using a Windows computer, Microsoft OneDrive is another strong option, especially if you already subscribe to Microsoft 365. It integrates nicely with Word, Excel, and Outlook, making it convenient for both home and business users.

For more serious protection, I often recommend services like Backblaze or IDrive. These are designed specifically for backup. Backblaze offers unlimited storage for a single computer and works quietly in the background. IDrive, on the other hand, allows you to back up multiple devices and offers excellent value for families.

Here’s an important point many people don’t realize:

Cloud storage is not the same as cloud backup.

Storage helps you access files easily — backup protects you when things go wrong.

**Computer Dean’s Pro Tip**

Follow the 3-2-1 Rule:

- Keep 3 copies of your data
- Store them on 2 different devices
- Keep 1 copy offsite (in the cloud)

Wendell Rupert Alinea, vet-fotog-son of colleague Eddie Alinea (RIP) & longtime fotog of Lodi Manny Pacquiao...

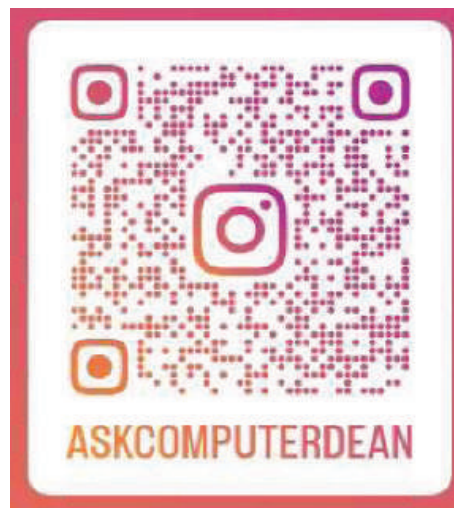
Happy birthday (April 14) to Cassandra Portugal of Manila & Dr. Kiko Portugal (RIP) Fam of Toronto..

Happy birthday (April 17) to Kabayan & former ‘4 Na Sikat’ actress Nancy delos Satos of San Isidro, NE & Toronto ...**God Bless.**

**TALL ORDER ... FROM LAST PAGE ....**

**SHORT ORDER:** Happiest birthday (April 5) to our gorgeous niece Kayleigh Rae D. Tucker, youngest of 2 wonderful children of my younger sis Mila Datol-Tucker & Bayaw Martin Tucker of Staffordshire, England

...HBD (April 7) to colleague Dennis Principe of Manila.. Hapi Beerday (April 11) brad



At the end of the day, you don’t need to be a tech expert to stay protected — you just need a simple plan.

Take a few minutes this week to ask yourself:

“If something happened to my computer today, am I ready?”

If the answer is “not really,” now is the perfect time to start.

**“Your memories and data are priceless — make sure they’re protected.”**

If you’d like help setting up a proper backup system — whether for your home computer, your business, or your entire network — I’d be more than happy to assist. Sometimes a quick setup today can save years of memories and critical data tomorrow.

Ask Computer Dean

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Your friendly tech guide — helping you make sense of everyday technology

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## Easter Blessings

# NEWS Two upcoming ICC judgments could seal fate of Duterte

By Carlito Pablo

Is former Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte resigned to his fate?

Detained for more than a year at a jail by the International Criminal Court (ICC) near The Hague in Netherlands, the ex-leader seems to have accepted his lot.

"I was a faithful servant of the people, and that is how I wish to be remembered. I have now accepted my fate, and I realize I could die in prison," his lawyer Nicholas Kaufman quoted Duterte in the former's closing remarks at an ICC hearing.

That was on February 27, 2026, the last of four days of hearing by the ICC to confirm whether to proceed with the trial of Duterte on charges of crimes against humanity.

The charges against Duterte are in connection with his bloody war against drugs during his time as mayor of Davao City and later as president of the Philippines.

The tribunal is expected to render its decision on the confirmation of charges within 60 days of the end of the hearing on February 27, which means a judgment may be released on or before April 28.

There are three possible outcomes that the ICC pre-trial chamber could arrive at:

- Find sufficient evidence, confirm the charges, and commit Duterte to trial;
- Find insufficient evidence, decline to confirm the charges, and stop the proceedings against Duterte;
- Adjourn the hearing and request the ICC prosecutor



The ICC is expected to issue a couple of rulings on April 22 and April 28 in the case involving ex-president Rodrigo Duterte.

to provide further evidence, conduct further investigations, or amend any charge for which the evidence submitted appears to establish a crime.

Duterte marked his 81st birthday on March 28 in jail, his second birthday in the ICC detention facility.

The former Philippine president was arrested in Manila on March 11, 2025. He was flown to The Hague and turned over to the ICC the following day.

Duterte is accused of three counts of crimes against humanity of murder and attempted murder involving 78 victims in 49 incidents.

A report by the BusinessWorld newspaper quoted a legal analyst saying that the withdrawal of the Philippines from the Rome Statute may not favour Duterte.

Duterte's legal team has argued that the ICC had no jurisdiction because its formal investigation into the former leader's alleged crimes was authorized only in 2021, which was two years after the Philippines withdrew from the Rome Statute.

The BusinessWorld report recalled that an ICC pre-trial chamber rejected the argument, stating that a withdrawal does not affect any matter under consideration before the withdrawal.

The report quoted Ephraim B. Cortez, president of the National Union of People's Lawyers, who expressed confidence that the appeals chamber would uphold this line.

"The ICC will definitely rule in favor of the Prosecution," Cortez said. "There is no basis in the argument that the ICC can no longer take cognizance of the case since the authority to investigate was issued only in 2021."

"We have to consider that the Prosecutor initiated the preliminary examination into the Philippine situation in February 2018, more than a year before the Philippines' withdrawal from the ICC became effective," he said.

Cortez added in the BusinessWorld report that the withdrawal itself was a response to the ICC's initial actions of looking into Duterte's alleged crimes.

"The withdrawal was a reaction to the initiation

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of the preliminary examination," Cortez said. "But the withdrawal came in too late, since the proceedings had been initiated through the preliminary examination, and the jurisdiction of the ICC had already attached."

Duterte's daughter Sara Duterte is currently Vice President of the Philippines. She is considered to be the frontrunner among potential candidates for next president in the 2028 national election.

Vice President Duterte is currently subject to impeachment proceedings before the House of

Representatives. If the House finds enough evidence and votes to impeach, she will face trial before the Senate.

Sara Duterte is facing allegations of misusing public funds and threatening to assassinate President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., his wife Liza Araneta, and cousin Ferdinand Martin Rumualdez, who at the time was Speaker of the House.

If convicted, she will be disqualified from holding government office, which means she will be out of contention for the 2028 presidency.

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## Tinig Migrante

By E. Maestro

# Holy Week Thoughts

Holy Week is always a time of reflection and prayer. It begins with Palm Sunday which marks Jesus' entrance to Jerusalem, which is followed by his arrest, torture, crucifixion and death on the cross. The Passion of Christ ends with his Resurrection or the celebration of Easter.

Christian churches mark the week with the saying of prayers, the washing of the feet, making the stations of the cross, and doing the Easter vigil.

At the Washing of the Feet at the St Mary the Virgin South Hill church, a ritual that marks one of the last acts of Jesus on earth, I am reminded of the message of this humbling, very personal and almost intimate task.

Are we willing to wash the feet of our neighbours? Are we willing to get down on our knees, wash the feet of others, and wipe them dry? Are we willing to serve others?

I think the powerful men and women (and their children) accused of corruption, embezzlement, plunder in the Philippines should be required to wash the feet of their neighbours, especially the poor, the farmers, the jeepney drivers, the indigenous people, the political prisoners, the families of the victims of the so-called war on drugs, and overseas Filipino workers.

This year was my second time to participate in the Washing of the Feet, both times at this little church with a big heart.

It was also my second time to join the *Pabasa*/Reading of the Pasyon, the first time in a barrio chapel in Cavite and the second time in a Vancouver home.

The *Pabasa* is the uninterrupted chanting or reading of the Pasyon, the Philippine epic narrative of the life of Jesus, his passion, death and resurrection.

The family of Maria Fe and Catalina Samson and their extended families have kept their Reading/*Pabasa* in Canada, a holy week panata/vow that was started in the Philippines and which they have kept alive. The chanters

or readers face the altar with the family's religious icons, the most prominent of which is the Samson family heirloom, a wooden statue of Jesus holding a piece of bread. Thank you, Maria Fe and Catalina for inviting me!

Holy Week is over, Jesus has risen. But in the Philippines, where the Holy Week is more than a religious ritual to the workers, urban poor and the peasants, it reflects what the poor endure and bear every day.

The Passion of Jesus is reflected in the suffering of the Filipino people, marked by the unstoppable rise in oil prices, appalling government inaction, increasing poverty, landlessness, injustice, militarization, forced migration, lack of basic social services, hence the name The People's Calvary.

The urban poor in Quezon City had their *Kalbaryo ng Maralita*/Calvary of the Urban Poor; health workers and residents in Tondo, Navotas, Malabon, and Quezon City had their *Kalbaryo ng Manggagawang Pangkalusugan at Mamamayan*/The Suffering of Health Workers and the People, and the people in Davao City had their *Kalbaryo sa Katawhan*/Calvary of the People.

But we know how the Holy Week ends. It is with Easter, ang Pasko ng Pagkabuhay.

The poor and the oppressed will have their *Pasko ng Pagkabuhay*, when there will be justice, genuine peace, decent lives for the people, where the commandment "love thy neighbour" is truly practised. And there is no doubt about it.



Lenten pictures: Blessing of the Palms, making the Stations of the Cross, Washing of the Feet, Easter Sunday. Photo credit: St Mary the Virgin South Hill



Pabasa hosted by Maria Fe and Catalina Samson at their Vancouver Home and attended by their families and friends.

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**April 26, 2026 (Sunday)**

Walking Memorial from 12NN  
Formal Program starts at 7PM  
Wreath Laying at 8PM



# COMMUNITY CORNER

BY CHRISTIAN CUNANAN AND APPLE PLATA

## TASTE THE PHILIPPINES IN BC! | Filipino Restaurant Month in Canada | April 2026

**Vancouver, BC:** The Philippine Consulate General celebrates April as Filipino Restaurant Month, marking the 5th edition of the Filipino Restaurant Month in Canada (FRMC). This annual initiative showcases the rich and vibrant flavors of Filipino cuisine while promoting cultural appreciation and supporting Filipino-owned businesses across the country.

This year's celebration highlights the world-renowned Philippine mango, recognized for its exceptional sweetness and versatility. Local chefs have curated exclusive prefixed menus featuring innovative dishes that elevate this iconic national fruit.

The official launch, hosted by Gina A. Jamoralin together with the officers and staff of the Consulate, was attended by distinguished guests, including Anne Kang; Paul Choi; members of the Consular Corps of British Columbia; Consuls General and Deputy Consuls General; as well as leaders and members of the Filipino-Canadian community.

### Participating restaurants in Metro Vancouver include:

**Max's Restaurant Vancouver** — Renowned for its “Sarap to the Bones” fried chicken, complemented by festive mango-infused

creations. Located at 3546 Kingsway, Vancouver.

**Plato Filipino** — Offering a modern interpretation of classic Filipino comfort food in an elegant setting. Located at 892 Carnarvon Street, New Westminster.

**Pampanga's Cuisine** — Showcasing authentic flavors from the culinary capital of the Philippines. Located at 6094 Fraser Street, Vancouver.

The Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver, in partnership with Philippine Airlines, Air Canada, and the Philippine Department of Tourism, successfully launched the 2026 Filipino Restaurant Month in Canada (FRMC) for the month of April.

**EAT & WIN!** Diners who order a participating Prix Fixe menu can scan the official QR code, upload their receipt, and enter for a chance to win exciting raffle prizes, including travel vouchers, hotel accommodations in Boracay, Palawan, Bohol, and Cebu, as well as gift certificates from Seafood City and Jollibee.

Filipino Restaurant Month invites the public to experience the richness of Filipino culture - “Eat, Fly, Love: A Filipino Feast in Vancouver.”



## Sunday Well Spent: Celebrating the Joy of Easter

**Burnaby, BC — April 6, 2026:** At the warm and welcoming home of Josephine Rose and Ahmad Fard, friends and community members gathered for a simple Sunday potluck get-together. The afternoon was filled with the spirit of Easter - hope, renewal, and togetherness, while embracing the fresh promise of spring.

Guests shared delicious food, meaningful conversations, singing, photo-taking, and plenty of laughter. The gathering reflected

the growing bond within the community, where friendships continue to feel more like family.

It was a memorable day, everyone had fun and enjoyed the delicious food. More than just a celebration, it was a beautiful reminder of the strength of community and the happiness found in being together.

A big thank you to Josephine Rose and Ahmad Fard for hosting and for their warm hospitality in welcoming everyone into their home.





# 88 Supermarket to Open 4th Location on Kingsway in Late 2026

88 Supermarket is excited to announce the expansion of its footprint in British Columbia with the upcoming opening of its newest store at 3328 Kingsway, Vancouver in late 2026.

this 4th location represents a significant commitment to the local community, with a specialized focus on meeting the growing demand for authentic Filipino groceries and specialty goods.

As part of its mission to provide diverse and high-quality food options, 88 Supermarket's Kingsway branch will serve as a premier destination for "Taste of Home" ingredients. The store is designed to provide the Filipino-Canadian community with direct access to a comprehensive range of premium brands and fresh perishables essential to traditional Philippine cuisine.

**About 88 Supermarket**  
Established as a family-ori-

ented grocer, 88 Supermarket has grown into one of the Lower Mainland's most trusted sources for international flavors. With existing locations in Vancouver and Richmond, the company is known for its vast selection of ethnic specialties, fresh produce, and high-quality meats. By bridging the gap between local freshness and global ingredients, 88 Supermarket continues to serve as a vital culinary hub for the diverse communities of British Columbia.

"We are pleased to be opening our doors on Kingsway," says the 88 Supermarket Management Team. "Our goal has always been to be a convenient and reliable partner in our customers' kitchens. By adding a fourth location, we hope to make our selection of goods even more accessible to the residents of Vancouver."

**Looking Ahead**  
As preparations for the late 2026 opening continue, 88 Su-

permarket is focused on finalizing the store layout and building relationships with local staff and suppliers. Updates regard-

ing the grand opening date, special promotions, and employment opportunities will be shared in the coming months.



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# PBABC Donates Ophthalmology Equipment to Catanduanes Doctors Hospital

## Filipino-Canadian Organization Helps Launch Much-Needed Eye Care Services in Virac

Vancouver, BC – April 2026 — The Philippine Bicol Association of British Columbia (PBABC) continues to demonstrate its commitment to global community service through the donation of two sets of ophthalmology equipment to the Catanduanes Doctors Hospital, Inc., (CDHI) located in Virac which is the capital municipality of the Philippine island province of Catanduanes in the Bicol Region (Region V).

This vital contribution addresses a critical need, as the hospital had been in the process of establishing an ophthalmology clinic but lacked the necessary equipment to begin operations and offer patient consultations. With the arrival of the donated equipment, the hospital is now

able to move forward with its plans to deliver essential eye care services to the local community.

On March 18, 2026, following the completion of renovation works, the newly established ophthalmology clinic was formally blessed and inaugurated. The event was attended by CDHI leadership, including President and CEO Dr. Lubelia Sanchez, along with senior management, administrative personnel, and members of the medical staff.

PBABC President Lorry Gavieres Russell flew in to Catanduanes at the time to witness the blessing and official inauguration of the facility.

*“This initiative reflects our shared responsibility to support communities in need. By providing essential ophthalmology equipment, we hope to help restore not just vision, but also quality of life for many patients. It is our honour to be part of this meaningful step toward expanding accessible healthcare services,”* said Russell.

With the necessary equipment now in place, CDHI is currently in the process of recruiting an ophthalmology specialist who will lead and operate the new clinic, further strengthening its capacity to deliver comprehensive patient care.

care advocates in the region have welcomed the initiative, recognizing it as a meaningful contribution that will significantly improve access to specialized medical services in the province.

### About PBABC

The Philippine Bicol Association of British Columbia (PBABC) is a community-based organization committed to humanitarian efforts, cultural engagement, and charitable initiatives both in Canada and abroad.

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## McIlroy's dramatic Masters' win

SPORTS



AS usual, there was heart-rending drama in the Masters ending yesterday, Monday, April 13 PH time.

I had to set up my alarm clock at dawn for four straight days beginning on Friday, April 10, to watch the year's first of golf's four majors—almost a ritual I had passionately subscribed to since I covered the event in 1991, the year our very own Frankie Minoza saw action as only the third Filipino to get invited to the tournament after Luis "Golem" Silverio (+) and Ben Arda (+).

Minoza scored a modest 75-78 at the par-72 Augusta National to miss the cut like Greg Norman. But they were decent rounds since Frankie played

with swollen eyes after contracting pollen allergy on the eve of tournament blast-off.

If not for the words of encouragement to play on "for flag and country" by delegation head Rod Feliciano (+), then the top honcho of DHL Philippines, Minoza would have quit.

It was one coverage I would relish forever, especially after seeing Welshman Ian Woosnam, called "Golf's Popeye" for his extra-large arms, sink a nerve-wracking eight-footer on the 72nd hole to win the tournament's 55th edition in Augusta, Georgia.

Lito Tacujan, then the Phil Star's sports editor who had just passed on, was with me in the trip and we had such fond memories to latch on to for a

lifetime. Rest in peace, Tolits. Yes, North Ireland's Rory McIlroy won the 90th Masters in wire-to-wire fashion, in the process making himself the first back-to-back champion in 24 years of the tournament often referred to as the Vatican of golf for its sheer drawing power and illustrious history.

With his victory, the 36-year-old McIlroy became only the fourth man to successfully defend his crown after Jack Nicklaus in 1965-1966, Nick Faldo in 1989-1990 and Tiger Woods in 2001-2002.

But to win it two-in-row, he had to survive grinding pressure especially in the last nine holes of the so-called Masters Sunday where the true test of character is always at play.

McIlroy anchored his win on

his 67-65 in the first two rounds for a 6-shot bulge, the biggest halfway lead in Masters history.

And although he took a shaky third-round 73 for a share of the 54-hole lead going to the last round, McIlroy brushed aside all his challengers on the final day—having the luxury of a last-hole bogey after his last tee shot found the trees to defeat by a single shot the surging, two-time Masters champion Scottie Scheffler.

With his closing 71 to Scheffler's 68 for a 12-under-par total, McIlroy pocketed \$4.5 million from the record pot of \$22.5 million. Scheffler's 11-under was worth \$2.43 million.

Did I hear Jake P. Ayson say, "We are in the wrong business, bro!"?

(Reprinted from his SunStar column; photos from golf.com)



### OTHER NEWS

## Pope Leo XIV: 'I have no fear' of the Trump administration

ABOARD THE PAPAL FLIGHT—Pope Leo XIV said Monday that he will continue to speak out "loudly" against war, stressing that his role is to preach the Gospel, not to enter into political disputes.

Speaking to journalists aboard the papal flight to Algiers on April 13, the pope responded to a question about a post by U.S. President Donald Trump. "I think people who read it will be able to draw their own conclusions. I am not a politician, and I have no intention of entering into a debate with him," Leo said.

The pope said he would remain outspoken in condemning war and promoting peace. "I have no fear neither of the

Trump administration nor of speaking out loudly about the message of the Gospel," he said in comments to a different journalist.

"That's what I believe I am called to do and what the Church is called to do. We're not politicians. We're not looking to make foreign policy, as [Trump] calls it, with the same perspective that he might understand it."

"But I do believe that the message of the Gospel, 'blessed are the peacemakers,' is a message that the world needs to hear today."

The pope also reflected on the meaning of his trip to Algeria, describing it as both a personal

blessing and an important opportunity for the Church and the wider world.

"As you know, I am very happy to visit once again the land of St. Augustine," he said. He noted that the saint offers "a very important bridge in interreligious dialogue" and remains deeply loved in his homeland.

Leo said the visit would allow him to see the places associated with the life of St. Augustine, including the places where he served as bishop.

"Today is truly a blessing for me personally, but I believe also for the Church and for the world, because we must always seek bridges in order to build peace and reconciliation," he said.

The trip, he added, is "a most precious opportunity" to continue proclaiming the same message with the same voice: "We want to promote peace, reconciliation, and respect and consideration for all peoples."

He concluded by thanking the journalists traveling with him.

"Welcome, everyone. I am happy to greet you," the pope said. "Have a good trip, and thank you for the service you offer to all the people."

Correction: Quotations attributed to Pope Leo XIV in this article have been revised based on audio recordings of his comments. (A. Ambrogetti, M. Mancini/ EWTN News /CBCP news)

## “Combo On The Run” Vancouver Tour Delivers Historic Night of Music, Film, and Filipino Pride

By Janice Lozano

Vancouver, BC — April 13, 2026 — Vancouver witnessed an unforgettable and historic evening on April 11, 2026, as the Combo On The Run tour took over the Rio Theatre -delivering a powerful fusion of film, live music, and cultural celebration that left audiences on an emotional high.

From the moment doors opened, it was clear this was more than just an event—it was a movement. The special screening of *Eraserheads: Combo on The Run* captivated audiences with its raw, honest, and deeply moving storytelling. Directed by Maria Diane Ventura, the film offered an intimate look into the legacy of the Eraserheads, revealing untold stories, vulnerabilities, and defining moments that shaped generations.

The theatre fell into silence during its most powerful scenes, only to erupt with emotion and nostalgia as memories tied to the music came flooding back. This was not simply a documentary, it was a shared experience, deeply felt by everyone in the room.

As the credits rolled, the energy shifted, but only intensified.

Taking the stage, Ely Buendia delivered a performance that can only be described as legendary. Song after song, the crowd sang along in unison, reliving moments of youth, heartbreak, joy, and identity. It was more than a concert; it was a collective memory brought to life.

Joining him were powerhouse musicians Paco Arespacochaga of Introvoyos and Buwi Menses of Parokya ni Edgar, whose presence elevated the night into something truly extraordinary. Together, they created a rare and powerful convergence of musical eras, bridging generations of Filipino sound and storytelling on one stage.

Also taking the spotlight was Audry Dionisio whose commanding yet graceful presence added depth, elegance, and balance to an already dynamic lineup, proving herself as a standout performer among legends.

The night was filled with electric energy, heartfelt emotion,

and an overwhelming sense of pride. Fans laughed, cried, sang, and celebrated together, reminded of the timeless impact of Filipino music and the power of shared cultural identity.

Behind the scenes, the event’s success was made possible by a passionate and dedicated team. Led by DEvents with visionary leadership from Maria Diane Ventura and Day Cabuhat, the production delivered a seamless and world-class experience from start to finish.

The event also drew strong support from community leaders, partners, and organizations, reflecting the importance of representation and cultural celebration within Vancouver’s diverse landscape. Sponsors and media partners, including GMA Pinoy Tv, 107.5 and Omni TV, played a key role in amplifying the reach and impact of the event.

Equally vital were the many individuals working behind the scenes, from technical teams and creatives to volunteers, security personnel, and community supporters, whose collective efforts ensured the night’s success. Their dedication is a testament to the power of col-

laboration and shared vision.

“This was more than just a show—it was a cultural milestone,” organizers shared. “A night that celebrated who we are, where we come from, and the music that continues to connect us all.”

The Combo On The Run Vancouver stop now stands as a defining moment, not just for fans of the Eraserheads, but for the Filipino community as a whole. It was a reminder that when passion, purpose, and culture come together, something truly magical happens.

As the tour continues and future productions take shape, one thing remains clear: this is only the beginning.

East 45th Productions and its partners reaffirm their commitment to creating meaningful, high-quality experiences that go beyond entertainment, productions that tell stories, inspire connection, and give back to the community.

With more shows on the horizon, including upcoming events featuring rising global Filipino talent, the momentum continues to build. (Photo credit Soulmate Photography)



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## SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS BELIEVE... CHRIST'S MINISTRY IN THE SANCTUARY

*Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary; Who is so great a God as our God?* Psalm 77: 13 NKJV

8 And let them make Me a sanctuary,[c] that I may dwell among them. 9 According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it. Exodus 25: 8-10, NKJV

The Sanctuary doctrine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is a distinct doctrine of the church as enunciated as the 23rd of the Fundamental Beliefs of the Church.

Without further ado, we will print this in full with Biblical texts added in bold letters. "There is a sanctuary in heaven, the true tabernacle which the Lord set up and not man. (Heb. 8: 1,2) In it Christ ministers on our behalf, making available to believers the benefits of His atoning sacrifice offered once for all on

the Cross. He was inaugurated as our great High Priest and began His intercessory ministry at the time of His ascension. In 1844, at the end of the prophetic period of 2300 days, (Daniel 8: 14) He entered the second and last phase of His atoning sacrifice.

It is a work of investigative judgment, which is a part of the ultimate disposition of all sin typified by the cleansing of the ancient Hebrew sanctuary on the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16). In that typical service, the sanctuary was cleansed with the blood of animal sacrifices, but the heavenly things are purified with the perfect sacrifice of the blood of Jesus.

The investigative judgment reveals to heavenly intelligences who among the dead are asleep in Christ and therefore in Him, are deemed worthy to have part in the first resurrection. It also makes manifest who among the living are abiding in

Christ, keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus and in Him, therefore, are ready for translation into His everlasting kingdom. This judgment vindicates the justice of God in saving those who believe in Jesus. It declares that those who have remained loyal to God shall receive the kingdom. The completion of this ministry of Christ will mark the close of human probation for the second advent."

When Jesus died, the team leader of the Roman contingent that crucified Him, exclaimed, **"Truly, this was the Son of God"**, and before that, the thief who was hanging beside Him was promised eternal life. We just celebrated Easter, the day that Jesus was resurrected from the dead, after keeping the Sabbath in Joseph's tomb.

But we are blessed because of the resurrection as Saint Paul said, "13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then

Christ is not risen. 14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise.

16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have [a]fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable."

1 Corinthians 15: 13-19 But we have this promise in the same chapter verses 51-55. 51 Behold, I tell you a [m]ystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an

WISDOM TO PAGE 22 ...

## Moments

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD



## God's generosity and mercy

An Easter surprise moment happened to me when I had a counseling with a 93-year-old widow last month. She said she dreamed that her deceased husband had a child out of wedlock, and this bothered her. I thought she would pour out her hurts and anger. To my surprise, she told me that she would like to find this child and somehow give also some help or inheritance from his husband. What a generous and merciful woman!

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. More and more, I realize that beyond divine justice and divine love, there is divine mercy. Justice is getting what we deserve. Love is getting what we don't deserve. Mercy is getting something, whether deserved or not. In all our dealings, may we constantly go beyond justice, and beyond love and move on to mercy, and there, find God. May our constant earnest prayer be "Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner!"

In today's Gospel (John

20:19-31), we hear of the disciples getting stronger in their belief in the Resurrection. Their doubts and fears gradually gave way to commitment and courage. Whatever turbulence they were going through as individuals and as a group was calmed down by Christ's assuring words: "Peace be with you." Are you going through any problem, difficulty, fear or trial right now? Let Christ tell you again, "Peace be with you."

As it were, the Lord does not want us to wallow and stagnate in our personal miseries and misfortunes. The antidote to stagnation is mission. We have to see the "big picture" and not be caught up with our little screens. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." Remember, wherever you are, you are there, and God is there! In everything, in anything that happens in our lives, there is a reason, and there is a mission. Instead of stagnating on the question "Why," move on with the

question "Where." It is mission that leads us out of our miseries and prisons.

Allow me to share an "Easter Sunday moment" with you. After a long, hard week, I treated myself with a big bowl of hot chicken mami. Talk of comfort food! When it was time to pay, I found out that I had no money in my wallet. What to do? Leave my watch in the restaurant while I went to get money, or make a promissory note? Just then, the waiter walked up to me and said: "Sir, the family over there had already paid for you." I walked up to Jo and Mike and their son Miguel, and told them of my predicament, and praised the Risen Lord with them for making Himself so real to me that Easter day; and for the family too, especially for Jo whom I was able to bless before she checked into a hospital that afternoon for her myoma surgery the next day. Yes, our God is risen. He is alive. He is with us, and He is a God of surprises!

"Jesus, I trust in you." May we learn early enough that our achievements and plans come to nothing without God's grace and approval. It is consoling, too, that our sins and mistakes are small compared to His unconditional mercy and love. Yes, the sooner we realize, and the sooner we live in God's mercy, the better for all of us. Are you still living and pursuing your personal glory, or have you already surrendered to God's will and mercy?

We will have a peaceful and meaningful life if we hold on to the Divine Will ("Lord, thy will be done!"); and if we trust in the Divine Mercy ("Jesus, I trust in You!") God is good, loving, generous, and merciful. Amen!

I have said it before, and I say it again, that it is better to be presumptuous of God's love than to doubt God's love. God's love is greater than we

MOMENTS TO PAGE 22 ...



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**WISDOM from PAGE 21....**

eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swal-

lowed up in victory." May we all see each other in heaven. AMEN. 55

*To contact us: Our website is [www.abundantlifeadventist.ca](http://www.abundantlifeadventist.ca). Worship with us every Saturday Sabbath, the seventh day of the week. Genesis 2: 2, 3, Exodus 20: 8-10, Isaiah 58: 13, 14; Isaiah 66: 22, 23; Matthew 5: 17-19; Revelation 22: 14 John 14:*

**FR ORBOS from PAGE 21....**

can ever imagine. I also hold on to the promise of the Divine Mercy so that our sins are but like a drop of water in the ocean of God's mercy! We owe God everything; He owes us nothing; we are His unworthy, but very loved servants. Thank you, Lord, for your tremendous and fascinating love! Amen!

so much that He sent His Only Begotten Son. Yes, may the Lord be merciful upon us all. Through it all, may we never lose hope, nor be dismayed by trials, but rather, be filled with confidence of God's unconditional love.

**A moment with the Lord:**

Lord, help us to be more generous and merciful like You. Amen.

*momentwithfrjerry@gmail.com*

*(Reprinted from inquirer.net)*

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