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Premier David Eby asks all British Columbians to Wear Red for Team Canada

Premier David Eby was at the Team Canada rally last evening, ahead of Team Canada's first FIFA World Cup 2026 game in Vancouver on Thursday, June 18, 2026. More photos on PAGE 3 (Photos from bcgov.ca)



Atasha Muhlach as Annie Batungbakal in new musical

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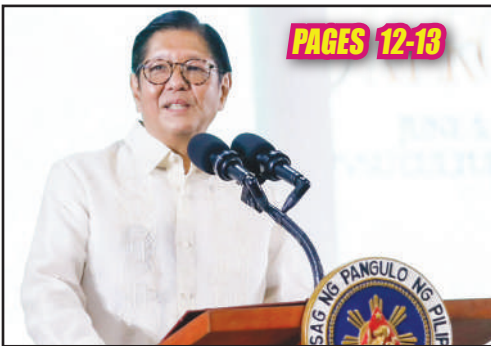
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Putting B.C.'s children, youth first through new action plan Province launches cross-government strategy for better outcomes



The Province has released a new Child and Youth Well-Being Action Plan and Outcomes Framework that will bring ministries together around a co-ordinated, cross-government approach to better support children, youth and families throughout B.C.

The action plan aims to transform the system, connecting actions across ministries and agencies to better integrate services and prioritize children and families that need support most. The accompanying Outcomes Framework will give a whole-system view that was missing and will help track whether results are being achieved across government. This work also contributes to broader efforts to better connect services and organize them around people's needs.

"We all want every child in B.C. to grow up safe, supported and connected," said Jodie Wickens, Minister of Children and Family Development. "The well-being action plan will help us create a better place for young people to grow up, one where families can get the help they need and experience a more co-ordinated system of supports that make a difference in their lives."

Building a more co-ordinated system for children, families

The Child and Youth Well-Being Action Plan sets a shared direction for how government will continue improving outcomes for children and youth in B.C. It sets out how the system will shift away from reactive crisis response to focus instead on preventing challenges through better co-ordination between ministries

and service organizations so families can get help earlier and with fewer barriers.

"As a youth who grew up in care, I know how important it is for young people to be heard in decisions that affect their lives," said Alex Turpin, a former child in care and member of the ministry's youth advisory committee. "What excites me most about the Child and Youth Well-Being Action Plan is its commitment to bringing ministries together and listening to lived experience. My hope is that every child and youth in British Columbia feels seen, heard, respected and supported. Not just during a meeting, consultation or celebration, but every day."

The action plan integrates a wide range of actions from across government into the key areas that impact a child's well-being, rather than by government department. This new approach is organized around five priority areas that impact a child's life and reflect both immediate and long-term needs:

creating a safe, strong and healthy foundation for families

preventing and responding to intimate-partner, gender-based and family violence

strengthening integrated services and crisis response

advancing Indigenous self-determination and jurisdiction

protecting vulnerable children and youth who have contact with the child welfare system

For example, Connected Services BC is working to

strengthen co-ordination across ministries so families can get support without having to repeat their story and access the help they need more easily.

Tracking what's working for children, families

Across government, several initiatives are already underway to protect and uplift the most vulnerable. These will now be supported by an outcomes framework that sets out how child and youth well-being will be defined and tracked throughout British Columbia. This new and innovative framework will allow all ministries to measure progress toward outcomes related to health, safety, belonging and learning.

This will help connect government actions to results, supporting stronger decisions by identifying what is working and where systems need to change. This new approach re-imagines how services are delivered and evaluated throughout the province, ensuring they make a real difference in the lives of the most vulnerable.

"We welcome the government's undertaking to design a co-ordinated approach that better responds to the needs of families," said Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs. "Colby's devastating death was a preventable tragedy. His heart-wrenching passing called for broad systemic change, where First Nations' self-determination is upheld in a meaningful way, and where supports that recognize the multifaceted nature of a child's, a family's and a community's well-being are provided early. The true test of this new approach, however, will be its implementation. Real accountability and better outcomes for First Nations children will depend on trust, relationships and on every minister's commitment to delivering on their promises."

Taking action across government

In July 2024, B.C.'s

representative for children and youth released Don't Look Away, a report that examined systemic issues affecting vulnerable children and families in the province. Centred on the tragic death of Colby, who died while in care, the report reinforced the need for co-ordinated government-wide action to better support vulnerable children and families in B.C.

The findings from Don't Look Away helped shape government's commitment to improving how children and families are supported, including the development of a comprehensive Child and Youth Well-Being Action Plan and Outcomes Framework to improve co-ordination across ministries and agencies and to improve outcomes for children, youth and families.

"This plan and outcomes framework are important foundational steps and I am happy that government is acting on our recommendation," said Jennifer Charlesworth, representative for children and youth. "I am hopeful, given the critical challenges that young people continue to experience every day in this province, that with this announcement comes momentum to take concrete actions that will ensure all young people in the province thrive."

The action plan also aligns with recommendations from other recent reviews and recommendations about how to improve government services in the social sector. For example, work is already underway to address the recommendations from the 2025 Stanton report on intimate partner and sexual violence, which aligns with the action plan's focus on prevention, early response and better supports for survivors.

The well-being plan is available online. Public feedback, along with targeted engagement with Indigenous partners, service organizations, the representative for children and youth and others, will help inform how the action plan evolves. (news.gov.bc.ca/photo by flickr))



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Premier David Eby asks all British Columbians to Wear Red for Team Canada



Premier David Eby was at the Team Canada rally last evening, ahead of Team Canada's first FIFA World Cup 2026 game in Vancouver on Thursday, June 18, 2026. (Catherine.Chan@gov.bc.ca)



Liza Soberano reveals challenges of starting over in Hollywood

MANILA, Philippines — Former Kapamilya actress Liza Soberano has spoken out about the hardships and sacrifices she has endured since leaving her career in the Philippines.

Liza admitted that she was very hurt when people called her "laos" when she went to the US to pursue her Hollywood dream.

The actress gave up and sacrificed a lot when she decided to leave the Philippine showbiz to pursue her dream of becoming a Hollywood star.

Liza shared on the "Painfully Human Podcast" hosted by Edward Barber the events that took place in her life and career when she moved to Los Angeles in 2024.

Edward asked Liza what things she had to sacrifice when she left her beautiful showbiz career in the Philippines.

"Money," Liza answered. "For the

longest time, this is something that I've realized about myself after stepping away from showbiz and kind of the Philippines in general."

"I don't mean disrespect by this, but like I was so afraid of looking poor... It's not like I look down on poor people, I definitely don't. I was poor growing up. I remember when I joined showbiz, everybody was always saying like 'Oh, don't talk too much about your personal life' that's why nobody knows much of my upbringing," Liza said.

"In order to not distract people from the brand that we were carefully curating, I never really went in-depth about my story. But now that I've moved to LA, obviously, money is the biggest thing that I've sacrificed because I could be here in the Philippines doing the same thing I've been doing since I was 12, making lots of money," the actress said.

"I could be easily just doing that

and still making the same amount of money that I used to, but now I don't. That's what I sacrificed to be living in LA and discomfort," she said.

However, she chose to start over in the US, where she described herself as a new artist learning the industry from the beginning.

Soberano said it hurt when people called her "laos" and questioned her career after she started appearing in smaller projects.

"I have to do all these little gigs every now and then because that's how I pay my bills. That's the price that I'm paying so that I can fulfill this ambition or dream of mine," she said. "Money and just the comfort of not having to put in the effort to grow."

Liza also said that she spends money on acting workshops and vocal lessons.

"In America, I do three to four auditions a week and I get rejected constantly. But I'm loving it now



because I'm learning and growing so much. All these different roles which is fun, but then I still get rejected because I'm doing the thing I said I wanted to do," she said.

After her Hollywood debut in the 2024 horror-comedy film "Lisa Frankenstein," alongside Kathryn Newton, she landed another international project as one of the lead voice actors of "Forgotten Island."

This is the upcoming animated feature from DreamWorks Animation. She will be joined by Filipino and international artists such as H.E.R., Lea Salonga, Manny Jacinto, Dave Franco and Jenny Slate. (J.M. Severo/Philstar)

City adds fourth Surrey Soccer Fan Zone at Holland Park

New location to show live screenings of Bronze and Final World Cup matches

Surrey, B.C. The City of Surrey announced today that Holland Park will serve as the fourth Soccer Fan Zone, hosting live screenings of the FIFA World Cup 26™ Bronze and Final matches in July 18 and 19. The addition creates another free, accessible space for residents and visitors to gather and celebrate the tournament, joining Civic Plaza, Cloverdale Agriplex and South Surrey Athletic Park.

The announcement was made during the official launch of Surrey Soccer Fan Zones at Civic Plaza, where thousands of fans gathered to watch Canada's opening FIFA World Cup 26™ match and take part in soccer-themed activities and entertainment.

"The strong turnout at today's opening event showed just how

excited Surrey residents are to be part of the FIFA World Cup experience," said Mayor Brenda Locke. "By adding Holland Park, we're creating another opportunity for people to come together and celebrate the game. We thank the Province of British Columbia for its support in making these fan zones possible."

Fan zone locations and dates:

Civic Plaza, June 11-July 15

Cloverdale Agriplex,

July 1-19

South Surrey Athletic Park,
July 14-19

Holland Park, July 18-19

Surrey Soccer Fan Zones are a free, summer-long celebration of soccer featuring more than 100 live match broadcasts at



Mayor Brenda Locke officially unveils Holland Park as Surrey's fourth soccer fan zone at the opening celebration in Surrey Civic Plaza.

four locations.

For the current schedule

and event information, visit surreysoccerfanzones.ca.

Coco and Julia tease action and romance in "Coco Martin's Sigabo"

Coco Martin's most-awaited primetime comeback is finally here to bring fresh excitement to viewers as ABS-CBN dropped the official trailer for "Coco Martin's Sigabo," which premieres this June 22 at 8 PM.

The action-packed trailer teases the series' cinematic production, blending elevated action scenes with a glimpse of 'kilig' and light-hearted scenes of Hari ng Aksyon sa Ating Henerasyon Coco with Prime Actress Julia Montes.

Coco expressed immense pride in "Coco Martin's Sigabo," his first original concept, that combines his signature brand of action with a mix of entertaining romance and comedy, promising compelling storytelling that will resonate with Filipino viewers every weeknight.

"Sobra akong proud na proud sa project na ito, kasi from 'Probinsyano' to Batang Quiapo' talagang in-upgrade namin," said Coco in a "TV Patrol" interview about the series where he serves as the main actor, co-director, and co-producer alongside Julia.

In the action-romance series,

Coco portrays Gabo, a devoted son and ex-convict who takes on a secret mission in exchange for his freedom, and eventually he crosses paths with Sam (Julia), a lawyer who also works as an investigative agent.

Meanwhile, respected industry personalities Erik Matti and Roselle Monteverde, as well as action movie icon Lito Lapid and "Sigabo" cast member Mark Lapid have all expressed admiration for Coco's body of work - from the remarkable successes of "FPJ's Ang Probinsyano" and "FPJ's Batang Quiapo" - saying that he truly deserves to be called the "Hari ng Aksyon sa Ating Henerasyon."

Notably, acclaimed filmmaker Erik shared in an interview with "TV Patrol," "It's Coco who really brought back the excitement of action movies and series. 'Pag gawa niya ng aksyon, action all the way. He started it again when no one else was looking into action.'"



Coco Martin and Julia Montes

"Sigabo" also includes JC De Vera, JM De Guzman, Arci Muñoz, Sue Ramirez, Jhong Hilario, Edu Manzano, Carmi Martin, Chanda Romero, Irma Adlawan, Joey Marquez, and many more.

As viewers count down the days until the highly anticipated premiere of "Sigabo," Coco and Julia continue to feel the love from Kapamilyas in different parts of the country in their ongoing nationwide motorcade.

Following the success of their fiesta-feels motorcade stops

in Metro Manila and Cebu, CocoJul and the cast are set to bring more street party fun and good vibes with upcoming stops in Cavite (June 18), Palawan (June 20), and Pampanga (June 28).

Don't miss the action-packed premiere of "Coco Martin's Sigabo" this June 22 (Monday) at 8 PM on ABS-CBN sa ALLTV2, A2Z, Kapamilya Channel, Kapamilya Online Live (KOL) on ABS-CBN Entertainment YouTube and Facebook, and iWant.

(abs-cbn)

Sharon Cuneta slams claims linking family to alleged flood control scam

MANILA, Philippines — Actress-singer Sharon Cuneta has denied allegations linking her family to an alleged flood control scam, calling the accusations “lies” and defending her husband, Sen. Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan, after individuals claiming to be former associates of ex-congressman Zaldy Co accused the senator of receiving a suitcase containing cash.

In a social media post on Tuesday, Cuneta rejected claims that she and her family received money during a visit to Marawi City, saying the allegations were completely false and contradicted publicly available records of their trip.

“MGA SINUNGAAAALING!!!!!! SOBRA TALAGA KAYO!!!! (Liars! You have really gone too far!)” Cuneta wrote.

The actress said she had previously documented the visit in a vlog and explained that the trip was intended to thank local officials and residents for supporting Pangilinan.

“I vlogged about this visit my family and I made to Marawi to thank the Governor, Mayor, and other officials and their families for their support for Kiko,” she said.

Cuneta also questioned the credibility of the accusations, expressing disbelief over claims that a suitcase allegedly containing cash would have been handed over during the highly publicized visit.

“Talaga ba, magbibigay kayo ng maleta sa amin sa Marawi pa? (Are you seriously saying you would hand us a suitcase in Marawi of all places?),” she wrote.



She further defended her family’s integrity, saying they continue to earn their living through hard work and honest means.

“Eto nagte-tapingnga ako ngayon—nagbabanatparin ng buto at umalaban ng patas, dahil lahat ng meron kami, pinaghihirapan namin (I am still working, still putting in the effort and earning an honest living because everything we have, we worked hard for),” Cuneta said.

“Hindi kami tulad ninyong mga sinungaling (We are not like you liars),” she added.

Her reaction came after a group of 18 individuals presented by former congressman Mike Defensor during a press conference claimed they had delivered a suitcase containing cash to Pangilinan. The group,

described as former bagmen of Co, also showed photographs of Pangilinan’s family and luggage they alleged contained money.

Pangilinan dismissed the accusations as an attempt to tarnish his reputation and undermine his role in an upcoming Senate investigation into the alleged flood control scam.

In a statement reposted by Cuneta, the senator said the allegations emerged after reports that he would chair the Senate Blue Ribbon Subcommittee tasked with probing alleged irregularities in flood control projects.

“Puro pasaring. Puro alegasyon. Puro palabas (Nothing but insinuations. Nothing but allegations. Nothing but a spectacle),” Pangilinan said.

“Wala ni katiting na basehan ang mga tangkang pagdungis sa aking pagkatao (There is not a shred of basis for these attempts to tarnish my reputation),” he added.

The senator also objected to the inclusion of his family in the controversy and warned that legal action would be taken against those responsible for the allegations.

“At dahil dinamay niyo pa ang pamilya ko, makakatikim kayo ng hindi pasaring, alegasyon, o palabas na kaso sa korte. Because you dragged my family into this, you will face not insinuations, allegations or theatrics, but a lawsuit in court,” he said.

The allegations stem from claims made by the former associates of Co, who accused Pangilinan of receiving a suitcase allegedly containing cash. The claims have not been proven in court.

Cuneta’s social media post also referenced a vlog titled “Mindanao on My Mind,” uploaded on July 20, 2025, which documented the family’s visit to Marawi City with their children Frankie, Miel and Miguel.

“We went on a very special trip as a family to visit Ground Zero in Marawi City with my 3 younger children. It was such a memorable and emotional day for all of us. My heart is so full of love for the beautiful people of Lanao Del Sur. Madakela salamat, BARMM,”

Cuneta wrote in the vlog’s caption. (I. Iglesias/Manila Times/ Photo from GMA news))

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Jericho Rosales, Janine Gutierrez headline suspense drama 'The Loyalty Game'



'The Loyalty Game' creative manager Jay Fernando and cast (from left) Maika Rivera, Elisse Joson, Sofia Andres, Rosales, Gutierrez, Carmina Villarroel, Yen Santos and Kira Balingier

Real-life couple Jericho Rosales and Janine Gutierrez bring their chemistry to the screen in "The Loyalty Game," a thriller that follows a wife's quest to uncover the truth as secrets, lies and shifting loyalties threaten to destroy her marriage.

Premiering July 3 on Prime Video, the series stars Rosales as Ben, a respected lawyer and senatorial candidate, and Gutierrez as Anna, his devoted wife. Admired by many as the picture of a perfect couple, the two find their relationship tested when Anna begins to suspect that Ben is hiding something from her.

Determined to uncover the truth, Anna turns to a group of loyalty testers, setting off a chain of events that blurs the lines between trust, betrayal and manipulation.

Rosales said viewers can expect a darker and more suspenseful experience than a typical relationship drama.

"This show has a different tone. It's darker, more intriguing and more captivating in terms of its themes. It presents fears that draw you in and make you want to keep watching," he said.

Gutierrez teased that audiences will have to piece together the mystery alongside the characters.

"Everything is underneath the surface. Even for us, the answers to the questions are revealed as the story progresses," she

said.

The project also marks another collaboration for the couple after "Lavender Fields," something Rosales said was among the reasons he eagerly accepted the role.

"It's great. Of course, it's the second time. I worked with Janine in 'Lavender Fields' but it felt too short for us. One of the reasons why, you know, I was really excited to take on the project was that it's with her. I know her level of professionalism. And, you know, her passion for projects, and her character, and her process. So, it's something that I can ride along with. We're really a match made in heaven," he said.

For Gutierrez, the series provided an opportunity to work with a new creative team while tackling a challenging role.

"For me, personally, I'm very thankful to get to do this project because it's my first time with Star Creatives. And I have been watching their projects since I was young. And it's a new energy for me. All new people for me. And it's really a new story. So I'm really happy to be a part of this," she said.

Beyond its mystery-filled plot, "The Loyalty Game" explores loyalty in its many forms, from romantic relationships to friendships, family ties and personal values.

Asked whether her own loyalty had ever been tested, Gutierrez reflected on the choices people

make when faced with difficult situations.

"Yes. I think loyalty is a choice. So if it comes to the point where your loyalty is being tested, it's also a sign to re-evaluate. You, your morals, your values, your relationship. So maybe if there's something that's getting in the way, you really

need to stop and assess the situation and choose the right path," she said.

Rosales agreed, adding that moments of uncertainty can also reveal what truly matters.

"Sometimes, your loyalty being tested is just a tool. Sometimes,

it's a tool in life to let you know how important that person is to you. Sometimes, it's also a gift that your loyalty is being tested," he said.

Creative manager Jay Fernando said the series goes beyond a conventional story of infidelity, instead examining the truths people choose to hide and the consequences that follow.

"At the end of the day, you are loyal to who you are. You are loyal to what you need and who you are as a person. And so the biggest betrayal will be betraying yourself," Fernando said.

Directed by Mae Cruz-Alviar, the series also stars Charlie Dizon, Sofia Andres, Yassi Pressman, Yen Santos, Elisse Joson, Kira Balingier, Maika Rivera and Carmina Villarroel. (D. Bernard/Manila Times)



JERICHO ROSALES and JANINE GUTIERREZ
(PHOTO FROM JERICHO ROSALES ON INSTAGRAM)

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Atasha Muhlach to star as Annie Batungbakal in new musical

MANILA, Philippines — Actress and host Atasha Muhlach will take on her first major theater leading role as Annie Batungbakal in “Bongga Ka, ‘Day!: The Annie Batungbakal Musical,” set to open in September 2026 at the Newport Performing Arts Theater.

Newport World Resorts, in partnership with Viva Communications announced Muhlach’s casting on Wednesday to portray the beloved character inspired by the iconic Hotdog hit.

Muhlach joins a cast that includes Sam Concepcion, KD Estrada, Jeff Moses and Anthony Rosaldo.

In the musical, Annie Batungbakal is a spirited and ambitious young woman working as a dispatsadora at the fictional House of Pasion. Dreaming of becoming a fashion designer, she sets her sights on joining the glamorous Coco Banana circle, only to discover that authenticity is key to finding acceptance.

For Muhlach, the production marks a return to the stage where her theater journey began. In 2011, she made her theater debut at the Newport Performing Arts Theater at age

9, playing Brigitta von Trapp in Newport World Resorts’ staging of “The Sound of Music.”

“It feels like a full-circle moment. This is where I first started my theater journey with The Sound of Music, and now I’m back for a new production on the same stage,” Muhlach said in a press conference.

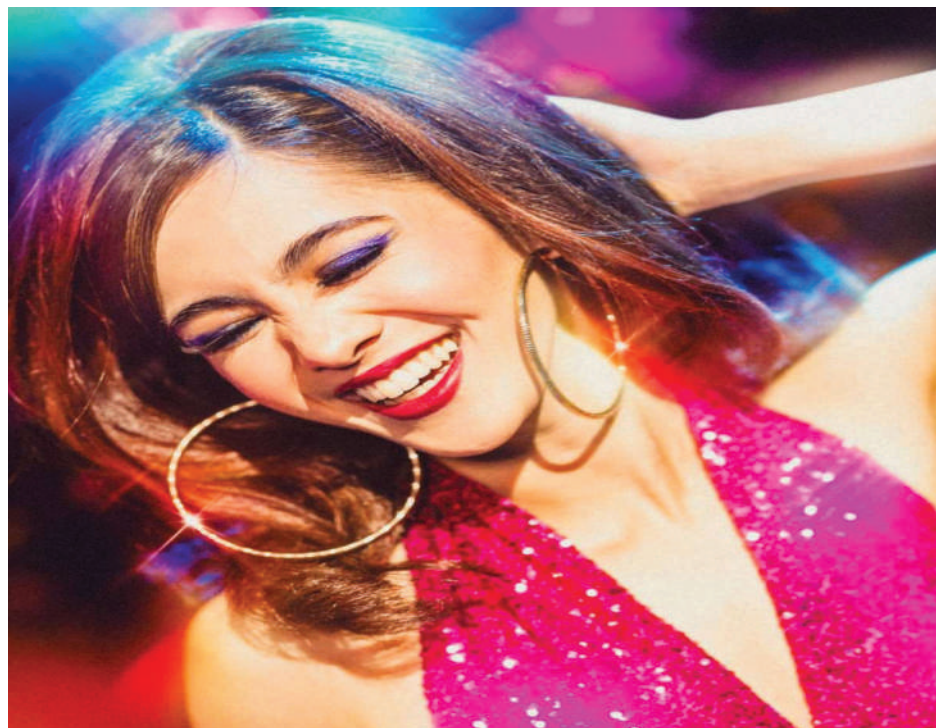
“To return to the very stage where it all began — 15 years later — is deeply meaningful. This is a moment and a story I know I will carry with me for the rest of my life,” she added.

Muhlach recalled becoming emotional when she returned to the venue to shoot promotional content for the musical.

“It really brought tears of joy. I felt so grateful — to be here, to be given this opportunity, and to be able to perform again in the place where it all started,” she said.

She also expressed her love for live theater, citing the challenge of singing, dancing and acting simultaneously.

“There is a unique magic in performing when you are able to sing, dance and act at the same time, and to bring a story to life with a full production team,” she said.



Atasha Muhlach as Annie Batungbakal in “Bongga Ka, ‘Day!: The Annie Batungbakal Musical.’ PHOTO FROM NEWPORT WORLD RESORTS

Featuring the timeless songs of the Filipino band Hotdog, “Bongga Ka, ‘Day!: The Annie Batungbakal Musical” is staged with PETA Plus.

Ticket sales begin in July, while a waitlist is currently available through Newport World Resorts. (I. Iglesias/ Manila Times)



In the musical, Annie Batungbakal is a spirited and ambitious young woman working as a dispatsadora at the fictional House of Pasion.

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GMA Network is Rotary Club of Manila's Television Station of the Year



GMA Network is Rotary Club of Manila's Television Station of the Year. Photo shows Vice President for News Programs and Specials and Officer-in-Charge of GMA News Michelle Seva and broadcast journalist Atom Araullo

Leading broadcast company GMA Network has been named "Television Station of the Year" at the 2026 Pro Patria Journalism Awards of the Rotary Club of Manila, held on June 11 at the Fairmont Hotel.

Receiving the award on behalf of GMA Network was Vice President for News Programs and Specials and Officer-in-Charge of GMA News Michelle Seva.

Multi-awarded broadcast journalist Atom Araullo was honored as "Television Broadcaster of the Year."

Speaking on behalf of GMA Network, Seva underscored how the award is not only for GMA and its employees, but for every Filipino who continues to trust the Kapuso Network "in moments of triumph and in moments of loss."

"Their trust is a privilege we never take for granted," she said.

Addressing the crowd which consists mostly of fellow media practitioners, Seva added: "Collectively, all of us in this room share a common responsibility:

to ensure that facts remain stronger than fear, rumor, and division. Because democracy is strongest when citizens have access to information that they can trust. Asahan po ninyo na kami sa GMA ay mananatiling Walang kinikilingan. Walang pinoprotektahan. Noon at ngayon, serbisyong totoo.

The Pro Patria Journalism Award is one of the most respected journalism recognition programs in the Philippines, conferred by the Rotary Club of Manila. The award honors

journalism and media work that serve the nation, uphold truth, strengthen democracy, and promote patriotism through responsible reporting. Over the years, GMA Network has been recognized by the Rotary Club of Manila for its commitment to nation-building and public service.

For nine consecutive years, GMA Network has been named the Most Trusted TV Network by the Trusted Brand Awards of international magazine Reader's Digest. GMA has also maintained the highest overall brand trust rating among major Philippine news brands in the recent Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism's Digital News Report (DNR). The Network likewise continues to reinforce its digital presence, rising to No. 13 in the Tubular Leadership Worldwide Ranking in the Tubular Labs ranking for April 2026.

Meanwhile, Araullo has produced compelling stories that have made a mark on Philippine viewers and received international acclaim. He anchors GTV's flagship newscast State of the Nation, headlines the bi-monthly The Atom Araullo Specials, and is one of the hosts of the GMA's legacy documentary show I-Witness. At the 2026 New York Festivals (NYF) TV & Film Awards, The Atom Araullo Specials' "Golden Tree" won the Bronze Medal under the Environment & Ecology category while another documentary "Baby Makers," received a Finalist Certificate.

Founded in 1919, the Rotary Club of Manila is the first and the oldest Rotary club in Asia.

For more updates on the Kapuso Network, visit www.GMANetwork.com. Follow Kapuso PR on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, X, and YouTube.



Atom Araullo as Television Broadcaster of the Year (5th from right)



Receiving the award on behalf of GMA Network was Vice President for News Programs and Specials and Officer-in-Charge of GMA News Michelle Seva.

After loss, Kuya Kim learns joy and grief can coexist

It's Father's Day 2026 this coming Sunday, and our dear Kuya Kim Atienza just flew in from the US — not for a taping, but for two graduations that meant more than any award show. His wife Felicia walked for her second post-graduate diploma, a Master of Public Health from Harvard, and days later, their daughter Eliana graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania, also taking home the Elaine Simon Award for Social Justice.

He posted the photos smiling, but if you know Kuya Kim, you see it. There's "a noticeable weight behind Kim Atienza's smile. It still has the same warmth, but there's a before-and-after that's hard to ignore." That before-and-after is Emman.

Less than a year after Emman's passing, Kim isn't pretending the pain is gone. He's redirecting it.

For decades, his public image was simple: "anchored on curiosity and accessibility. He's beloved not because he had all the answers, but because he made information approachable."

Today that same generosity has a deeper purpose. After Emman died, strangers — mostly kids — started messaging him. He realized a reply could be life-or-death, so he did something un-celebrity: he enrolled in a course. He learned to listen without judging, and to always hand off to professionals because he "doesn't know the medicine and science behind healing mental illnesses."

He tells one story that still stops him cold. A young woman with Bipolar 1 told him she'd planned everything, and wrote as a final clause: "I will send a message to Kuya Kim. If he replies, I will postpone my plan." He replied. He met her for coffee. He listened, referred her to a psychologist. "Imagine kung hindi ako nag-reply?"

That's why he keeps showing up online.

His Father's Day wish isn't flowers or golf. It's conversation.



KIM ATIENZA with daughter EMMAN

"I want the stigma to lessen. I want the kids to be able to express themselves, not only through social media, but to their parents."

He's blunt with fellow Gen X and Boomer dads: our kids aren't us. "Whatever worked for us during our time as Boomers and Gen Xers will not work with our kids who are Gen Z and Gen Alpha now."

When older people call Gen Z "weak," he corrects them: "Our kids are not weak. They are different. There's a big difference between weak and different." You can't just cut social media, he says, because for them it's not a distraction, it's their social life and their classroom. Take it away and "they'll be even more ill."

And as a Born Again Christian, he's clear: "mental health has nothing to do with faith... Mental illness is a disease. People get cancer. Pastors get cancer." Faith helps him cope, it doesn't replace treatment.

Kim doesn't hide the hard parts. Emman's room is untouched. Her whiteboard still has her social media deadlines, and "it actually still has her smell."

He goes in every morning because his shoes are there, and he does his quiet time with his Bible beside her bed. He weeps. A fellow grieving dad told him to "tear off the bandage" instead of protecting the wound. So he does — daily.

Grief, he says, is not linear. First Christmas without Emman, at the same place they'd been with her the year before, was brutal. Some days feel like Day 1. Some days are joyful. Both are true.

Losing Emman didn't make Kim stronger in the macho sense. It made him softer, more useful.

He's become "more accepting of things that come... I can

advise them, but I can never, ever, ever control them." The best parenting advice he got recently came from his own kids: "Papa, chill."

He's also found purpose in what Emman left behind. At her wake, he discovered she had been DM-ing other struggling kids, giving advice even while she was ill herself. "That's the purpose that I am pursuing now — to be as passionate, even more, than my Emman."

And he holds tighter to the good. "There's always a good purpose for whatever bad thing happened. That's what I'm looking at now." Watching Felicia accept her Harvard degree and Eliana graduate with highest honors wasn't just pride, it was proof that joy can coexist with grief.

His message is simple and urgent, especially for Filipino tatays who measure love in overtime: "Sa lahat ng mga tatay, have fun with your kids... Because when they're older, even if you wanna enjoy them, they do not enjoy us anymore. They'll enjoy their friends. So while we have that window to enjoy our kids, have fun, play with them, spend time with them... Because, at a certain point, we can't. Even if you want to, too late [anymore]."

That's the new angle. Kuya Kim is still the explainer we grew up with, still curious, still approachable. Only now the trivia isn't about weather patterns, it's about how to stay in the room when your child is hurting, how to listen first, how to chill, and how to tear the bandage off every day so the wound can breathe.

After Emman, his life didn't get easier. It got clearer. And for a father, that might be the better gift. (N. Ferrer/Malaya)



Anne Curtis, Kim Chiu, Paulo Avelino lead Filipino nominees at Seoul International Drama Awards 2026

Filipino stars are once again making their mark on the international stage as several local actors earned nominations at the 2026 Seoul International Drama Awards (SDA), one of Asia's most prestigious television awards events.

Among the biggest Filipino names nominated for the Outstanding Asian Star category are Anne Curtis, Paulo Avelino, Kim Chiu, Dingdong Dantes, Joshua Garcia, Gerald Anderson, Carlo Aquino, Angelica Panganiban, Bela Padilla, and Shaina Magdayao.

The nominations come as the SDA announced a record-breaking year, receiving 352 drama entries from 46 countries and regions—the highest number of submissions in the festival's history. The figure surpassed the previous record of 346 entries set in 2024 and is significantly higher than last year's 276 submissions.

For Filipino fans, the spotlight is now on the Outstanding Asian Star voting, which officially opened on June 15 and will run until July 14 through the IdolChamp app.

A total of 23 Filipino actors and actresses are competing in the category, representing some of the country's most talked-about television projects.

The Outstanding Asian Star award recognizes performers who have made a significant impact in six participating territories: the Philippines, South Korea, China, Japan,



Anne Curtis, Dingdong Dantes and Angelica Panganiban

Singapore, and Thailand.

Meanwhile, South Korea's nominees include some of the biggest names in Hallyu today, including Jun Ji-hyun, Gang Dong-won, Kim Seon-ho, Go Youn-jung, Ji Chang-wook, Doh Kyung-soo, Kim Woo-bin, Suzy, Lim Yoon-a, Park Bo-young, and BLACKPINK member Jisoo.

Thailand is also strongly represented with nominees such as Win Metawin, Gemini Norawit, Milk Pansa Vosbein, Love Pattranite Limpitayakorn, Namtan Tipnaree, Film Rachanun, and Rebecca Patricia Armstrong.

Beyond the fan-voted categories, this year's Seoul International Drama Awards showcases productions from across Asia, Europe, North America, Latin America, Oceania, and Africa. Organizers also noted a growing number of short-form drama submissions

and increased participation from African countries, with Algeria, Rwanda, and Togo joining the competition for the first time.

The 21st Seoul International Drama Awards will be held on Oct. 8 at KBS Hall in Seoul, with the official list of nominees for the international competition expected to be announced later.

The Philippine nominees are:

- Paulo Avelino ("The Alibi")
- Kim Chiu ("The Alibi")
- Anne Curtis ("It's Okay To Not Be Okay")
- Carlo Aquino ("It's Okay To Not Be Okay")
- Joshua Garcia ("Love Is Never Gone," "It's Okay To Not Be Okay")
- Dingdong Dantes ("The Master Cutter")
- Gerald Anderson ("Sins of the Father," "Blood vs Duty")
- Angelica Panganiban ("The Silent Noise")
- Bela Padilla ("Blood vs Duty")
- Shaina Magdayao ("Sins of the Father")
- Charlie Dizon ("What Lies Beneath")
- Kaila Estrada ("What Lies Beneath")
- JM De Guzman ("What Lies Beneath")
- Jake Cuenca ("What Lies Beneath")
- Ivana Alawi ("Love Is Never Gone")
- Zanjoe Marudo ("The Silent Noise")
- Amy Austria ("The First Vote")
- Anton Vinzon ("The Fist")
- Katrina Halili ("The Fist")
- Roi Vinzon ("The Fist")
- Max Collins ("The Master Cutter")
- JM Ibarra ("Ghosting")
- Sofia "Fyang" Smith ("Ghosting")

(J. Hicap/ mb.com.ph)

Yen Santos explains long hiatus from showbiz



MANILA, Philippines — Actress Yen Santos admitted the reason why she took a long break from showbiz.

In an interview with MJ Felipe, she opened up about her reason for taking a temporary break.

"Marami lang akong kailangang ayusin sa sarili ko at sa personal kong buhay," Yen said.

"Kinailangan ko rin talaga 'yong time na 'yon para makabalik ako nang buong-buo sa trabaho," she added.

Yen shared that she had been through a lot of hardships over the past eight years.

"Kaya hindi rin naging madali sa akin 'yong proseso. Pero kailangan ko siyang pagdaanan para mahanap ko ulit 'yong sarili ko," she said.

"Kasi pakiramdam ko, maraming nawala. So, kinailangan ko 'yong mahabang panahon na 'yon para maging ready ulit," she added.

But she said what hurt the most were the missed opportunities during the times she was on

break.

Yen said that what's important is that she learned something from what she went through.

It can be recalled that after a long hiatus, Yen became active on social media again last year, where in her vlog in August 2025, she addressed the long-standing issue between her and Chavit Singson.

She denied that they were in a relationship as well as the alleged claim that they had a child. (J.M. Severo/Philstar)

Quartetto Vivo Delights Audience at VSO Day of Music in Vancouver

VANCOUVER, BC
May 16, 2026

Music lovers were treated to an extraordinary piano performance as Quartetto Vivo (2 Pianos, 8 Hands, 40 Dancing Fingers) captivated the audience during the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra (VSO) Day of Music at the beautiful Pyatt Hall.

The talented quartet Dorothy Uytengsu, Sunny Qu, Monica Lee, and Tanya Tyuleneva showcased remarkable artistry, precision, and musical chemistry in a performance that earned enthusiastic applause from concertgoers.

Their varied and exciting program featured celebrated classical masterpieces, including Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, Brahms' Hungarian Dances Nos. 1 and 5, Wildman's Trance, and Wagner's Flight of the Valkyries. The unique four-pianist collaboration demonstrated the power and beauty of ensemble piano performance, with all four artists sharing two grand pianos in a spectacular display of

talent and coordination.

Following the concert, the performers were joined backstage by Philippine Consul Andre Peter Estanislao, along with Jeannie Pilapil and Kenson Ho, who congratulated the musicians on their outstanding presentation.

The performance was one of the highlights of the VSO Day of Music celebration, bringing together artists and audiences in a shared appreciation of classical music and cultural excellence. The evening further showcased Vancouver's vibrant and diverse musical community while highlighting the exceptional contributions of local and international artists.

Photos show Quartetto Vivo performing at Pyatt Hall during the VSO Day of Music on May 16, 2026, and backstage with Philippine Consul Andre Peter Estanislao and guests.

(By ReyFort Media News Staff
PhilippineAsianNewsToday
/Philippine Showbiz Today/
ReyFort Media Group)



The talented quartet Dorothy Uytengsu, Sunny Qu, Monica Lee, and Tanya Tyuleneva



Ms. Dorothy Uytengsu is joined backstage by Philippine Consul Andre Peter Estanislao, along with Jeannie Pilapil and Kenson Ho,



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BBM support for Kakampinks in 2028 a matter of survival: analyst

By Carlito Pablo

Philippine President Ferdinand "BBM" Marcos Jr. feels uneasy about Vice President Sara Duterte becoming the next president in 2028.

It's because Marcos is afraid that his erstwhile ally may undo reforms that he has initiated in government.

"That is a great worry for me because these are big things and we have just started," Marcos said in a June 1, 2026 ABS-CBN report.

"We are changing the way that we govern. We are trying to reform bureaucracy and these things do not get done instantly, and it's very, very easy to go off the rails," the president also said in the report that cited what he told the Bloomberg news agency.

But according to Joel Ruiz Butuyan, a human rights lawyer and opinion writer, Marcos has graver matters to worry about.

In his June 11, 2026 column with the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Butuyan wrote that Marcos' and his family's very survival are at risk if Duterte seizes power in the 2028 presidential election.

"The very lives of President Marcos and his family could be in serious danger if the Dutertes reconquer Malacañang, because hell has no fury like the Dutertes scorned," Butuyan stated.

Butuyan did not pull this out of thin air.

As many would recall, Duterte revealed in a November 2025 media conference that she has contracted an assassin to kill Marcos, his wife Liza Arana, and Marcos' cousin and then House of Representatives Speaker Martin Romualdez, in the event that she is slain.



President Ferdinand "BBM" Marcos Jr. is not eligible to run for another term in office in 2028. Photo by the Presidential Communications Office

Duterte also said that she was not joking about this matter.

The vice president is currently facing impeachment trial before the Senate, and one of the four articles of impeachment against her is her stated threat to have the president assassinated.

Duterte has been consistently leading in the polls among potential presidential candidates in 2028. However, her ratings appear to be sliding and could further erode during her impeachment trial.

Going back to Butuyan's June 11, 2026 column titled "The three politi-

cos, whose vice-presidential candidate at the time was Duterte.

The Marcos-Duterte alliance unraveled quickly after the 2022 election.

"The most interesting factor emerging in the run-up to 2028 is the lack of an heir-apparent or the absence of a successor being groomed by the Marcos camp," Butuyan wrote.

"As a result, it's becoming clear that the Marcos family is forced to have an alliance—just like it did with the DDS in 2022, but this time with the Kakampink forces."

Again for background, DDS stands for Duterte Diehard Supporters, a force that emerged when Duterte's father Rodrigo ran for and won the presidency in 2016.

The elder Duterte was arrested in March 2025 in the Manila international airport. He is facing trial for alleged crimes against humanity before the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, Netherlands in connection with his bloody war against drugs.

The arrest of Duterte happened under the presidency of Marcos.

According to Butuyan, Marcos and his family will not face the same mortal danger as with Sara Duterte becoming president if the Kakampink block prevails in 2028.

"At least, if the Kakampinks prosecute them, they will be accorded due process, and the Marcoses have had decades of experience navigating to their advantage the country's judicial processes," Butuyan wrote.

Robredo has said that she is not looking to run again for president and will instead

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seek another term as Naga city mayor in 2028.

Meanwhile, a movement has launched to support a potential presidential bid by Senator Ana Theresia "Risa" Hontiveros.

It wasn't the first time that Butuyan cited the existential danger against Marcos if Duterte becomes the next president.

"We have a preview of the propensity for violent vendetta by the Duterte children, from the way they have openly threatened assassination and vengeance

against an incumbent President, his family, and their allies," Butuyan wrote in his Philippine Daily Inquirer column on November 13, 2025.

"If they can do it to the reigning Marcoses, they can do it to anyone else," Butuyan stated in his column titled "Forward or backward in 2028".

Butuyan warned, "There's a huge reason to fear that violence will be worse compared to the first Duterte presidency. And this time, there will be no ICC to run to for recourse."



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Mga Kuwento ng Inspirasyon, Katatagan, Tagumpay at Ugnayan sa panulat ni Jo Ann Cordero Belen

Photo Credits: Jo Ann Belen

Karissa Narukami: An Extraordinary Artistic Voice on the Global Stage Celebrating Karissa Narukami's Fifth Year at Art Vancouver 2026

Jo Ann Cordero Belen is an accomplished visual effects compositing supervisor, artist and community advocate based in Vancouver, British Columbia. She writes about arts, culture, film, community initiatives, and the achievements of the Filipino-Canadian community.

For the fifth consecutive year, artist **Karissa Narukami** makes her return to Art Vancouver 2026, enchanting audiences with her remarkable creativity, distinctive artistic vision, and unwavering passion for self-expression.

As a naturally gifted artist, Karissa has built a significant

international presence through her artwork, proving that true talent knows no boundaries. As an autistic artist, she brings a unique viewpoint to her creations, transforming emotions, insights, and imagination into captivating visual stories that resonate with diverse viewers.

Karissa's artistic journey has achieved impressive milestones:

- Her work has been selected for the prestigious Lunar Codex Project, a global initiative aimed at preserving contemporary artistic and cultural works for future

generations via space exploration missions. This honor places her among a select group of artists whose contributions have received international acclaim. The Lunar Codex serves as an archive of contemporary art, literature, music, poetry, and film, launched through NASA's Artemis partners to the Moon.

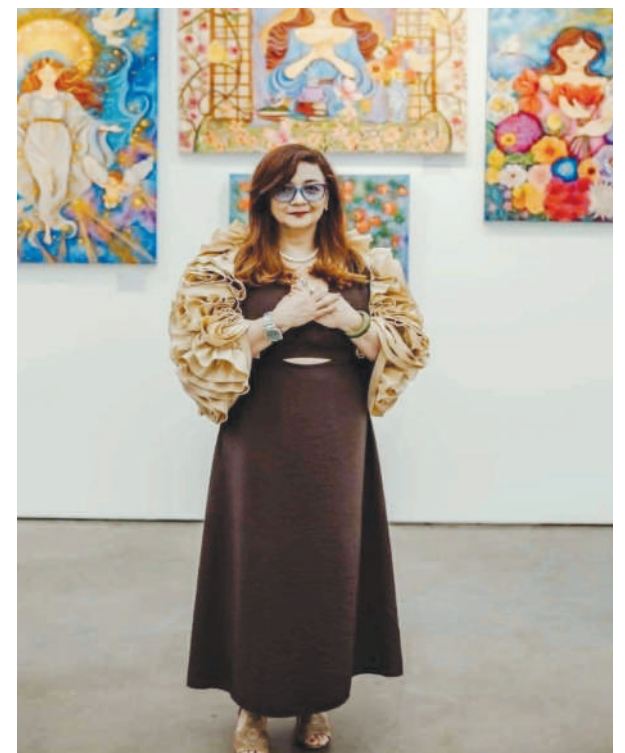
- Her artwork has also graced at the iconic Louvre Museum, allowing global audiences to engage with her unique style and artistic voice.
- Furthermore, Karissa's creations have been showcased at Art Basel

Switzerland, one of the world's most influential and esteemed art events, where artists, collectors, galleries, and cultural leaders come together to celebrate contemporary art.

- She was also commissioned to design the Canucks logo for Philippine Heritage Night. With every new exhibition, Karissa Narukami leaves an enduring impression on the global art community, demonstrating that extraordinary talent, determination, and vision can unlock boundless possibilities.



*Karissa, Consul General
Gina Jamoralin and Melani*



MELANI PAYUMO DY TAN'S JOURNEY TO ART VANCOUVER 2026

Melani Payumo Dy Tan's journey within the Canadian-Filipino art community is a testament to career transitions and unwavering persistence.

After dedicating years to dentistry in the Philippines, she embraced her artistic passion in Vancouver, describing her development as a "slow burn." Her early artistic inspiration stemmed from her Catholic school teacher, Milagros de Leon, and she further refined

her skills at the University of the Philippines under the guidance of Fernando B. Sena.

Payumo's creative process is characterized by discipline, emphasizing color palettes and weaving intricate patterns and celestial archetypes to express inner peace. Drawing inspiration from daily life and spiritual growth, her artwork encompasses themes such as angelic protectors and the Sacred Feminine, all aimed at evoking calmness and clarity.

Joining the Dimasalang collective in 2023 allowed her to enhance her skills and immerse herself in the local art scene. Her work has been featured in various group exhibitions, and she proudly debuted her first solo exhibition at Art Vancouver on May 28 to May 31 at the Vancouver Convention Center.

This exhibition marks a significant milestone in her

artistic evolution and her connection to her Philippine heritage.

Payumo hopes that visitors leave feeling centered and reminded of their inner strength, emphasizing that her art serves as a vehicle for visual healing. In Vancouver's competitive art landscape, she stands as a resilient force, illustrating that personal transformation unfolds when the work is ready to be shared.



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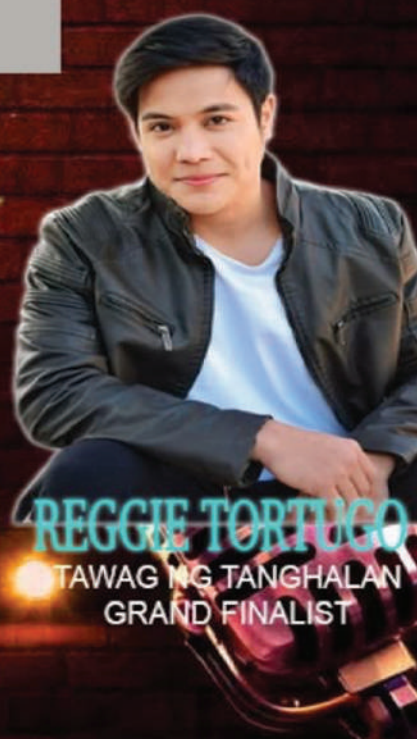
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Before Madz III's departure to the Philippines, a Fellowship Night and potluck despedida was held on June 15, 2026, send off party guests the Circulo Pampangueno of British Columbia officers, along with Madz III's family and friends.

Hosted by Ahmad and Josephine Rose Fard at their residence in Burnaby, the party was filled with delicious food, karaoke singing, dancing, laughter, and lots of singing and dancing and memorable moments shared throughout the evening.

The celebration was attended by Amado III's family - Amado Sr., Grace, and Lani; along with Madz Angels - including Angel Garcia and Alya Manansala, while Heidi was unable to make it. Also present were the Circulo Pampangueno officers, led by President Edith, Joan, Luz, Gary & Alya Manansala, Christian, and Yolly, together with Bella.

Although Madz III will be spending most of his time in the Philippines, he will continue to travel between Canada and the Philippines as needed.

the friendship and bond will remain strong. There are already plans, as some of Madz III's Angels - Heidi and

JR, have plans to travel to the Philippines to join him and be part of the business start up.



St. Mary's Parish Eucharistic Procession

A Eucharistic procession is a reverent and public walk, typically from the church and on the public streets, in which the consecrated Host, that represents the real presence of Jesus Christ, is carried, accompanied by prayer recitations, songs and the faithful, as the visible witnesses of faith and devotion.

The procession serves as a form of evangelization, inviting both Catholics and non-Catholics to witness this religious practice of the Catholic Church.

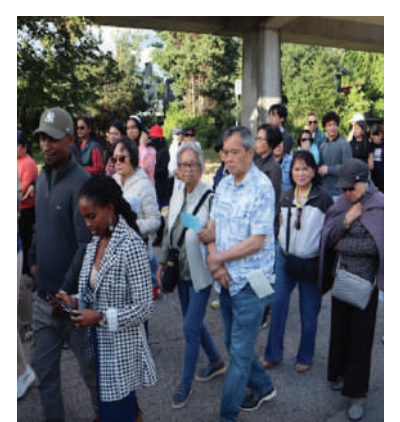
Every Corpus Christi weekend

each year, St. Mary's Parish in Vancouver observes this sacred tradition. And last June 6th, right after the 5:00 pm anticipated mass, the Host was processed around the Joyce-Collingwood neighbourhood, covering Euclid Street, Aberdeen Ave, Crowley Drive, Vanness Ave passing by the Joyce skytrain station, McHardy and then back to Euclid.

The procession symbolizes Christ's blessing over homes, workplaces and public spaces, by moving through the streets and around the neighbourhood. It's a communal act of prayer,

thanksgiving and intercession for the city and parish.

(Lorna Acosta, Special Assistant to the Pastors, St. Mary's Parish)



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Celeste Cortesi quashes breakup rumors with photo of partner: 'Jonny and I are good'



Miss Universe Philippines 2022 Celeste Cortesi in this photo posted on her Instagram on April 24, 2026 (celeste_cortesi via Instagram)

Miss Universe Philippines 2022 Celeste Cortesi has dismissed breakup rumors with her boyfriend after speculations of him being involved with another former beauty queen circulated online.

Celeste shared a photo of herself with British tech entrepreneur Jonathan Sterling on Sunday, June 14, in

which he posed with a thumbs-up emoji.

"Jonny and I are good. Our focus remains on caring for our child, Sergio, and supporting our family," she reportedly wrote in an Instagram Story.

Sergio refers to the name of her unborn child with Jonathan, named after Celeste's late father.

"I believe some situations call for greater consideration and respect, especially when a child and family are already involved. Our priority is our family, and that is where our time, energy, and attention will remain," she said.

"With that said, people can now relax and focus on their own lives instead. Thank you," Celeste added.

A report previously claimed that Jonathan had left Celeste for Bianca Manalo, an actress who represented the Philippines in Miss Universe 2009.



Celeste Cortesi and Tech Entrepreneur Jonathan Sterling

Sparkle Artist Center, which manages Bianca, said that the actress is "single and not in any relationship."

"We would like to clarify that there is no truth to rumors circulating about her involvement with

another couple," the talent agency earlier said.

Bianca was previously in a relationship with Senate President Pro Tempore Sherwin Gatchalian. (J. Malasig/Interaskyon)

Sparkle denies Bianca Manalo linked to alleged Celeste Cortesi breakup

A talent management agency denied claims that one of its artists, Bianca Manalo, was involved in the alleged breakup of a couple.

Sparkle Artist Center on Friday, June 12, said the actress is currently "single and not in any relationship."

"On behalf of our Sparkle Artist, Bianca Manalo, we would like to clarify that there is no truth to rumors circulating about her involvement with another couple. She is single and not in any relationship," it said in a statement.

"We hope this settles the matter and that we all continue to spread and click kindness instead," the talent agency added.

The statement came after reports linking the actress to British tech



Miss Universe Philippines 2009 Bianca Manalo in this photo on her Instagram on Feb. 13, 2026 (biancamanalo via Instagram)

entrepreneur Jonathan Sterling circulated online.

Sterling is reportedly in a relationship with Miss Universe

Philippines 2022 Celeste Cortesi, who announced her pregnancy last April.

There have been claims circulating online he allegedly left Cortesi to be for Manalo, who represented the Philippines in Miss Universe 2009.

Bianca previously dated Senate President Pro Tempore Sherwin "Win" Gatchalian, whom she began

seeing in 2018.

In 2023, Bianca was accused of cheating on the senator with her "Magandang Dilag" co-star Rob Gomez after screenshots of alleged conversations circulated online.

Earlier this year, Gatchalian confirmed that his love life was "non-existent."

(J. Malasig/Interaksyon)

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'Not the Ateneo I know': Ateneo alums express disappointment over university statements



Gretchen Ho in this photo on her Instagram on Jan. 16, 2026; Rica Peralejo in this photo on her Facebook on May 22, 2026 (gretchenho via Instagram; ricaperalejobonifacio via Facebook)

Some known Atenean alumnae responded to the university's statement regarding the silence of Ateneo Blue Eagles head coach Tab Baldwin on the drowning incident that claimed the lives of two members of his team.

Broadcaster and Gretchen Ho on Thursday, June 11, reacted to the university's request for the longtime coach to refrain from making public statements following the death of 18-year-old Rene Baterbonia and 21-year-old Divine Adili during a team-building activity.

Baterbonia, a basketball talent from Agusan del Sur, was about to make his UAAP debut in Season 89, while Adili helped the team get off to a strong start in Season 88.

Both drowned after being swept away by strong currents during an activity conducted around 300 meters away from the resort's beachfront in Dipaculao, Aurora, on Monday, June 8.

The incident prompted renewed calls for Baldwin to address the public, particularly as the activities, which have been described as a "bootcamp," reportedly began when he took over as head coach of the men's basketball team.

Rovelyn Baterbonia said the family was told the practice has been ongoing since 2017. Three days after the incident, Ateneo's president Fr. Robert "Bobby" Yap, said the university had requested the coach to remain silent "to allow the official processes to proceed and the facts to be established

before any public discussion of the matter."

"In the immediate aftermath of this heartbreaking loss, our guidance to Coach Baldwin was to focus his attention on the emotional and psychological welfare of the players, coaches, and staff affected by the incident, while also attending to his own well-being as someone who is grieving alongside the rest of the community," Yap said.

Yap added that Baldwin's silence "not be misconstrued as indifference or a lack of concern."

"Rather, it reflects the University's decision to place care, healing, and due process ahead of public discussion," he said.

The statement was not well received by Gretchen, a known former Ateneo Lady Eagles player.

"I do not understand how difficult it is to at least give apologies, comfort and condolences. May namatayan. The fact-finding can wait. It has its own time," she wrote in a Facebook post. "Basic humanity dictates at least showing up for the bereaved. This is not the Ateneo I know," Ho added.

Actress and content creator Rica Peralejo, who also attended Ateneo for college, likewise said that her alma mater had "miserably failed" in handling the situation so far.

"Silence the Coach. Give statements that say nothing. @lalarimando's take on this

is so enlightening. They have miserably failed this. Heard there's a presscon this weekend. I mean, this long to release a statement makes it all the more dubious," she wrote on Threads.

"In everything, I feel no real compassion but only an attempt to save face where they could, but in such ineffective ways that it makes me both angry and frustrated for them. The self-interest is leaking and it's leaking hard," Peralejo added.

"And the palpable control in ordering the coach to not give any public statement. Notice that. That line carries the hierarchy. That line tells us who is boss, over the coach, and how to grieve and take responsibility, and how the dead victims with their bereaved are (dis)respected. It feels much like a narcissist when he is caught. Yup, that's how it feels," she continued.

Journalist Chiara Zambrano, a two-time Ateneo graduate, similarly lamented the university's handling of the matter.

"Hindi ganito kumilos 'yung Ateneo na kinagisnan ko. 'Yung mabilis pumanig at gumawa ng tama. 'Yung nagsasalita agad kapag may nakikitang katiwalian. 'Yung nagsuspend kahit ng star player kapag mababa ang grades," she wrote on Facebook.

"Kasi alam, at ipinapaalala, na ang totoong buhay ay higit na mahalaga sa basketball. Nasaan kayo. Sinong Ateneo 'tong pinapanood ko," Zambrano added with a broken heart emoji.

Reycel Hyacenth Bendaña, national coordinator of the Move As One Coalition and Ateneo valedictorian, shared an open letter to the university urging it to do better following what she described as the "coldness of the public statements."

"Ang Ateneo namin ay nagso-sorry sa isang [second year] student na anak ng jeepney driver because she felt abandoned," she wrote on Facebook, citing her own

experience as a former Ateneo student.

"Pero ang Ateneo ngayon, hindi makapag-sorry publicly sa lahat ng iniwang mahal sa buhay ni Rene at Divine. We demand better," Bendaña added.

Bendaña also called on students, fellow alumni, faculty and other members of the Ateneo community to sign the open letter titled "When Ateneo Failed Its Own: Isang Panawagan para sa Puso, Pananagutan, at Katarungan." "To the Ateneo administration, hindi po ito ang Ateneo na kilala namin," part of the letter read.

"We write as students, alumni, and members of the community who have been formed by this university. Ateneo has never been perfect. Subalit, ang Ateneo po na kilala namin ay nagsisikap na maging mas mabuti, humihingi ng pasensya kapag nagkakamali, at nagpapakumbaba nang may pananagutan," it added.

"The Ateneo we know would have reached out to Rene's and Divine's families before issuance of any public statement. They would have provided assurance, presence, and care to our athletes' loved ones every step of the way. Haharap, kahit mahirap; makikiramay, hindi magtatago. At hihingi ng kapatawaran nang buong puso," the letter continued.

Ateneo earlier held a candle-lighting vigil and Mass on campus for Rene and Adili,

It also said that Baldwin and Team Manager Epok Quimpo "have gone on leave for the duration of the inquiry" amid the university's fact-finding efforts.

Ateneo likewise said it is "cooperating fully, transparently, and without reservation" in all investigations conducted by national authorities and regulatory bodies.

Ateneo previously held a candle-lighting vigil and Mass on campus in memory of Baterbonia and Adili. (J. Malasig/Interaksyon)

AT THE MOVIES By Robert Waldman

Running time: 1h 45m

Crime Pays!

Crime Pays! How many times have you heard that slogan? Well, maybe not so fast. Sparkling performances turn what could have been just a so so ho hum movie into a bonafide winner. Check out this sexy thriller thanks to Route 504 PR at Cineplex Cinemas and Landmark Theatres across B.C.

Smart and sexy. Three words that fully describe the goings on in Carolina Caroline. Chance

Carolina Caroline (14A) *****

encounters can be oh so sexy - and deadly. With a nod to the themes present in The late 1960s classic Bonnie and Clyde comes this small film with heart.

Small town people usually yearn for escape. Such is the case for daddy's girl Caroline Daniels. Sultry Australian actress Samara Weaving (Babylon) perfectly portrays Southern Belle Caroline who just yearns for excitement - and oozes sensuality. Now that's quite the combination just ready to be unleashed.

When travelling man Oliver Anderson comes a calling he kind of "connects" with Caroline. Able to rise to the occasion as a caring,

charismatic con artist Kyle Galler (Red Eye) turns up the heat and puts all that charm to good use - refining your low life petty crimes to an even higher art form - robbing banks.

Together these two star-crossed lovers turn up the heat and "bond" between the sheets leaving a not so clear path of destruction in their wake. Now on the FBI's most wanted list it's fun to watch just how these two manage to elude the law In this delightful Robin Hood like yarn.

Check out this fun crime spree full of hot romance delightfully presented by director Adam Rehmeier.

For more reviews please check out my website moviereviewssite.com.



STOP! THAT! TRAIN! (PG) ***

Running Time: 1h 32m

Rough Ride!

Ready for a good laugh. Better fasten your seatbelts as a couple of ladies wreck havoc on a cross country trek in the laugh-filled STOP! THAT! TRAIN!

Now showing at Cineplex Cinemas and Landmark Theatres across BC this cloud pleaser from Mongrel Media is a blast.

Made in the spirit of Road Trip and

It's a Mad Mad Mad Mad World this mixed up mess up follows a pair of women on a zany trip from the East Coast to California.

You can sense the comedy when two dingbat losers who work for a low budget rail line get the opportunity of a lifetime when they land work on an ultra luxury line - The Glamazonian Express.

HairspraydirectorAdamShankman has a field day directing a group of women who delightfully play off one another flawlessly in this

madcap tale of a couple of misfits who manage to wreck havoc on the rich elite. Fast quips and raunchy gags elevate the story as this bullet train escapade has the laughs coming fast and furious.

Over the top fun is the order of the day in this wild and wacky farce that makes travel time sure look like a fun time good time.

For more reviews please visit my website moviereviewssite.com.



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Only a miracle can save TNT vs Ginebra

SPORTS

WITH three of their major players weighed down by injury, the TNT Tropang G5 are definitely disaster prospect.

That's the darkest scenario staring TNT coach Chot Reyes in the face.

This is the so-called moment of truth, when everything's placed on the table, including the certificate of land title.

And TNT isn't 100 percent ready for war, its ranks terribly lacking in firepower, when it faces Barangay Ginebra San Miguel in the Game 7 decider for the Philippine Basketball Association's (PBA) Commissioner's Cup crown.

Still, today's winner-take-all clash beginning at 7:30 p.m. is expected to draw another sell-out crowd, the reason being that fans are eternally unmindful of odds—or defects, cracks, affecting the combatants.

Thus, even as TNT's Calvin Oftana, Brandon Ganuelas-Rosser and Jayson Castro are doubtful starters today, if not reduced to mere spectators, the no-more-tomorrow

encounter will go on with the usual rockin' and rollin' atmosphere at the MOA Arena in Pasay City.

And, yes, the delightful duel between TNT import Chris McCullough and Ginebra's resident reinforcement Justin Brownlee could reach its crescendo tonight.

Didn't they enthrall us in Game 6, when they engaged in a shooting contest that saw McCullough pile up 53 points to Brownlee's 52?

That was close but not in the rebounding department, where McCullough routed Brownlee, 22-5, in TNT's 98-90 Game 6 victory on Sunday.

But then, McCullough is TNT's true center and Brownlee isn't—with Japeth Aguilar as the Ginebra center and Brownlee forward.

So we go back to Oftana (calf injury), Ganuelas-Rosser (ankle) and Castro (ankle).

Will they be injected with painkillers just to be able to help TNT's title-retention cause?

Most probably, yes. That's

commonplace—almost

For, without them, the Tropang 5G will need a miracle to waylay Ginebra, whose local crew anchored on Scottie Thompson, RJ Abarrientos, Japeth Aguilar and Troy Rosario are as lethal as the US Dream Team in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

As to the issue of officiating being allegedly pro-Ginebra, that's silly crap as old as the Crucifixion.

My rocking chair waits.

THAT'S IT : Jalen Brunson was the absolute star in the New York Knicks' emphatic 4-1 win over the San Antonio Spurs in the just-ended National Basketball Association (NBA) Finals. Brunson did almost everything in ensuring a seminal New York triumph that ended a 53-year NBA title drought since 1973, earning all 11 first-place votes for the Finals Most Valuable Player plum he had capped with a 45-point effort in the 94-90 Game 5 title-clincher. But the Spurs also have themselves to blame for the loss, blowing away double-digit leads in each of

their four defeats, including wasting a 29-point advantage in the grotesque Game 4 collapse that gave the Knicks a commanding 3-1 lead. Tons of mistakes also massively contributed to San Antonio's endgame meltdowns, forcing Spurs star Victor Wembanyama to say: "Mistakes, errors, put us down." In short, while New York was almost the epitome of perfection, San Antonio was the bizarre barometer of imperfection.

(Article reprinted as authorized by the author)

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Ateneo de Davao offers full scholarships to siblings of student in tragedy



Ateneo de Davao University president Fr. Karel S. San Juan, S.J., speaks during a Mass for the wake of Rene Clert "Bobet" Baterbonia at the university's senior high school chapel at Bangkal Campus in Davao City on June 13, 2026. (Ateneo de Davao University via CBCP News)

Ateneo de Davao University has offered full scholarships to the six siblings of Rene Clert "Bobet" Baterbonia, one of two students whose deaths recently prompted Jesuits to acknowledge that more could have been done in responding to the tragedy.

In a social media post, the university said its president Fr. Karel S. San Juan, S.J.,

announced the scholarship grant following a Mass celebrated in honor of Baterbonia on June 13.

The scholarships will cover the siblings' education from basic education through college, the university said.

"After the Holy Mass held in

honor of Rene Clert 'Bobet' N. Baterbonia, University President Fr. Karel S. San Juan, SJ announced that Ateneo de Davao University will be offering full scholarships, from Basic

Education to College, to all of Bobet's siblings," it said.

The university said the assistance is intended to help fulfill one of Baterbonia's aspirations for his family.

"This is one small but heartfelt way for the university to contribute to fulfilling one of Bobet's dreams: a better future for his six siblings," it added.

The announcement came a day after Jesuit provincial Fr. Xavier Olin said the congregation recognized that "more could have been done" in the way the deaths of Baterbonia and Divine Adili were handled and communicated.

In his June 12 statement, Olin said the Jesuits were listening to the grief and anger expressed by members of the Ateneo community and acknowledged shortcomings in the response to the incident.

(Felipe Salvosa II via CBCP News)



The late Rene Clert "Bobet" Baterbonia,

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Marian Rivera surprises Dingdong Dantes on 'The Master Cutter' set



Dingdong Dantes had a special visitor on "The Master Cutter" set, and she is none other than his wife, Marian Rivera.

As seen in Nelson Canlas' report on "24 Oras" on Tuesday, the couple shared a sweet kiss and Marian greeted the show's team.

Dingdong also toured Marian around the tailoring shop of his character, Atoy.

"Welcome to Master Trims. Gusto mo bang magpagawa

ng bestida?" Dingdong said.

Dingdong's co-stars Rio Locsin, Sienna Stevens, and Charlie Fleming were all happy to see Marian on set.

Dingdong and his "The Master Cutter" co-star Max Collins are among the nominees for the Outstanding Asian Star: Philippines category at the Seoul International Drama Awards 2026.

In 2020, Dingdong had won the Asian Star Prize for his role as

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Lucas Manalo in the Philippine adaptation of "Descendants of the Sun" at the 15th Seoul International Drama Awards.

film, "Remember." (N. Roque/CDC, GMA News)

Photo Courtesy of Master Cutter via 24 Oras /GMA

Marian and Dingdong recently flew to Canada to shoot their



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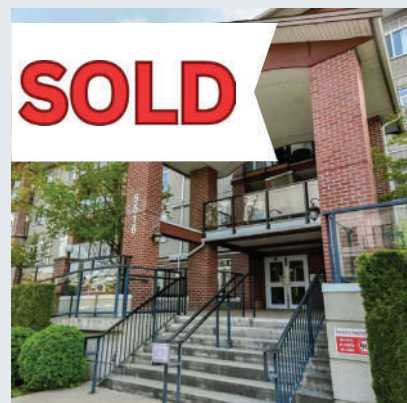
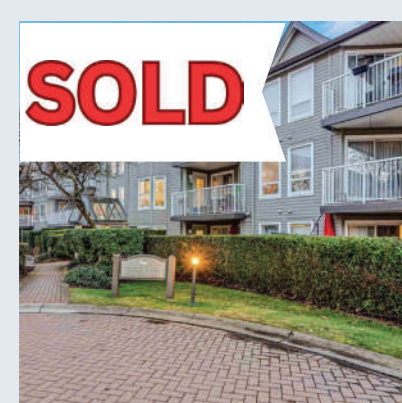
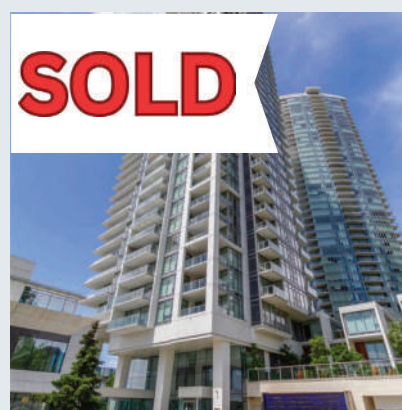
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